	COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION
	ADOPTED (Y/N)
	ADOPTED AS AMENDED (Y/N)
	ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION (Y/N)
	FAILED TO ADOPT (Y/N)
	WITHDRAWN (Y/N)
	OTHER
1	Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Government Operations
2	Subcommittee
3	Representative Overdorf offered the following:
4	
5	Amendment (with title amendment)
6	Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:
7	Section 1. Present subsections (16) through (19) and (20),
8	(21), and (22) of section 120.52, Florida Statutes, are
9	redesignated as subsections (17) through (20) and (22), (23),
10	and (24), respectively, current subsection (16) is amended, and
11	new subsections (16) and (21) are added to that section to read:
12	120.52 Definitions.—As used in this act:
	120.32 Bellinterons. Its aboa in this act.
13	(16) "Repromulgation" means the publication and adoption
13 14	
	(16) "Repromulgation" means the publication and adoption

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(17) (16) "Rule" means each agency statement of general
applicability that implements, interprets, or prescribes law or
policy or describes the procedure or practice requirements of ar
agency and includes any form or guidance document which imposes
any requirement or solicits any information not specifically
required by statute or by an existing rule. The term also
includes the amendment or repeal of a rule. The term does not
include:

- (a) Internal management memoranda which do not affect either the private interests of any person or any plan or procedure important to the public and which have no application outside the agency issuing the memorandum.
- (b) Legal memoranda or opinions issued to an agency by the Attorney General or agency legal opinions prior to their use in connection with an agency action.
 - (c) The preparation or modification of:
 - 1. Agency budgets.
- 2. Statements, memoranda, or instructions to state agencies issued by the Chief Financial Officer or Comptroller as chief fiscal officer of the state and relating or pertaining to claims for payment submitted by state agencies to the Chief Financial Officer or Comptroller.
- 3. Contractual provisions reached as a result of collective bargaining.

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- 4. Memoranda issued by the Executive Office of the Governor relating to information resources management
- (21) "Technical change" means a change limited to correcting grammatical, typographical, and similar errors not affecting the substance of a rule.
- Section 2. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1), subsections (2) and (3), paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (4), and paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 120.54, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraphs (e) through (j) are added to subsection (4) of that section, to read:
 - 120.54 Rulemaking.-
- (1) GENERAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL RULES OTHER THAN EMERGENCY RULES.—
- (i)1. A rule may incorporate material by reference but only as the material exists on the date the rule is adopted. For purposes of the rule, changes in the material are not effective unless the rule is amended to incorporate the changes.
- 2. An agency rule that incorporates by specific reference another rule of that agency automatically incorporates subsequent amendments to the referenced rule unless a contrary intent is clearly indicated in the referencing rule. A notice of amendments to a rule that has been incorporated by specific reference in other rules of that agency must explain the effect of those amendments on the referencing rules.

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- 3. In rules adopted after December 31, 2010, and rules amended or repromulgated on or after July 1, 2025, material may not be incorporated by reference unless:
- a. The material has been submitted in the prescribed electronic format to the Department of State and the full text of the material can be made available for free public access through an electronic hyperlink from the rule making the reference in the Florida Administrative Code; or
- b. The agency has determined that posting the material on the Internet for purposes of public examination and inspection would constitute a violation of federal copyright law, in which case a statement to that effect, along with the address of locations at the Department of State and the agency at which the material is available for public inspection and examination, must be included in the notice required by subparagraph (3)(a)1.
- 4. A rule may not be amended by reference only. Amendments must set out the amended rule in full in the same manner as required by the State Constitution for laws.
- 5. Notwithstanding any contrary provision in this section, when an adopted rule of the Department of Environmental Protection or a water management district is incorporated by reference in the other agency's rule to implement a provision of part IV of chapter 373, subsequent amendments to the rule are not effective as to the incorporating rule unless the agency incorporating by reference notifies the committee and the

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Department of State of its intent to adopt the subsequent
amendment, publishes notice of such intent in the Florida
Administrative Register, and files with the Department of State
a copy of the amended rule incorporated by reference. Changes in
the rule incorporated by reference are effective as to the other
agency 20 days after the date of the published notice and filing
with the Department of State. The Department of State shall
amend the history note of the incorporating rule to show the
effective date of such change. Any substantially affected person
may, within 14 days after the date of publication of the notice
of intent in the Florida Administrative Register, file an
objection to rulemaking with the agency. The objection $\underline{\text{must}}$
$rac{ ext{shall}}{ ext{specify}}$ the portions of the rule incorporated by reference
to which the person objects and the reasons for the objection.
The agency <u>does</u> shall not have the authority under this
subparagraph to adopt those portions of the rule specified in
such objection. The agency shall publish notice of the objection
and of its action in response in the next available issue of the
Florida Administrative Register.

- 6. The Department of State may adopt by rule requirements for incorporating materials pursuant to this paragraph.
 - (2) RULE DEVELOPMENT; WORKSHOPS; NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING.-
- (a) $\underline{1}$. Except when the intended action is the repeal of a rule, agencies shall provide notice of the development of proposed rules by publication of a notice of rule development in

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the Florida Administrative Register <u>at least 7 days</u> before
providing notice of a proposed rule as required by paragraph
(3) (a). The notice of rule development $\underline{\text{must}}$ $\underline{\text{shall}}$ indicate the
subject area to be addressed by rule development, provide a
short, plain explanation of the purpose and effect of the
proposed rule, cite the grant of rulemaking authority for the
proposed rule and the law being implemented specific legal
authority for the proposed rule, and include the proposed rule
<pre>number and the preliminary text of the proposed rules, if</pre>
available, or a statement of how a person may promptly obtain,
without cost, a copy of any preliminary draft, $\underline{\text{when}}$ $\underline{\text{if}}$
available. The notice must also include a request for the
submission of any information that would be helpful to the
agency in preparing the statement of estimated regulatory costs
required pursuant to paragraph (3)(b) and a statement of how a
person may submit comments on the proposal and how a person may
provide information regarding the potential regulatory costs.

- 2. A notice of a proposed rule must be published in the Florida Administrative Register within 12 months after the most recent notice of rule development.
- (b) All rules should be drafted in readable language. The language is readable if $\underline{\text{it}}$:
- 1. It Avoids the use of obscure words and unnecessarily long or complicated constructions; and

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- 2. It Avoids the use of unnecessary technical or specialized language that is understood only by members of particular trades or professions.
- An agency may hold public workshops for purposes of rule development and information gathering for the preparation of the statement of estimated regulatory costs. If requested in writing by any affected person, an agency must hold public workshops, including workshops in various regions of this the state or the agency's service area, for purposes of rule development and information gathering for the preparation of the statement of estimated regulatory costs if requested in writing by any affected person, unless the agency head explains in writing why a workshop is unnecessary. The explanation is not final agency action subject to review pursuant to ss. 120.569 and 120.57. The failure to provide the explanation when required may be a material error in procedure pursuant to s. 120.56(1)(c). When a workshop or public hearing is held, the agency must ensure that the persons responsible for preparing the proposed rule and the statement of estimated regulatory costs are available to receive public input, to explain the agency's proposal, and to respond to questions or comments regarding the rule being developed and the statement of estimated regulatory costs. The workshop may be facilitated or mediated by a neutral third person, or the agency may employ other types of dispute resolution alternatives for the workshop

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that are appropriate for rule development and for preparation of the statement of estimated regulatory costs. Notice of a workshop for rule development and for preparation of the statement of estimated regulatory costs must workshop shall be by publication in the Florida Administrative Register not less than 14 days before prior to the date on which the workshop is scheduled to be held and must shall indicate the subject area that which will be addressed; the agency contact person; and the place, date, and time of the workshop.

- (d)1. An agency may use negotiated rulemaking in developing and adopting rules. The agency should consider the use of negotiated rulemaking when complex rules are being drafted or strong opposition to the rules is anticipated. The agency should consider, but is not limited to considering, whether a balanced committee of interested persons who will negotiate in good faith can be assembled, whether the agency is willing to support the work of the negotiating committee, and whether the agency can use the group consensus as the basis for its proposed rule. Negotiated rulemaking uses a committee of designated representatives to draft a mutually acceptable proposed rule and to develop information necessary to prepare a statement of estimated regulatory costs, when applicable.
- 2. An agency that chooses to use the negotiated rulemaking process described in this paragraph shall publish in the Florida Administrative Register a notice of negotiated rulemaking that

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includes a listing of the representative groups that will be invited to participate in the negotiated rulemaking process. Any person who believes that his or her interest is not adequately represented may apply to participate within 30 days after publication of the notice. All meetings of the negotiating committee <u>must shall</u> be noticed and open to the public pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. The negotiating committee shall be chaired by a neutral facilitator or mediator.

