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A bill to be entitled An act relating to consumer protection; amending s. 212.134, F.S.; defining terms; revising requirements for payment settlement entities, or their electronic payment facilitators or contracted third parties, in submitting information returns to the Department of Revenue; specifying requirements for third party settlement organizations that conduct certain transactions; amending s. 280.051, F.S.; providing requirements for the senders of payment; providing recordkeeping requirements; providing nonapplicability; providing requirements for the senders of payment; providing recordkeeping requirements; providing nonapplicability; providing additional grounds for qualified public depositories to be suspended and disqualified; amending s. 280.054, F.S.; providing additional acts deemed knowing and willful violations by qualified public depositories which are subject to certain penalties; creating s. 287.139, F.S.; providing definitions; prohibiting agencies of the executive branch and local governmental entities from entering into or renewing contracts or agreements with entities for specified purposes; prohibiting agencies of the executive branch and local governmental entities from using or allowing

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contractors to use certain lists or ratings; providing construction; amending s. 489.147, F.S.; defining a term; authorizing a residential property owner to cancel contracts to replace or repair a roof without penalty or obligation within a specified timeframe under certain circumstances; requiring contractors to include a notice in the contracts with residential property owners under certain circumstances; providing requirements for notices of contract cancellation; amending s. 559.9611, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "depository institution"; amending s. 624.424, F.S.; providing requirements for certain insurers' accountants; amending s. 626.8796, F.S.; revising the content of certain public adjuster contracts; amending s. 627.43141, F.S.; providing requirements for certain notice of change in insurance renewal policy terms; amending s. 627.6426, F.S.; revising the disclosure requirements of contracts for short-term health insurance; amending s. 627.70132, F.S.; providing requirements for notices of claims for loss assessment coverage; providing dates of loss; creating s. 655.49, F.S.; authorizing customers and members of financial institutions to file certain complaints with the Office of Financial Regulation; providing nonapplicability; providing duties of the

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office upon receipt of such complaints; providing reporting requirements; providing violations; providing that certain actions or certain failure of financial institutions to cooperate in specified investigations constitute violations of the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act; providing that violations are enforced only by the enforcing authority; providing attorney fees and costs; requiring the office to provide reports to certain entities; providing causes of action; requiring the office to make certain information available on its website; amending s. 791.01, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "fireworks"; amending s. 791.012, F.S.; updating the source of the code for outdoor display of fireworks; providing an effective date. Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: Section 1. Section 212.134, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 212.134 Information returns relating to payment-card and third party third-party network transactions.-(1)As used in this section, the term:

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"Participating payee" has the same meaning as in s.

## 6050W of the Internal Revenue Code.

- (b) "Return" or "information return" means the Form 1099-K required under s. 6050W of the Internal Revenue Code.
- (c) "Third party network transaction" has the same meaning as in s. 6050W of the Internal Revenue Code.
- (d) "Third party settlement organization" has the same meaning as in s. 6050W of the Internal Revenue Code.
- (2) For each year in which a payment settlement entity, an electronic payment facilitator, or other third party contracted with the payment settlement entity to make payments to settle reportable payment transactions on behalf of the payment settlement entity must file a return pursuant to s. 6050W of the Internal Revenue Code, for participating payees with an address in this state, the entity, the facilitator, or the third party must submit the information in the return to the department by the 30th day after filing the federal return. The format of the information returns required must be either a copy of such information returns related to participating payees with an address in the state. For purposes of this subsection, the term "payment settlement entity" has the same meaning as provided in s. 6050W of the Internal Revenue Code.
- $\underline{(3)}$  All reports of returns submitted to the department under this section must be in an electronic format.
  - (4) (3) Any payment settlement entity, facilitator, or

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third party failing to file the information return required, filing an incomplete information return, or not filing an information return within the time prescribed is subject to a penalty of \$1,000 for each failure, if the failure is for not more than 30 days, with an additional \$1,000 for each month or fraction of a month during which each failure continues. The total amount of penalty imposed on a reporting entity may not exceed \$10,000 annually.