- 3. The agency's decision to use negotiated rulemaking, its selection of the representative groups, and approval or denial of an application to participate in the negotiated rulemaking process are not agency action. Nothing in This subparagraph is not intended to affect the rights of a substantially an affected person to challenge a proposed rule developed under this paragraph in accordance with s. 120.56(2).
 - (3) ADOPTION PROCEDURES.—
 - (a) Notices.-
- 1. Before Prior to the adoption, amendment, or repeal of any rule other than an emergency rule, an agency, upon approval of the agency head, shall give notice of its intended action, setting forth a short, plain explanation of the purpose and effect of the proposed action; the proposed rule number and full text of the proposed rule or amendment and a summary thereof; a reference to the grant of rulemaking authority pursuant to which the rule is adopted; and a reference to the section or

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subsection of the Florida Statutes or the Laws of Florida being implemented or interpreted. The notice must include a concise summary of the agency's statement of the estimated regulatory costs, if one has been prepared, based on the factors set forth in s. 120.541(2) which describes the regulatory impact of the rule in readable language; an agency website address where the statement of estimated regulatory costs can be viewed in its entirety; a statement that any person who wishes to provide the agency with information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided by s. 120.541(1), must do so in writing within 21 days after publication of the notice; a request for the submission of any information that could be helpful to the agency regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs; and a statement as to whether, based on the statement of the estimated regulatory costs or other information expressly relied upon and described by the agency if no statement of regulatory costs is required, the proposed rule is expected to require legislative ratification pursuant to s. 120.541(3). The notice must state the procedure for requesting a public hearing on the proposed rule. Except when the intended action is the repeal of a rule, the notice must include a reference both to the date on which and to the place where the notice of rule development that is required by subsection (2) appeared.

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- 2. The notice <u>must</u> shall be published in the Florida
 Administrative Register at least not less than 28 days before

 prior to the intended action. The proposed rule, including all

 materials proposed to be incorporated by reference and the

 statement of estimated regulatory costs, must shall be available
 for inspection and copying by the public at the time of the

 publication of notice. <u>Material proposed to be incorporated by</u>

 reference in the notice must be made available in the manner

 prescribed by sub-subparagraph (1) (i) 3.a. or sub-subparagraph

 (1) (i) 3.b.
- 3. The notice <u>must</u> <u>shall</u> be mailed <u>or delivered</u> <u>electronically</u> to all persons named in the proposed rule and <u>mailed or delivered electronically</u> to all persons who, at least 14 days <u>before publication of the notice</u> <u>prior to such mailing</u>, have made requests of the agency for advance notice of its proceedings. The agency shall also give such notice as is prescribed by rule to those particular classes of persons to whom the intended action is directed.
- 4. The adopting agency shall file with the committee, at least 21 days <u>before</u> prior to the proposed adoption date, a copy of each rule it proposes to adopt; a copy of any material incorporated by reference in the rule; a detailed written statement of the facts and circumstances justifying the proposed rule; a copy of <u>the any</u> statement of estimated regulatory costs that has been prepared pursuant to s. 120.541; a statement of

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the extent to which the proposed rule relates to federal standards or rules on the same subject; and the notice required by subparagraph 1.

- (b) Special matters to be considered in rule adoption.-
- 1. Statement of estimated regulatory costs.—Before the adoption or, amendment, or repeal of any rule, other than an emergency rule, an agency must is encouraged to prepare a statement of estimated regulatory costs of the proposed rule, as provided by s. 120.541. The statement must include a costbenefit analysis that evaluates whether the projected benefits of the existing rule or proposed rule exceed its projected costs. However, an agency is not required to prepare a statement of estimated regulatory costs for a proposed rule repeal unless such repeal would impose a regulatory cost. In any challenge to a proposed rule repeal, a proposed rule repeal that only reduces or eliminates regulations on those individuals or entities regulated by the existing rule must be considered presumptively correct in any proceeding before the division or in any proceeding before a court of competent jurisdiction However, an agency must prepare a statement of estimated regulatory costs of the proposed rule, as provided by s. 120.541, if:
- a. The proposed rule will have an adverse impact on small business; or
- b. The proposed rule is likely to directly or indirectly increase regulatory costs in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate

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289	in this state within 1 year after the implementation of the
290	rule.
291	2. Small businesses, small counties, and small cities.—
292	a. For purposes of this subsection and s. 120.541(2), an
293	adverse impact on small businesses, as defined in s. 288.703 or
294	sub-subparagraph b., exists if, for any small business:
295	(I) An owner, officer, operator, or manager must complete
296	any education, training, or testing to comply, or is likely to
297	spend at least 10 hours or purchase professional advice to
298	understand and comply, with the rule in the first year;
299	(II) Taxes or fees assessed on transactions are likely to
300	increase by \$500 or more in the aggregate in 1 year;
301	(III) Prices charged for goods and services are restricted
302	or are likely to increase because of the rule;
303	(IV) Specially trained, licensed, or tested employees will
304	be required because of the rule;
305	(V) Operating costs are expected to increase by at least
306	\$1,000 annually because of the rule; or
307	(VI) Capital expenditures in excess of \$1,000 are
308	necessary to comply with the rule.
309	$\underline{\text{b.}}$ Each agency, before the adoption, amendment, or repeal
310	of a rule, shall consider the impact of the rule on small
311	businesses as defined $\frac{\mathrm{in}}{\mathrm{by}}$ s. 288.703 and the impact of the

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120.52. Whenever practicable, an agency shall tier its rules to

312 rule on small counties or small cities as defined \underline{in} by s.

reduce disproportionate impacts on small businesses, small
counties, or small cities to avoid regulating small businesses,
small counties, or small cities that do not contribute
significantly to the problem the rule is designed to address. An
agency may define "small business" to include businesses
employing more than 200 persons, may define "small county" to
include those with populations of more than 75,000, and may
define "small city" to include those with populations of more
than 10,000, if it finds that such a definition is necessary to
adapt a rule to the needs and problems of small businesses,
small counties, or small cities. The agency shall consider each
of the following methods for reducing the impact of the proposed
rule on small businesses, small counties, and small cities, or
any combination of these entities:

- (I) Establishing less stringent compliance or reporting requirements in the rule.
- (II) Establishing less stringent schedules or deadlines in the rule for compliance or reporting requirements.
- (III) Consolidating or simplifying the rule's compliance or reporting requirements.
- (IV) Establishing performance standards or best management practices to replace design or operational standards in the rule.
- (V) Exempting small businesses, small counties, or small cities from any or all requirements of the rule.

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- $\underline{\text{c.}(I)}$ b. $\underline{(I)}$ If the agency determines that the proposed action will affect small businesses as defined by the agency as provided in sub-subparagraph $\underline{\text{b.}}$ a., the agency $\underline{\text{must shall}}$ send written notice of the rule to the rules ombudsman in the Executive Office of the Governor at least 28 days before the intended action.
- (II) Each agency shall adopt those regulatory alternatives offered by the rules ombudsman in the Executive Office of the Governor and provided to the agency no later than 21 days after the rules ombudsman's receipt of the written notice of the rule which it finds are feasible and consistent with the stated objectives of the proposed rule and which would reduce the impact on small businesses. When regulatory alternatives are offered by the rules ombudsman in the Executive Office of the Governor, the 90-day period for filing the rule in subparagraph (e)2. is extended for a period of 21 days. The agency shall provide notice to the committee of any regulatory alternative offered to the agency pursuant to this sub-subparagraph at least 21 days before filing the proposed rule for adoption.
- (III) If an agency does not adopt all alternatives offered pursuant to this sub-subparagraph, it <u>must shall</u>, before rule adoption or amendment and pursuant to subparagraph (d)1., file a detailed written statement with the committee explaining the reasons for failure to adopt such alternatives. Within 3 working days after the filing of such notice, the agency shall send a

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copy of such notice to the rules ombudsman in the Executive Office of the Governor.

(c) Hearings.-

1. If the intended action concerns any rule other than one relating exclusively to procedure or practice, the agency must shall, on the request of any affected person received within 21 days after the date of publication of the notice of intended agency action, give affected persons an opportunity to present evidence and argument on all issues under consideration. The agency may schedule a public hearing on the proposed rule and, if requested by any affected person, must shall schedule a public hearing on the proposed rule. When a public hearing is held, the agency must ensure that the persons responsible for preparing the proposed rule and the statement of estimated regulatory costs staff are in attendance available to explain the agency's proposal and to respond to questions or comments regarding the proposed rule, the statement of estimated regulatory costs, and the agency's decision on whether to adopt a lower cost regulatory alternative submitted pursuant to s. 120.541(1)(a). If the agency head is a board or other collegial body created under s. 20.165(4) or s. 20.43(3)(g), and one or more requested public hearings is scheduled, the board or other collegial body must shall conduct at least one of the public hearings itself and may not delegate this responsibility without the consent of those persons requesting the public hearing. Any

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material pertinent to the issues under consideration submitted to the agency within 21 days after the date of publication of the notice or submitted to the agency between the date of publication of the notice and the end of the final public hearing <u>must shall</u> be considered by the agency and made a part of the record of the rulemaking proceeding.

Rulemaking proceedings are shall be governed solely by the provisions of this section unless a person timely asserts that the person's substantial interests will be affected in the proceeding and affirmatively demonstrates to the agency that the proceeding does not provide adequate opportunity to protect those interests. If the agency determines that the rulemaking proceeding is not adequate to protect the person's interests, it must shall suspend the rulemaking proceeding and convene a separate proceeding under the provisions of ss. 120.569 and 120.57. The agency shall publish in the Florida Administrative Register a notice of convening a separate proceeding. Similarly situated persons may be requested to join and participate in the separate proceeding. Upon conclusion of the separate proceeding, the rulemaking proceeding shall be resumed. All timelines in this section are tolled during any suspension of the rulemaking proceeding under this subparagraph, beginning on the date the notice of convening a separate proceeding is published, and the timelines shall resume the day after conclusion of the separate proceedings, notice of which must be provided to the committee.

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- (d) Modification or withdrawal of proposed rules.-
- 1. After the final public hearing on the proposed rule, or after the time for requesting a hearing has expired, if the proposed rule has not been changed from the proposed rule as previously filed with the committee, or contains only technical changes, the adopting agency shall file a notice to that effect with the committee at least 7 days before prior to filing the proposed rule for adoption. Any change, other than a technical change that does not affect the substance of the rule, must be supported by the record of public hearings held on the proposed rule, must be in response to written material submitted to the agency within 21 days after the date of publication of the notice of intended agency action or submitted to the agency between the date of publication of the notice and the end of the final public hearing, or must be in response to a proposed objection by the committee. Any change, other than a technical change, to a statement of estimated regulatory costs requires a notice of change. In addition, when any change, other than a technical change, to is made in a proposed rule text or any material incorporated by reference requires, other than a technical change, the adopting agency to shall provide a copy of a notice of change by certified mail or actual delivery to any person who requests it in writing no later than 21 days after the notice required in paragraph (a). The agency shall file the notice of change with the committee, along with the reasons for

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the change, and provide the notice of change to persons requesting it, at least 21 days <u>before</u> prior to filing the <u>proposed</u> rule for adoption. The notice of change <u>must shall</u> be published in the Florida Administrative Register at least 21 days <u>before</u> prior to filing the <u>proposed</u> rule for adoption. The notice of change must include a summary of any revision of the statement of estimated regulatory costs required by s.

120.541(1)(c). This subparagraph does not apply to emergency rules adopted pursuant to subsection (4). Material proposed to be incorporated by reference in the notice required by this subparagraph must be made available in the manner prescribed by sub-subparagraph (1)(i)3.a. or sub-subparagraph (1)(i)3.b. and include a summary of substantive revisions to any material proposed to be incorporated by reference in the proposed rule.

- 2. After the notice required by paragraph (a) and <u>before</u> prior to adoption, the agency may withdraw the <u>proposed</u> rule in whole or in part.
- 3. After the notice required by paragraph (a), the agency must withdraw the proposed rule if the agency has failed to adopt it within the prescribed timeframes in this chapter. If the agency, 30 days after notice by the committee that the agency has failed to adopt the proposed rule within the prescribed timeframes in this chapter, has not given notice of the withdrawal of the proposed rule, the committee must notify the Department of State that the date for adoption of the rule

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164	has	s expired,	and	the	Departmer	nt of	State	must	publish	а	notice
165	of	withdrawal	Lof	the	proposed	rule	<u>.</u>				

- $\underline{4.}$ After adoption and before the rule becomes effective, a rule may be modified or withdrawn only in the following circumstances:
 - a. When the committee objects to the rule;
- b. When a final order, which is not subject to further appeal, is entered in a rule challenge brought pursuant to s. 120.56 after the date of adoption but before the rule becomes effective pursuant to subparagraph (e)6.;
- c. If the rule requires ratification, when more than 90 days have passed since the rule was filed for adoption without the Legislature does not ratify ratifying the rule by the adjournment sine die of the regular session immediately following the filing for adoption of the rule, in which case the rule must may be withdrawn, and within 90 days after adjournment sine die, the agency:
- (I) May initiate rulemaking again by publishing the notice required under s. 120.54(3)(a); or
- (II) Must initiate rulemaking again by publishing the notice required by s. 120.54(3)(a), if the mandatory grant of rulemaking authority the agency relied upon as authority to pursue the original rule action is still in effect at the time of the original rule's withdrawal but may not be modified; or

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- d. When the committee notifies the agency that an objection to the rule is being considered, in which case the rule may be modified to extend the effective date by not more than 60 days.
- 5.4. The agency shall give notice of its decision to withdraw or modify a rule in the first available issue of the publication in which the original notice of rulemaking was published, shall notify those persons described in subparagraph (a)3. in accordance with the requirements of that subparagraph, and shall notify the Department of State if the rule is required to be filed with the Department of State.
- $\underline{6.5.}$ After a rule has become effective, it may be repealed or amended only through the rulemaking procedures specified in this chapter.
 - (e) Filing for final adoption; effective date.-
- 1. If the adopting agency is required to publish its rules in the Florida Administrative Code, the agency, upon approval of the agency head, must electronically shall file with the Department of State a three certified copy copies of the rule it proposes to adopt; one copy of any material incorporated by reference in the rule, certified by the agency; a summary of the rule; a summary of any hearings held on the rule; and a detailed written statement of the facts and circumstances justifying the rule. Agencies not required to publish their rules in the Florida Administrative Code shall file one certified copy of the

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proposed rule, and the other material required by this subparagraph, in the office of the agency head, and such rules must shall be open to the public.

2. A rule may not be filed for adoption less than 28 days or more than 90 days after the notice required by paragraph (a), until 21 days after the notice of change required by paragraph (d), until 14 days after the final public hearing, until 21 days after a statement of estimated regulatory costs required under s. 120.541 has been provided to all persons who submitted a lower cost regulatory alternative and made available to the public at a readily accessible page on the agency's website, or until the administrative law judge has rendered a decision under s. 120.56(2), whichever applies. When a required notice of change is published before prior to the expiration of the time to file the rule for adoption, the period during which a rule must be filed for adoption is extended to 45 days after the date of publication. If notice of a public hearing is published before prior to the expiration of the time to file the rule for adoption, the period during which a rule must be filed for adoption is extended to 45 days after adjournment of the final hearing on the rule, 21 days after receipt of all material authorized to be submitted at the hearing, or 21 days after receipt of the transcript, if one is made, whichever is latest. The term "public hearing" includes any public meeting held by any agency at which the rule is considered. If a petition for an

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administrative determination under s. 120.56(2) is filed, the period during which a rule must be filed for adoption is extended to 60 days after the administrative law judge files the final order with the clerk or until 60 days after subsequent judicial review is complete.

- 3. At the time a rule is filed, the agency shall certify that the time limitations prescribed by this paragraph have been complied with, that all statutory rulemaking requirements have been met, and that there is no administrative determination pending on the rule.
- 4. At the time a rule is filed, the committee shall certify whether the agency has responded in writing to all material and timely written comments or written inquiries made on behalf of the committee. The Department of State shall reject any rule that is not filed within the prescribed time limits; that does not comply with all statutory rulemaking requirements and rules of the Department of State; upon which an agency has not responded in writing to all material and timely written inquiries or written comments; upon which an administrative determination is pending; or which does not include a statement of estimated regulatory costs, if required.
- 5. If a rule has not been adopted within the time limits imposed by this paragraph or has not been adopted in compliance with all statutory rulemaking requirements, the agency proposing the rule $\underline{\text{must}}$ $\underline{\text{shall}}$ withdraw the $\underline{\text{proposed}}$ rule and give notice

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Administrative Register. If the agency has not published notice of withdrawal of the rule during the 30 days after receiving notice from the committee that the agency has failed to withdraw the rule, the committee must notify the Department of State that the date for adoption of the rule has expired, and the Department of State must publish a notice of withdrawal of the rule.