- (5)(4) The executive director or his or her designee may waive the penalty if he or she determines that the failure to timely file an information return was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful negligence, willful neglect, or fraud.
- (6) All third party settlement organizations that conduct transactions involving a participating payee with an address in this state and that have a contractual obligation with such participating payee to make payment to the organizations shall create a mechanism for senders of payments to identify whether a payment to a payee is for goods and services or is personal. The mechanism must clearly indicate the sender's requirement to indicate the appropriate transaction type. The sender of the payment is responsible for indicating the appropriate transaction type. All third party settlement organizations shall maintain records that clearly identify whether a transaction, as designated by the sender of the payment, is a transaction for goods and services or is personal. The information in the return

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| 126   | submitted to the department under subsection (2) for such        |
|-------|--|
| 127   | entities must be limited to transactions for goods and services. |
| 128   | (7) Notwithstanding this section, subsection (6) does not        |
| 129   | apply to a third party settlement organization if a contractual  |
| 130   | agreement or arrangement to provide a third party payment        |
| 131   | network to a participating payee requires the third party        |
| 132   | settlement organization solely to settle third party network     |
| 133   | transactions for the provision of goods and services.            |
| 134   | Section 2. Subsection (16) is added to section 280.051,          |
| 135   | Florida Statutes, to read:                                       |
| 136   | 280.051 Grounds for suspension or disqualification of a          |
| 137   | qualified public depository.—A qualified public depository may   |
| 138   | be suspended or disqualified or both if the Chief Financial      |
| 139   | Officer determines that the qualified public depository has:     |
| 140   | (16) Pursuant to a determination notice reported by the          |
| 141   | Office of Financial Regulation under s. 655.49, acted in bad     |
| 142   | faith when terminating, suspending, or taking similar action     |
| L43   | restricting access to a customer's or member's account, or       |
| L 4 4 | failed to cooperate in an investigation conducted pursuant to s. |
| 145   | 655.49(3), including, without limitation, failing to timely file |
| 146   | a termination-of-access report with the office.                  |
| L47   | Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section            |
| 148   | 280.054, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:                   |
| 149   | 280.054 Administrative penalty in lieu of suspension or          |
| 150   | disqualification   |

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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- (1) If the Chief Financial Officer finds that one or more grounds exist for the suspension or disqualification of a qualified public depository, the Chief Financial Officer may, in lieu of suspension or disqualification, impose an administrative penalty upon the qualified public depository.
- (b) With respect to any knowing and willful violation of a lawful order or rule, the Chief Financial Officer may impose a penalty upon the qualified public depository in an amount not exceeding \$1,000 for each violation. If restitution is due, the qualified public depository shall make restitution upon the order of the Chief Financial Officer and shall pay interest on such amount at the legal rate. Each day a violation continues constitutes a separate violation. Each of the following Failure to timely file the attestation required under s. 280.025 is deemed a knowing and willful violation by the qualified public depository:
- 1. Failure to timely file the attestation required under s. 280.025.
- 2. Bad faith termination, suspension, or similar action restricting access to a customer's or member's account, as determined by the Office of Financial Regulation pursuant to s. 655.49.
- 3. Failure to cooperate in an investigation conducted pursuant to s. 655.49(3), including, without limitation, failure to timely file a termination-of-access report with the office.

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| 176 | Section 4. Section 287.139, Florida Statutes, is created        |
|-----|---|
| 177 | to read:  |
| 178 | 287.139 Prohibited contracts and activities; companies          |
| 179 | engaging in news source and public figure blacklisting          |
| 180 | (1) As used in this section, the term:                          |
| 181 | (a) "Local governmental entity" means a county,                 |
| 182 | municipality, special district, or other political subdivision  |
| 183 | of this state.  |
| 184 | (b) "News source" means an entity doing business in this        |
| 185 | state which:  |
| 186 | 1. Publishes in excess of 100,000 words available online        |
| 187 | with at least 10,000 paid subscribers or 50,000 monthly active  |
| 188 | users;  |
| 189 | 2. Publishes 100 hours of audio or video available online       |
| 190 | with at least 1 million viewers annually;                       |
| 191 | 3. Operates a cable channel that provides more than 40          |
| 192 | hours of content per week to more than 100,000 cable television |
| 193 | subscribers; or   |
| 194 | 4. Operates under a broadcast license issued by the             |
| 195 | Federal Communications Commission.                              |
| 196 | (c) "News source blacklisting" means placing a news source      |
| 197 | on a list because the news source is not considered credible or |
| 198 | reliable or to create ratings indicating a news source is not   |
| 199 | considered credible or reliable.                                |