The proposed rule shall be adopted on being filed with the Department of State and becomes become effective 20 days after being filed, on a later date specified in the notice required by subparagraph (a)1., on a date required by statute, or upon ratification by the Legislature pursuant to s. 120.541(3). Rules not required to be filed with the Department of State shall become effective when adopted by the agency head, on a later date specified by rule or statute, or upon ratification by the Legislature pursuant to s. 120.541(3). If the committee notifies an agency that an objection to a rule is being considered, the agency may postpone the adoption of the rule to accommodate review of the rule by the committee. When an agency postpones adoption of a rule to accommodate review by the committee, the 90-day period for filing the rule is tolled until the committee notifies the agency that it has completed its review of the rule.

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For the purposes of this paragraph, the term "administrative determination" does not include subsequent judicial review.

- (4) EMERGENCY RULES.—
- (a) If an agency finds that an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare requires emergency action, or if the Legislature authorizes the agency to adopt emergency rules and finds that all conditions specified in this paragraph are met, the agency may, within the authority granted to the agency under the State Constitution or delegated to it by the Legislature, adopt any rule necessitated by the immediate danger or legislative finding. The agency may adopt a rule by any procedure which is fair under the circumstances if:
- 1. The procedure provides at least the procedural protection given by other statutes, the State Constitution, or the United States Constitution.
- 2. The agency takes only that action necessary to protect the public interest under the emergency procedure.
- 3. The agency publishes in writing at the time of, or prior to, its action the specific facts and reasons for finding an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare and its reasons for concluding that the procedure used is fair under the circumstances. In any event, notice of emergency rules, other than those of educational units or units of government with jurisdiction in only one or a part of one county, including the full text of the rules <u>and the agency's findings of</u>

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immediate danger, necessity, and procedural fairness or a citation to the grant of emergency rulemaking authority, mustreshall be published in the first available issue of the Florida Administrative Register and provided to the committee along with any material incorporated by reference in the rules. The agency's findings of immediate danger, necessity, and procedural fairness are shall be judicially reviewable.

- (c) <u>Unless otherwise provided by law</u>, an emergency rule <u>may adopted under this subsection shall</u> not be effective for a period longer than 90 days and <u>is shall</u> not be renewable, except when the agency has initiated rulemaking to adopt rules addressing the subject of the emergency rule and either:
- 1. A challenge to the proposed rules has been filed and remains pending; or
- 2. The proposed rules are awaiting ratification by the Legislature pursuant to s. 120.541(3). If the proposed rule is not ratified during the next regular legislative session, the emergency rule shall expire at adjournment sine die of that regular legislative session. The proposed rule must be withdrawn from ratification in accordance with s. 120.54(3)(d).

633
634 Nothing in This paragraph

Nothing in This paragraph <u>does not prohibit</u> prohibits the agency from adopting a rule or rules identical to the emergency rule through the rulemaking procedures specified in subsection (3).

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	(e)	Emergency	rules	must	be	published	in	the	Florida
Admin	istr	ative Code.							

- (f) An agency may supersede an emergency rule currently in effect through adoption of another emergency rule. The agency must state the reason for adopting the new rule, in accordance with the procedures set forth in paragraph (a), and the new rule must be in effect for the duration of the effective period of the superseded rule. Technical changes to an emergency rule may be made within the first 7 days after adoption of the rule.
- (g) Any notice of the renewal of an emergency rule must be published in the Florida Administrative Register before the expiration of the existing emergency rule. The notice of renewal must state the specific facts and reasons for the renewal pursuant to paragraph (c).
- (h) All emergency rules must be published in the Florida

 Administrative Code in the section of the code dealing with the agency.
- (i) For emergency rules with an effective period longer than 90 days which are intended to replace existing rules, a note must be added to the history note of the existing rule which specifically identifies the emergency rule that is intended to supersede the existing rule and includes the date that the emergency rule was filed with the Department of State.
- (j) An emergency rule adopted under this subsection may be repealed by the adopting agency at any time while the rule is in

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effect by publishing a notice in the Florida Administrative

Register citing the reason for the repeal and the effective date
of the repeal.

- (7) PETITION TO INITIATE RULEMAKING.-
- (a) Any person regulated by an agency or having substantial interest in an agency rule may petition an agency to adopt, amend, or repeal a rule or to provide the minimum public information required by this chapter. The petition must shall specify the proposed rule and action requested. The agency shall file a copy of the petition with the committee. No Not later than 30 calendar days after following the date of filing a petition, the agency shall initiate rulemaking proceedings under this chapter, otherwise comply with the requested action, or deny the petition with a written statement of its reasons for the denial.

Section 3. Section 120.541, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

120.541 Statement of estimated regulatory costs.-

(1) (a) Within 21 days after publication of the notice of a proposed rule or notice of change required under s.

120.54(3)(a), a substantially affected person may submit to an agency a good faith written proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative to a proposed rule which substantially accomplishes the objectives of the law being implemented. The agency shall provide a copy of any proposal for a lower cost regulatory

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alternative to the committee at least 21 days before filing the proposed rule for adoption. The proposal may include the alternative of not adopting any rule if the proposal explains how the lower costs and objectives of the law will be achieved by not adopting any rule. If submitted after a notice of change, a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative is deemed to be made in good faith only if the person reasonably believes, and the proposal states the person's reasons for believing, that the proposed rule as changed by the notice of change increases the regulatory costs or creates an adverse impact on small businesses which was not created by the previous proposed rule. If such a proposal is submitted, the 90-day period for filing the rule is extended 21 days. Upon the submission of the lower cost regulatory alternative, the agency shall prepare a statement of estimated regulatory costs as provided in subsection (2), or shall revise its prior statement of estimated regulatory costs $_{T}$ and either adopt the alternative proposal, reject the alternative proposal, or modify the proposed rule to reduce the regulatory costs. If the agency rejects the alternative proposal or modifies the proposed rule, the agency must or provide a statement of the reasons for rejecting the alternative in favor of the proposed rule.

(b) If a proposed rule will have an adverse impact on small business or if the proposed rule is likely to directly or indirectly increase regulatory costs in excess of \$200,000 in

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the aggregate within 1 year after the implementation of the rule, the agency shall prepare a statement of estimated regulatory costs as required by s. 120.54(3)(b).

(c) The agency <u>must shall</u> revise a statement of estimated regulatory costs if any change to the rule made under s.

120.54(3)(d) increases the regulatory costs of the rule <u>or if</u> the rule is modified in response to the submission of a lower cost regulatory alternative. A summary of the revised statement must be included with any subsequent notice published under s.

120.54(3).

(c) (d) At least 21 days before filing the <u>proposed</u> rule for adoption, an agency that is required to revise a statement of estimated regulatory costs shall provide the statement to the person who submitted the lower cost regulatory alternative, to the rules ombudsman in the Executive Office of the Governor, and to the committee. The revised statement must be published and made available in the same manner as the original statement of estimated regulatory costs and shall provide notice on the agency's website that it is available to the public.

(d) (e) Notwithstanding s. 120.56(1)(c), the failure of the agency to prepare and publish a statement of estimated regulatory costs or to respond to a written lower cost regulatory alternative as provided in this subsection is a material failure to follow the applicable rulemaking procedures or requirements set forth in this chapter.

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<u>(e) (f)</u> An agency's failure to prepare a statement of
estimated regulatory costs or to respond to a written lower cost
regulatory alternative may not be raised in a proceeding
challenging the validity of a rule pursuant to s. 120.52(8)(a)
unless:

- 1. Raised in a petition filed no later than 1 year after the effective date of the rule; and
- 2. Raised by a person whose substantial interests are affected by the rule's regulatory costs.

 $\underline{\text{(f)}}$ (g) A rule that is challenged pursuant to s. 120.52(8)(f) may not be declared invalid unless:

- 1. The issue is raised in an administrative proceeding within 1 year after the effective date of the rule;
- 2. The challenge is to the agency's rejection of a lower cost regulatory alternative offered under paragraph (a) or \underline{s} . 120.54(3)(b)2.c. \underline{s} . 120.54(3)(b)2.b.; and
- 3. The substantial interests of the person challenging the rule are materially affected by the rejection.
- (2) A statement of estimated regulatory costs $\underline{\text{must}}$ shall include:
- (a) An economic analysis showing whether the rule directly or indirectly:
- 1. Is likely to have an adverse impact on economic growth, private sector job creation or employment, or private sector

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investment in excess of \$1 million in the aggregate within 5 years after the implementation of the rule;

- 2. Is likely to have an adverse impact on business competitiveness, including the ability of persons doing business in this the state to compete with persons doing business in other states or domestic markets, productivity, or innovation in excess of \$1 million in the aggregate within 5 years after the implementation of the rule; or
- 3. Is likely to increase regulatory costs, including <u>all</u> any transactional costs <u>and impacts estimated in the statement</u>, in excess of \$1 million in the aggregate within 5 years after the implementation of the rule.
- (b) A good faith estimate of the number of individuals, small businesses, and other entities likely to be required to comply with the rule, together with a general description of the types of individuals likely to be affected by the rule.
- (c) A good faith estimate of the cost to the agency, and to any other state and local government entities, of implementing and enforcing the proposed rule, and any anticipated effect on state or local revenues.
- (d) A good faith estimate of the <u>compliance</u> transactional costs likely to be incurred by individuals and entities, including local government entities, required to comply with the requirements of the rule. As used in this section, "transactional costs" are direct costs that are readily

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ascertainable based upon standard business practices, and include filing fees, the cost of obtaining a license, the cost of equipment required to be installed or used or procedures required to be employed in complying with the rule, additional operating costs incurred, the cost of monitoring and reporting, and any other costs necessary to comply with the rule.

- (e) An analysis of the impact on small businesses as defined by s. 288.703, and an analysis of the impact on small counties and small cities as defined in s. 120.52. The impact analysis for small businesses must include the basis for the agency's decision not to implement alternatives that would reduce adverse impacts on small businesses.
- (f) Any additional information that the agency determines may be useful.
- (g) In the statement or revised statement, whichever applies, a description of any regulatory alternatives submitted under paragraph (1)(a) and a statement adopting the alternative or a statement of the reasons for rejecting the alternative in favor of the proposed rule.
- (3) If the adverse impact or regulatory costs of the rule exceed any of the criteria established in paragraph (2)(a), the rule <u>must shall</u> be submitted to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than 30 days before <u>prior to</u> the next regular legislative session, and the

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rule may not take effect until it is ratified by the Legislature.

- (4) Subsection (3) does not apply to the adoption of:
- (a) Federal standards pursuant to s. 120.54(6).
- (b) Triennial updates of and amendments to the Florida Building Code which are expressly authorized by s. 553.73.
- (c) Triennial updates of and amendments to the Florida Fire Prevention Code which are expressly authorized by s. 633.202.
 - (d) Emergency rules adopted pursuant to s. 120.54(4).
- (5) For purposes of subsections (2) and (3), adverse impacts and regulatory costs likely to occur within 5 years after implementation of the rule include adverse impacts and regulatory costs estimated to occur within 5 years after the effective date of the rule. However, if any provision of the rule is not fully implemented upon the effective date of the rule, the adverse impacts and regulatory costs associated with such provision must be adjusted to include any additional adverse impacts and regulatory costs estimated to occur within 5 years after implementation of such provision.
- (6) (a) In evaluating the impacts described in paragraphs (2) (a) and (e), an agency shall include good faith estimates of market impacts likely to result from compliance with the proposed rule, including:
 - 1. Increased customer charges for goods or services.

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835	4	2.	Decr	reased	market	value	of	goods	or	services	produced,
836	provid	ded,	or	sold.							

- 3. Increased costs resulting from the purchase of substitute or alternative goods or services.
- 4. The reasonable value of time to be spent by owners, officers, operators, and managers to understand and comply with the proposed rule, including, but not limited to, time to be spent completing required education, training, or testing.
 - 5. Capital costs.
- 6. Any other impacts suggested by the rules ombudsman in the Executive Office of the Governor or by any interested persons.
- (b) In estimating the information required in paragraphs
 (2)(b)-(e), the agency may use surveys of individuals,
 businesses, business organizations, counties, and municipalities
 to collect data helpful to estimate the costs and impacts.
- (c) In estimating compliance costs under paragraph (2)(d), the agency shall consider, among other matters, all direct and indirect costs necessary to comply with the proposed rule which are readily ascertainable based upon standard business practices, including, but not limited to, costs related to:
 - 1. Filing fees.
 - 2. Expenses to obtain a license.
 - 3. Necessary equipment.

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859	4. Installation, utilities for, and maintenance of
860	necessary equipment.
861	5. Necessary operations and procedures.
862	6. Accounting, financial, information management, and
863	other administrative processes.
864	7. Other processes.
865	8. Labor based on relevant rates of wages, salaries, and
866	benefits.
867	9. Materials and supplies.
868	10. Capital expenditures, including financing costs.
869	11. Professional and technical services, including
870	contracted services necessary to implement and maintain
871	compliance.
872	12. Monitoring and reporting.
873	13. Qualifying and recurring education, training, and
874	testing.
875	14. Travel.
876	15. Insurance and surety requirements.
877	16. A fair and reasonable allocation of administrative
878	costs and other overhead.
879	17. Reduced sales or other revenues.
880	18. Other items suggested by the rules ombudsman in the
881	Executive Office of the Governor or by any interested person,
882	business organization, or business representative.

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	(7) (3	a) The	e Depart	ment o	f State	shall	include	on the	<u> </u>	
Flori	.da A	dminist	rative	Regist	er webs	ite th	e agency	websit	te	
addre	sses	where	stateme	nts of	estima	ted re	gulatory	costs	can	be
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- (b) An agency that prepares a statement of estimated regulatory costs must provide, as part of the notice required under s. 120.54(3)(a), the agency website address where the statement of estimated regulatory costs can be read in its entirety to the Department of State for publication in the Florida Administrative Register.
- (c) If an agency revises its statement of estimated regulatory costs, the agency must provide notice that a revision has been made in the manner provided under s. 120.54(3)(d)1.

 Such notice must also include the agency website address where the revision can be viewed in its entirety.

Section 4. Section 120.5435, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

120.5435 Repromulgation of rules.-

- (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that each agency periodically review its rules for consistency with the powers and duties granted by its enabling statutes.
- (2) For rules promulgated before July 1, 2025, each agency shall include in its annual regulatory plan submitted pursuant to s. 120.74, beginning with the plan due on October 1, 2025, a schedule of the rules it will review each year during the 5-year

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rule review period ending on December 31, 2030. The agency may amend its yearly schedule in subsequent regulatory plans but must provide for the completed review of at least 20 percent of the agency's rules per year, until all of its rules have been reviewed. Any variation from the schedule must be reflected in the annual regulatory plan. This subsection shall stand repealed on January 31, 2031.

- changes to update a rule are not required, such agency must repromulgate the rule to reflect the date of the review. All rules adopted, amended, or repromulgated on or after July 1, 2025, must be reviewed within 5 years after their effective dates and every 5 years thereafter. Each agency shall review all existing rules pursuant to this section no later than December 31, 2030. No later than July 31, 2025, the committee shall provide each agency with a list of existing rules and their effective dates. Failure of an agency to adhere to the deadlines imposed in this section constitutes a material failure to follow the applicable rulemaking procedures or requirements of this chapter and shall be the basis of an objection under s. 120.545.
- (4) Before repromulgation of a rule, the agency must, upon approval by the agency head or his or her designee:
- (a) Publish a notice of repromulgation in the Florida

 Administrative Register. A notice of repromulgation is not
 required to include the text of the rule being repromulgated.

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	(b)	F.	ile t	he ru	le :	for	rep	oron	nulg	ratio	on wi	th t	the 1	Depar	:tmer	<u>nt</u>
of	State	. A	rule	may	not	be	fil	Led	for	rep	oromu	lga	tion	less	; tha	an_
28	days,	or	more	than	90	day	/S,	aft	er	the	date	of	pub.	licat	ion	of
the	e notio	ce :	requi	red b	у ра	araç	grap	oh ((a).							