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"Public figure" means a person who has achieved a role

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- of special prominence in the affairs of society. The term does not include a person who is an involuntary public figure.
- (e) "Public figure blacklisting" means to place a public figure on a list because he or she is not considered credible or reliable or to create ratings indicating a public figure is not considered credible or reliable.
- (2) An agency or a local governmental entity may not enter into or renew a contract or agreement with an entity for the purpose of developing, providing, or using news source blacklisting or public figure blacklisting.
- or allow a contractor to use, the lists or ratings of an entity that develops news source blacklisting or public figure blacklisting to decide which news source or which public figure receives information from the agency or local government entity for further distribution to the public. Information from the agency or local government entity under this subsection includes, but is not limited to, time-sensitive information related to emergency event notices for the public, any type of information that is worthy of public consumption, consumer product or consumer scam notices, government contracting opportunities, and traffic and event information.
- Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 489.147, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (c), a new paragraph (b) is added to that subsection, and subsection

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- 226 (6) is added to that section, to read:
  227 489.147 Prohibited property insurance practices; contract
  228 requirements.—
  - (1) As used in this section, the term:
  - (b) "Residential property owner" means the person who holds the legal title to the residential real property that is subject of and directly impacted by the action of a governmental entity. The term does not include a governmental entity.
  - (6)(a) A residential property owner may cancel a contract to replace or repair a roof without penalty or obligation within 10 days after the execution of the contract or by the official start date, whichever comes first, if the contract was entered into based on events that are subject of a declaration of a state of emergency by the Governor. For the purposes of this subsection, the official start date is the date on which work that includes the installation of materials that will be included in the final work on the roof commences, a final permit has been issued, or a temporary repair to the roof covering or roof has been made in compliance with the Florida Building Code.
  - (b) A contractor executing a contract during a declaration of a state of emergency to replace or repair a roof of a residential property must include or add as an attachment to the contract the following language, in bold type of not less than 18 points, immediately before the space reserved for the signature of the residential property owner:

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"You, the residential property owner, may cancel this contract without penalty or obligation within 10 days after the execution of the contract or by the official start date, whichever comes first, because this contract was entered into during a state of emergency by the Governor. The official start date is the date on which work that includes the installation of materials that will be included in the final work on the roof commences, a final permit has been issued, or a temporary repair to the roof covering or roof system has been made in compliance with the Florida Building Code."

- (c) The residential property owner must send the notice of cancellation by certified mail, return receipt requested, or other form of mailing that provides proof thereof, at the address specified in the contract.
- Section 6. Subsection (9) of section 559.9611, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 559.9611 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:
  - (9) "Depository institution" means a <u>bank, a credit union,</u> a <u>savings bank, a savings and loan association, a savings or</u> thrift association, or an industrial loan company doing business under the authority of a charter issued by the United States, this state, or any other state, district, territory, or commonwealth of the United States which is authorized to

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transact business in this state and whose deposits or share
accounts are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance
Corporation or the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund
Florida state-chartered bank, savings bank, credit union, or
trust company, or a federal savings or thrift association, bank,
credit union, savings bank, or thrift.

Section 7. Paragraph (d) of subsection (8) of section 624.424, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

624.424 Annual statement and other information.-

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Upon creation of the continuing education required (d) under this paragraph, the certified public accountant that prepares the audit must be licensed to practice pursuant to chapter 473 and must have completed at least 4 hours of insurance-related continuing education during each 2-year continuing education cycle. An insurer may not use the same accountant or partner of an accounting firm responsible for preparing the report required by this subsection for more than 5 consecutive years. Following this period, the insurer may not use such accountant or partner for a period of 5 years, but may use another accountant or partner of the same firm. An insurer may request the office to waive this prohibition based upon an unusual hardship to the insurer and a determination that the accountant is exercising independent judgment that is not unduly influenced by the insurer considering such factors as the number

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of partners, expertise of the partners or the number of insurance clients of the accounting firm; the premium volume of the insurer; and the number of jurisdictions in which the insurer transacts business.