- (5) The agency must file a notice of repromulgation with the committee at least 14 days before filing the rule for repromulgation. At the time the rule is filed for repromulgation, the committee shall certify whether the agency has responded in writing to all material and timely written comments or written inquiries made on behalf of the committee.
- (6) A repromulgated rule is not subject to challenge as a proposed rule pursuant to s. 120.56(2).
- (7) The hearing requirements of s. 120.54 do not apply to repromulgation of a rule.
- (8) (a) The agency, upon approval of the agency head or his or her designee, shall electronically file with the Department of State a certified copy of the repromulgated rule it proposes to adopt and one certified copy of any material incorporated by reference in the rule.
- (b) The rule is considered to be repromulgated upon its filing with the Department of State.
- (c) The Department of State shall update the history note of the rule in the Florida Administrative Code to reflect the filing date of the repromulgated rule.

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(9) At least 90 days before each legislative session, the
committee shall submit to the President of the Senate and the
Speaker of the House of Representatives a list of all rules that
have not been repromulgated in accordance with this section and
identify whether the statutory rulemaking authority for each
rule remains in effect. If no action is taken by the Legislature
with regard to a rule during the next regular legislative
session, each agency, within 14 days after the close of the
session, must initiate rulemaking proceedings under chapter 120
to repeal the rule.

(10) The Department of State shall adopt rules to implement this section by December 31, 2025.

Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 120.545, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

120.545 Committee review of agency rules.-

- (1) As a legislative check on legislatively created authority, the committee shall examine each existing rule and proposed rule, except for those proposed rules exempted by s. 120.81(1)(e) and (2), and its accompanying material, and each emergency rule, and may examine any existing rule, for the purpose of determining whether:
- (a) The rule is an invalid exercise of delegated legislative authority.
- (b) The statutory authority for the rule has been repealed.

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- (c) The rule reiterates or paraphrases statutory material.
 - (d) The rule is in proper form.
- (e) The notice given <u>before</u> prior to its adoption was sufficient to give adequate notice of the purpose and effect of the rule.
- (f) The rule is consistent with expressed legislative intent pertaining to the specific provisions of law which the rule implements.
- (g) The rule is necessary to accomplish the apparent or expressed objectives of the specific provision of law which the rule implements.
- (h) The rule is a reasonable implementation of the law as it affects the convenience of the general public or persons particularly affected by the rule.
- (i) The rule could be made less complex or more easily comprehensible to the general public.
- (j) The rule's statement of estimated regulatory costs complies with the requirements of s. 120.541 and whether the rule does not impose regulatory costs on the regulated person, county, or city which could be reduced by the adoption of less costly alternatives that substantially accomplish the statutory objectives.
 - (k) The rule will require additional appropriations.
- (1) If the rule is an emergency rule, there exists an emergency justifying the adoption of such rule, the agency is

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within its statutory authority, and the rule was adopted in compliance with the requirements and limitations of s.

1009 120.54(4).

Section 7. Paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subsection (1) of section 120.55, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

120.55 Publication.-

- (1) The Department of State shall:
- 1014 (a) 1. Through a continuous revision and publication system, compile and publish electronically, on a website managed 1015 by the department, the "Florida Administrative Code." The 1016 Florida Administrative Code must shall contain all rules adopted 1017 1018 by each agency, citing the grant of rulemaking authority and the 1019 specific law implemented pursuant to which each rule was adopted, all history notes as authorized in s. 120.545(7), 1020 1021 complete indexes to all rules contained in the code, and any other material required or authorized by law or deemed useful by 1022 1023 the department. The electronic code must shall display each rule 1024 chapter currently in effect in browse mode and allow full text 1025 search of the code and each rule chapter. The department may 1026 contract with a publishing firm for a printed publication; 1027 however, the department shall retain responsibility for the code 1028 as provided in this section. The electronic publication is shall be the official compilation of the administrative rules of this 1029 state. The Florida Administrative Register must be published 1030 1031 once each business day by 8 a.m., with the exception of state

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holidays or emergency closures of state agencies. If a rule,
proposed rule, or notice of rule development is corrected and
replaced, the corrected rule or notice must be published in the
next available Florida Administrative Register with a notation
indicating that the rule, proposed rule, or notice has been
corrected by the Department of State. Any timeframes for
rulemaking set forth in this chapter must revert to the initial
date of publication.

The Department of State <u>retains</u> shall retain the copyright over the Florida Administrative Code.

- 2. Not publish rules in the Florida Administrative Code which are general in form but applicable to only one school district, community college district, or county, or a part thereof, or state university rules relating to internal personnel or business and finance shall not be published in the Florida Administrative Code. Exclusion from publication in the Florida Administrative Code does shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of such rules.
- 3. At the beginning of the section of the code dealing with an agency that files copies of its rules with the department, the <u>agency department</u> shall publish the address and telephone number of the executive offices of each agency, the manner by which the agency indexes its rules, a listing of all

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rules of that agency excluded from publication in the code, and a statement as to where those rules may be inspected.

- 4. Not publish forms shall not be published in the Florida Administrative Code; but any form which an agency uses in its dealings with the public, along with any accompanying instructions, shall be filed with the committee before it is used. Any form or instruction which meets the definition of "rule" provided in s. 120.52 <u>must shall</u> be incorporated by reference into the appropriate rule. The reference <u>must shall</u> specifically state that the form is being incorporated by reference and <u>must shall</u> include the number, title, and effective date of the form and an explanation of how the form may be obtained. Each form created by an agency which is incorporated by reference in a rule notice of which is given under s. 120.54(3)(a) after December 31, 2007, must clearly display the number, title, and effective date of the form and the number of the rule in which the form is incorporated.
- 5. Require all materials incorporated by reference in any part of an adopted rule and in any part of a repromulgated rule The department shall allow adopted rules and material incorporated by reference to be filed in the manner prescribed by s. 120.54(1)(i)3.a. or b. electronic form as prescribed by department rule. When a proposed rule is filed for adoption or repromulgation with incorporated material in electronic form, the department's publication of the Florida Administrative Code

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on its website must contain a hyperlink from the incorporating reference in the rule directly to that material. The department may not allow hyperlinks from rules in the Florida

Administrative Code to any material other than that filed with and maintained by the department, but may allow hyperlinks to incorporated material maintained by the department from the adopting agency's website or other sites.

- 6. Include the date of any technical changes to a rule in the history note of the rule in the Florida Administrative Code.

 A technical change does not affect the effective date of the rule.
- (b) Electronically publish on a website managed by the department a continuous revision and publication entitled the "Florida Administrative Register," which shall serve as the official publication and must contain:
- 1. All notices required by s. 120.54(2) and (3)(a), showing the text of all rules proposed for consideration.
- 2. All notices of public meetings, hearings, and workshops conducted in accordance with s. 120.525, including a statement of the manner in which a copy of the agenda may be obtained.
- 3. A notice of each request for authorization to amend or repeal an existing uniform rule or for the adoption of new uniform rules.
- 4. Notice of petitions for declaratory statements or administrative determinations.

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1107	Admin	istra	tive Prod	cedi	ures (Committee.						

- 6. A list of rules filed for adoption in the previous 7 days.
- 7. A list of all rules filed for adoption pending legislative ratification under s. 120.541(3). A rule shall be removed from the list once notice of ratification or withdrawal of the rule is received.
- 8. The full text of each emergency rule in effect on the date of publication.
- $\underline{9}$. Any other material required or authorized by law or deemed useful by the department.

The department may contract with a publishing firm for a printed publication of the Florida Administrative Register and make copies available on an annual subscription basis.

- (c) Prescribe by rule the style and form required for rules, notices, and other materials submitted for filing, including a rule requiring documents created by an agency which are proposed to be incorporated by reference in notices published pursuant to s. 120.54(3)(a) and (d) to be coded in the same manner as notices published pursuant to s. 120.54(3)(a)1.
- Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 120.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 1130 120.56 Challenges to rules.—

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- (2) CHALLENGING PROPOSED RULES; SPECIAL PROVISIONS.—
- A petition alleging the invalidity of a proposed rule shall be filed within 21 days after the date of publication of the notice required by s. 120.54(3)(a); within 10 days after the final public hearing is held on the proposed rule as provided by s. 120.54(3)(e)2.; within 20 days after the statement of estimated regulatory costs or revised statement of estimated regulatory costs, if applicable, has been prepared and made available as provided in s. $120.541(1)(c) \frac{s. 120.541(1)(d)}{s}$; or within 20 days after the date of publication of the notice required by s. 120.54(3)(d). The petitioner has the burden to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the petitioner would be substantially affected by the proposed rule. The agency then has the burden to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the proposed rule is not an invalid exercise of delegated legislative authority as to the objections raised. A person who is not substantially affected by the proposed rule as initially noticed, but who is substantially affected by the rule as a result of a change, may challenge any provision of the resulting proposed rule.

Section 9. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 120.74, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

120.74 Agency annual rulemaking and regulatory plans; reports.—

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(1)	REGULATORY	P.	LAN.—By Oct	ober	1	of	each	year,	each
agency sh	all prepare	а	regulatory	pla:	n.				

- (a) The plan must include a listing of each law enacted or amended during the previous 12 months which creates or modifies the duties or authority of the agency. If the Governor or the Attorney General provides a letter to the committee stating that a law affects all or most agencies, the agency may exclude the law from its plan. For each law listed by an agency under this paragraph, the plan must state:
- 1. Whether the agency must adopt rules to implement the law.
 - 2. If rulemaking is necessary to implement the law:
- a. Whether a notice of rule development has been published and, if so, the citation to such notice in the Florida Administrative Register.
- b. The date by which the agency expects to publish the notice of proposed rule under s. 120.54(3)(a).
- 3. If rulemaking is not necessary to implement the law, a concise written explanation of the reasons why the law may be implemented without rulemaking.
- (b) The plan must also <u>identify and describe each rule</u>, <u>including each rule number or proposed rule number</u>, <u>which</u> <u>include a listing of each law not otherwise listed pursuant to</u> <u>paragraph (a) which</u> the agency expects to <u>develop</u>, <u>adopt</u>, <u>or</u> repeal for the 12-month period beginning on October 1 and ending

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1180	on September 30 implement by rulemaking before the following
1181	July 1, excluding emergency rules except emergency rulemaking.
1182	For each $\underline{\text{rule}}$ $\underline{\text{law}}$ listed under this paragraph, the plan must
1183	state whether the rulemaking is intended to simplify, clarify,
1184	increase efficiency, improve coordination with other agencies,
1185	reduce regulatory costs, or delete obsolete, unnecessary, or
1186	redundant rules.

- (c) The plan must include any desired update to the prior year's regulatory plan or supplement published pursuant to subsection (7). If, in a prior year, a law was identified under this paragraph or under subparagraph (a)1. as a law requiring rulemaking to implement but a notice of proposed rule has not been published:
- 1. The agency $\underline{\text{must}}$ $\underline{\text{shall}}$ identify and again list such law, noting the applicable notice of rule development by citation to the Florida Administrative Register; or
- 2. If the agency has subsequently determined that rulemaking is not necessary to implement the law, the agency must shall identify such law, reference the citation to the applicable notice of rule development in the Florida Administrative Register, and provide a concise written explanation of the reason why the law may be implemented without rulemaking.
- (d) The plan must provide a list of all rules that have been repromulgated pursuant to s. 120.5435 over the previous 12

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1205	months and identify any rules that are required to be
1206	repromulgated for the 12-month period beginning on October 1 and
1207	ending on September 30.

- (e) The plan must include a certification executed on behalf of the agency by both the agency head, or, if the agency head is a collegial body, the presiding officer; and the individual acting as principal legal advisor to the agency head. The certification must declare:
- 1. $\frac{\text{Verify}}{\text{Verify}}$ That the persons executing the certification have reviewed the plan.
- 2. Verify That the agency regularly reviews all of its rules and identify the period during which all rules have most recently been reviewed to determine if the rules remain consistent with the agency's rulemaking authority and the laws implemented.
- 3. That the agency understands that regulatory accountability is necessary to ensure public confidence in the integrity of state government and, to that end, the agency is diligently working toward lowering the total number of rules adopted.
- 4. The total number of rules adopted and repealed during the previous 12 months.
- (e) Beginning October 1, 2025, each agency issuing

 licenses, as defined in s. 120.52(10), in accordance with s.

 1229 120.60 shall track the agency's compliance with the licensing

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1230	timeframes established in s. 120.60, and beginning October 1,
1231	2026, must include in the regulatory plan required by subsection
1232	(1), the following information regarding its licensing
1233	activities of the prior fiscal year, categorized by type of
1234	<u>license:</u>
1235	1. The number of license applications submitted to the
1236	agency;
1237	2. The number of license applications which required one
1238	or more requests for additional information;
1239	3. The number of license applications for which the
1240	applicant was nonresponsive to one or more requests for
1241	additional information;
1242	4. The number of license applications which were not
1243	completed by the applicant;
1244	5. The number of license applications for which the agency
1245	requested that the applicant grant an extension of time for the
1246	agency to issue a request for additional information, determine
1247	that an application is complete, or issue a decision to approve
1248	or deny an application;
1249	6. The number of license applications for which an
1250	extension was requested by the applicant and for which an
1251	extension was required by the state agency or judicial branch;

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7. The number of license applications which were not

approved or denied within the statutory timeframe;

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1255	agency	y to	apr	prove	or	deny	an	app	olicatio	on a	after	rec	ceipt	of	a
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- 9. The number of license applications for which final agency action was appealed and the number of informal and formal hearings requested.
 - (2) PUBLICATION AND DELIVERY TO THE COMMITTEE.-
 - (a) By October 1 of each year, each agency shall:
- 1. Publish its regulatory plan on its website or on another state website established for publication of administrative law records. A clearly labeled hyperlink to the current plan must be included on the agency's primary website homepage.
- 2. Electronically deliver to the committee a copy of the certification required in paragraph (1)(e) $\frac{(1)(d)}{(1)}$.
- 3. Publish in the Florida Administrative Register a notice identifying the date of publication of the agency's regulatory plan. The notice must include a hyperlink or website address providing direct access to the published plan.
- Section 10. Subsections (11) and (20) of section 120.80, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 - 120.80 Exceptions and special requirements; agencies.-
- 1276 (11) NATIONAL GUARD.—Notwithstanding s. 120.52(17) s.

 1277 120.52(16), the enlistment, organization, administration,

 1278 equipment, maintenance, training, and discipline of the militia,

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1279	National	Gua	ard,	0	rgani	zec	d m	iliti	ia, a	nd	unorganized	milit	cia,	as
1280	provided	bу	s.	2,	Art.	Χ	of	the	State	е (Constitution,	are	not	
1281	rules as	def	ine	ed :	bv th	is	cha	aptei	c .					

(20) FLORIDA STATE GUARD.—Notwithstanding <u>s. 120.52(17)</u> s. 120.52(16), the enlistment, organization, administration, equipment, maintenance, training, and discipline of the Florida State Guard are not rules as defined by this chapter.

Section 11. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 120.81, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

120.81 Exceptions and special requirements; general areas.—

- (1) EDUCATIONAL UNITS.-
- (c) Notwithstanding <u>s. 120.52(17)</u> <u>s. 120.52(16)</u>, any tests, test scoring criteria, or testing procedures relating to student assessment which are developed or administered by the Department of Education pursuant to s. 1003.4282, s. 1008.22, or s. 1008.25, or any other statewide educational tests required by law, are not rules.

Section 12. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 420.9072, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

420.9072 State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program.—
The State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program is created for the purpose of providing funds to counties and eligible municipalities as an incentive for the creation of local housing partnerships, to expand production of and preserve affordable

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housing, to further the housing element of the local government comprehensive plan specific to affordable housing, and to increase housing-related employment.

(1)(a) In addition to the legislative findings set forth in s. 420.6015, the Legislature finds that affordable housing is most effectively provided by combining available public and private resources to conserve and improve existing housing and provide new housing for very-low-income households, low-income households, and moderate-income households. The Legislature intends to encourage partnerships in order to secure the benefits of cooperation by the public and private sectors and to reduce the cost of housing for the target group by effectively combining all available resources and cost-saving measures. The Legislature further intends that local governments achieve this combination of resources by encouraging active partnerships between government, lenders, builders and developers, real estate professionals, advocates for low-income persons, and community groups to produce affordable housing and provide related services. Extending the partnership concept to encompass cooperative efforts among small counties as defined in s. 120.52(20) s. 120.52(19), and among counties and municipalities is specifically encouraged. Local governments are also intended to establish an affordable housing advisory committee to recommend monetary and nonmonetary incentives for affordable housing as provided in s. 420.9076.