Section 8. Subsection (2) of section 626.8796, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.8796 Public adjuster contracts; disclosure statement; fraud statement.—

A public adjuster contract relating to a property and casualty claim must contain the full name, permanent business address, phone number, e-mail address, and license number of the public adjuster; the full name and license number of the public adjusting firm; and the insured's full name, street address, phone number, and e-mail address, together with a brief description of the loss. The contract must state the percentage of compensation for the public adjuster's services in minimum 18-point bold type before the space reserved in the contract for the signature of the insured; the type of claim, including an emergency claim, nonemergency claim, or supplemental claim; the initials of the named insured on each page that does not contain the insured's signature; the signatures of the public adjuster and all named insureds; and the signature date. If all of the named insureds' signatures are not available, the public adjuster must submit an affidavit signed by the available named insureds attesting that they have authority to enter into the

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contract and settle all claim issues on behalf of the named insureds. An unaltered copy of the executed contract must be remitted to the insured at the time of execution and to the insurer, or the insurer's representative within 7 days after execution. A public adjusting firm that adjusts claims primarily for commercial entities with operations in more than one state and that does not directly or indirectly perform adjusting services for insurers or individual homeowners is deemed to comply with the requirements of this subsection if, at the time a proof of loss is submitted, the public adjusting firm remits to the insurer an affidavit signed by the public adjuster or public adjuster apprentice that identifies:

- (a) The full name, permanent business address, phone number, e-mail address, and license number of the public adjuster or public adjuster apprentice.
  - (b) The full name of the public adjusting firm.
- (c) The insured's full name, street address, phone number, and e-mail address, together with a brief description of the loss.
- (d) An attestation that the compensation for public adjusting services will not exceed the limitations provided by law.
- (e) The type of claim, including an emergency claim, nonemergency claim, or supplemental claim.
- Section 9. Subsection (2) of section 627.43141, Florida

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351 Statutes, is amended to read:

- 627.43141 Notice of change in policy terms.-
- (2) A renewal policy may contain a change in policy terms. If such change occurs, the insurer shall give the named insured advance written notice summarizing the change, which may be enclosed in along with the written notice of renewal premium required under ss. 627.4133 and 627.728 or sent separately within the timeframe required under the Florida Insurance Code for the provision of a notice of nonrenewal to the named insured for that line of insurance. The insurer must also provide a sample copy of the notice to the named insured's insurance agent before or at the same time that notice is provided to the named insured. Such notice shall be entitled "Notice of Change in Policy Terms." Beginning January 1, 2025, the notice must be in bold type of not less than 14 points and must be included as a single page or consecutive pages, as necessary, within the written notice.

Section 10. Section 627.6426, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 627.6426 Short-term health insurance.-
- (1) For purposes of this part, the term "short-term health insurance" means health insurance coverage provided by an issuer with an expiration date specified in the contract that is less than 12 months after the original effective date of the contract and, taking into account renewals or extensions, has a duration

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376 not to exceed 36 months in total.

- (2) All contracts for short-term health insurance entered into by an issuer and an individual seeking coverage shall include the following written disclosures signed by the purchaser at the time of purchase disclosure:
  - (a) The following statement:

"This coverage is not required to comply with certain federal market requirements for health insurance, principally those contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Be sure to check your policy carefully to make sure you are aware of any exclusions or limitations regarding coverage of preexisting conditions or health benefits (such as hospitalization, emergency services, maternity care, preventive care, prescription drugs, and mental health and substance use disorder services). Your policy might also have lifetime and/or annual dollar limits on health benefits. If this coverage expires or you lose eligibility for this coverage, you might have to wait until an open enrollment period to get other health insurance coverage."

## (b) The following information:

- 1. The duration of the contract, including any waiting period.
  - 2. Any essential health benefit under 42 U.S.C. s.

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| 401 | 18022(b) that the contract does not provide.                     |
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| 402 | 3. The content of coverage.                                      |
| 403 | 4. Any exclusion of preexisting conditions.                      |
| 404 | (3) The disclosures required in subsection (2) must be           |
| 405 | printed in no less than 12-point type and in a color that is     |
| 406 | readable. A copy of the signed disclosures must be maintained by |
| 407 | the issuer for a period of 5 years after the date of purchase.   |
| 408 | (4) Disclosures provided by electronic means must meet the       |
| 409 | requirements of subsection (2).                                  |
| 410 | Section 11. Subsection (4) of section 627.70132, Florida         |
| 411 | Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (5), and a new subsection  |
| 412 | (4) is added to that section to read:                            |
| 413 | 627.70132 Notice of property insurance claim                     |
| 414 | (4)(a) A notice of claim for loss assessment coverage            |
| 415 | under s. 627.714 may not occur later than 3 years after the date |
| 416 | of loss and must be provided to the insurer the later of:        |
| 417 | 1. Within 1 year after the date of loss; or                      |
| 418 | 2. Within 90 days after the date on which the condominium        |
| 419 | association or its governing board votes to levy an assessment   |
| 420 | resulting from a covered loss.                                   |
| 421 | (b) For purposes of this subsection, the date of loss is         |
| 422 | the date of the covered loss event that created the need for an  |
| 423 | assessment.  |
| 121 | Section 12 Section (SE 40 Elevide Statutes is expected           |

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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to read:

| 426 | 655.49 Bad laith termination or restriction of account           |
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| 427 | access; investigations by the office                             |
| 428 | (1) A customer or member of a financial institution who          |
| 429 | reasonably believes that a financial institution has terminated, |
| 430 | suspended, or taken similar action restricting access to the     |
| 431 | customer's or member's account in bad faith may file, within 30  |
| 432 | calendar days after such termination, suspension, or similar     |
| 433 | action restricting account access, a complaint with the office   |
| 434 | alleging a violation of this section. Such complaint is barred   |
| 435 | if not timely filed.   |
| 436 | (2) This section does not apply if a financial                   |
| 437 | institution's termination, suspension, or similar action         |
| 438 | restricting a customer's or member's account access was due to   |
| 439 | one or more of the following:                                    |
| 440 | (a) The customer or member initiated the change in access;       |
| 441 | (b) There is a lack of activity in the account; or               |
| 442 | (c) The account is presumed unclaimed property pursuant to       |
| 443 | chapter 717.   |
| 444 | (3) Upon receipt of a customer's or member's complaint           |
| 445 | under subsection (1):  |
| 446 | (a) Within 30 calendar days, the office must notify the          |
| 447 | financial institution that a complaint has been filed.           |
| 448 | (b) Within 30 calendar days after receiving the notice           |
| 449 | from the office, the financial institution must file with the    |
| 150 | office a termination-of-agges report containing such             |

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| 451 | information as the commission requires by rule.                  |
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| 452 | (c) Within 90 calendar days after receiving the                  |
| 453 | termination-of-access report from the financial institution, the |
| 454 | office must investigate the financial institution's action and   |
| 455 | determine whether the action was taken in bad faith as           |
| 456 | substantiated by competent and substantial evidence that was     |
| 457 | known or should have been known to the financial institution at  |
| 458 | the time of the termination, suspension, or similar action       |
| 459 | restricting a customer's or member's account access.             |
| 460 | (d) Within 30 calendar days after making the determination       |
| 461 | required under paragraph (c), the office must report to the      |
| 462 | Attorney General and the Chief Financial Officer the             |
| 463 | determination of a bad faith termination, suspension, or similar |
| 464 | action restricting a customer's or member's account access. The  |
| 465 | report to the Attorney General must describe the findings of the |
| 466 | investigation, provide a summary of the evidence, and state      |
| 467 | whether an alleged violation of the financial institutions codes |
| 468 | by the financial institution occurred. Upon reporting to the     |
| 469 | Attorney General pursuant to this paragraph, the office must     |
| 470 | send a copy of the report to the customer or member by certified |
| 471 | mail, return receipt requested.                                  |
| 472 | (4) A financial institution's bad faith termination,             |
| 473 | suspension, or similar action restricting access to a customer's |
| 474 | or member's account, as determined by the office pursuant to     |
| 475 | subsection (3) or a financial institution's failure to           |

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476 cooperate in an investigation conducted pursuant to subsection (3), including, without limitation, failure to timely file a 478 termination-of-access report with the office, constitutes a 479 violation of the financial institutions codes and subjects the financial institution to the applicable sanctions and penalties provided for in the financial institutions codes. 482 (5) In addition to any sanctions and penalties under the financial institutions codes, a financial institution's bad 483 484 faith termination, suspension, or similar action restricting 485 access to a customer's or member's account, as determined by the 486 office pursuant to subsection (3), or a financial institution's 487 failure to cooperate in an investigation conducted pursuant to 488 subsection (3), including, without limitation, failure to timely 489 file a termination-of-access report with the office, constitutes 490 a violation of the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act under part II of chapter 501, and any exceptions otherwise 492 provided under s. 501.212(4) shall not apply to any violations 493 of this section. Notwithstanding s. 501.211, violations must be 494 enforced only by the enforcing authority, as defined in s. 495 501.203(2), and subject the violator to the sanctions and penalties provided for in part II of chapter 501. If such action 496 497 is successful, the enforcing authority is entitled to reasonable 498 attorney fees and costs.

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this section, or any information contained therein, to any

(6) The office shall provide any report filed pursuant to

501 federal, state, or local law enforcement or prosecutorial 502 agency, and any federal or state agency responsible for the 503 regulation or supervision of financial institutions, if the 504 provision of such report is otherwise required by law. 505 If the office determines under subsection (3) that a 506 financial institution has acted in bad faith, the aggrieved 507 customer or member of the financial institution has a cause of 508 action against the financial institution for damages and may 509 recover damages therefor in any court of competent jurisdiction, 510 together with costs and reasonable attorney fees to be assessed 511 by the court. To recover damages under this subsection, the 512 customer or member must establish by clear and convincing 513 evidence that the financial institution acted in bad faith in 514 terminating, suspending, or taking similar action restricting 515 access to the customer's or member's account. The office's 516 determination that the financial institution has acted in bad 517 faith pursuant to subsection (3) does not, in and of itself, 518 establish clear and convincing evidence that the financial 519 institution acted in bad faith in the termination, suspension, or similar action restricting access to the customer's or 520 member's account. A customer's or member's failure to initiate a 521 522 cause of action under this subsection within 12 months after the 523 office's finding of bad faith pursuant to subsection (3) bars 524 recovery of any filed claims thereafter. 525 (8) By July 1, 2024, the office shall make available on

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its website the information necessary for a customer or member of a financial institution to file a complaint with the office under subsection (1).

Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 791.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(4)(a) "Fireworks" means and includes any combustible or explosive composition or substance or combination of substances or, except as hereinafter provided, any article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation. The term includes blank cartridges and toy cannons in which explosives are used, the type of balloons which require fire underneath to propel them, firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrockets, Roman candles, dago bombs, and any fireworks containing any explosives or flammable compound or any tablets or other device containing any explosive substance.

Section 14. Section 791.012, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

791.012 Minimum fireworks safety standards.—The outdoor display of fireworks in this state shall be governed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1123, Code for Fireworks Display, 2018 1995 Edition, approved by the American National Standards Institute. Any state, county, or municipal law, rule, or ordinance may provide for more stringent

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regulations for the outdoor display of fireworks, but in no event may any such law, rule, or ordinance provide for less stringent regulations for the outdoor display of fireworks. The division shall promulgate rules to carry out the provisions of this section. The Code for Fireworks Display shall not govern the display of any fireworks on private, residential property and shall not govern the display of those items included under s. 791.01(4)(b) and (c) and authorized for sale thereunder.

Section 15. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

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