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Sect	ion	13.	Subsec	ction	(7)	of	section	420.9075,	Florida
Statutes,	is	ameno	ded to	read:					

420.9075 Local housing assistance plans; partnerships.-

The moneys deposited in the local housing assistance trust fund shall be used to administer and implement the local housing assistance plan. The cost of administering the plan may not exceed 5 percent of the local housing distribution moneys and program income deposited into the trust fund. A county or an eligible municipality may not exceed the 5-percent limitation on administrative costs, unless its governing body finds, by resolution, that 5 percent of the local housing distribution plus 5 percent of program income is insufficient to adequately pay the necessary costs of administering the local housing assistance plan. The cost of administering the program may not exceed 10 percent of the local housing distribution plus 5 percent of program income deposited into the trust fund, except that small counties, as defined in s. 120.52(20) s. 120.52(19), and eligible municipalities receiving a local housing distribution of up to \$350,000 may use up to 10 percent of program income for administrative costs.

Section 14. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 443.091, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

443.091 Benefit eligibility conditions.-

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- (1) An unemployed individual is eligible to receive benefits for any week only if the Department of Commerce finds that:
- She or he is able to work and is available for work. In order to assess eligibility for a claimed week of unemployment, the department shall develop criteria to determine a claimant's ability to work and availability for work. A claimant must be actively seeking work in order to be considered available for work. This means engaging in systematic and sustained efforts to find work, including contacting at least five prospective employers for each week of unemployment claimed. The department may require the claimant to provide proof of such efforts to the one-stop career center as part of reemployment services. A claimant's proof of work search efforts may not include the same prospective employer at the same location in 3 consecutive weeks, unless the employer has indicated since the time of the initial contact that the employer is hiring. The department shall conduct random reviews of work search information provided by claimants. As an alternative to contacting at least five prospective employers for any week of unemployment claimed, a claimant may, for that same week, report in person to a one-stop career center to meet with a representative of the center and access reemployment services of the center. The center shall keep a record of the services or information provided to the claimant and shall

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provide the records to the department upon request by the department. However:

- 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph or paragraphs (b) and (e), an otherwise eligible individual may not be denied benefits for any week because she or he is in training with the approval of the department, or by reason of s. 443.101(2) relating to failure to apply for, or refusal to accept, suitable work. Training may be approved by the department in accordance with criteria prescribed by rule. A claimant's eligibility during approved training is contingent upon satisfying eligibility conditions prescribed by rule.
- 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, an otherwise eligible individual who is in training approved under s. 236(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, may not be determined ineligible or disqualified for benefits due to enrollment in such training or because of leaving work that is not suitable employment to enter such training. As used in this subparagraph, the term "suitable employment" means work of a substantially equal or higher skill level than the worker's past adversely affected employment, as defined for purposes of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, the wages for which are at least 80 percent of the worker's average weekly wage as determined for purposes of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended.
- 3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, an otherwise eligible individual may not be denied benefits for any

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week beca	ause	she	e or	he	is b	efore	any	stat	e or	federa	al co	urt
pursuant	to	a la	awful	lly	issu	ed sur	nmons	to	appea	r for	jury	duty.

- 4. Union members who customarily obtain employment through a union hiring hall may satisfy the work search requirements of this paragraph by reporting daily to their union hall.
- 5. The work search requirements of this paragraph do not apply to persons who are unemployed as a result of a temporary layoff or who are claiming benefits under an approved short-time compensation plan as provided in s. 443.1116.
- 6. In small counties as defined in $\underline{s.\ 120.52(20)}$ $\underline{s.}$ $\underline{120.52(19)}$, a claimant engaging in systematic and sustained efforts to find work must contact at least three prospective employers for each week of unemployment claimed.
- 7. The work search requirements of this paragraph do not apply to persons required to participate in reemployment services under paragraph (e).

Section 15. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

TITLE AMENDMENT

Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:
An act relating to administrative procedures; amending
s. 120.52, F.S.; defining the terms "repromulgation"
and "technical change"; revising the definition of the
term "rule" to clarify that it includes guidance

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Amendment No.

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documents if such documents interpret law or policy; amending s. 120.54, F.S.; applying certain provisions applicable to all rules other than emergency rules to rules amended or repromulgated after a specified date; requiring agencies to publish a certain notice of rule development in the Florida Administrative Register within a specified timeframe before providing specified notice of a proposed rule; requiring that a notice of rule development cite the grant of rulemaking authority; requiring that a notice of rule development contain a proposed rule number and specified statements; requiring that notice of a proposed rule be published in the Florida Administrative Register within a specified timeframe after the most recent notice of rule development; revising the scope of public workshops to include information gathered for the preparation of statements of estimated regulatory costs; requiring that a notice of proposed rule include a website address where a statement of regulatory costs can be viewed; requiring that a notice of proposed rule include a request for the submission of any helpful information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs; requiring that material proposed to be incorporated by reference and the statement of estimated regulatory costs be

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made available to the public; requiring that material proposed to be incorporated by reference be made available in a specified manner; authorizing electronic delivery of notices to persons who have requested advance notice of agency rulemaking proceedings; requiring an agency to prepare a statement of estimated regulatory costs before adopting or amending any rule other than an emergency rule; providing that an agency is not required to prepare a statement of estimated regulatory costs before repealing a rule; providing an exception; requiring that certain rule repeals be considered presumptively correct in a proceeding before the Division of Administrative Hearings or a court of competent jurisdiction; revising the criteria under which a proposed rule's adverse impact on small businesses is deemed to exist; requiring an agency to provide notice of a regulatory alternative to the Administrative Procedures Committee within a certain timeframe; requiring certain agency personnel to attend public hearings on proposed rules; requiring an agency to publish a notice of convening a separate proceeding in certain circumstances; providing that rulemaking timelines are tolled during such separate proceedings; providing that such timelines resume the

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day after the conclusion of such proceedings;
requiring that notice of conclusion of such
proceedings be provided to the committee; revising the
requirements for the contents of a notice of change;
requiring the committee to notify the Department of
State that the date for an agency to adopt a proposed
rule has expired under certain circumstances;
requiring the department to publish a notice of
withdrawal of the proposed rule under certain
circumstances; requiring the agency, upon approval of
the agency head, to electronically file with the
department a certified copy of the proposed rule;
requiring the committee to notify the department that
the agency has failed to withdraw a rule within a
specified timeframe; requiring the department to
publish a notice of withdrawal of the rule;
prohibiting an emergency rule from being effective for
longer than a specified timeframe; providing that such
rule is not renewable; providing an exception;
requiring that emergency rules be published in the
Florida Administrative Code; authorizing agencies to
supersede an emergency rule through adoption of
another emergency rule; providing the requirements for
adopting the new rule; authorizing an agency to make
technical changes to an emergency rule during a

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specified timeframe; requiring that notice of renewal of an emergency rule be published in the Florida Administrative Register before the expiration of the existing rule; requiring that the notice state specified facts and reasons; requiring that emergency rules be published in a certain section of the Florida Administrative Code; requiring specified emergency rules to contain a certain history note; providing that certain emergency rules may be repealed at any time while the emergency rule is in effect by publishing a certain notice in the Florida Administrative Register; requiring an agency to file a copy of a certain petition with the committee; making technical changes; amending s. 120.541, F.S.; requiring an agency to provide a copy of a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative to the committee within a certain timeframe; specifying the circumstances under which such proposal is deemed to be made in good faith; revising requirements for an agency's consideration of a lower cost regulatory alternative; providing for an agency's revision and publication of a revised statement of estimated regulatory costs in response to such alternatives; requiring that the revised statement of estimated regulatory costs be made available in the same manner

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as the original; deleting the definition of the term "transactional costs"; revising the applicability of specified provisions; providing additional requirements for the calculation of estimated regulatory costs; making technical changes; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing that if a proposed rule is not ratified within a specified timeframe, the agency must withdraw such rule and the agency may initiate rulemaking again, or must initiate rulemaking again under a specified condition; conforming a cross-reference; creating s. 120.5435, F.S.; providing legislative intent; requiring agency review of rules and repromulgation of rules that do not require substantive changes within a specified timeframe; requiring that such rules be reviewed periodically; requiring the agency to publish any variation from this schedule in the agency's regulatory plan; requiring the committee to provide each agency with a specified list; requiring agencies to submit a schedule of rules they plan to review each year over the next five years in their annual regulatory plan; providing for repeal of requirement that the annual regulatory plan contain a schedule of rules; providing that the failure of an agency to adhere to specified deadlines constitutes a material

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failure and is the basis for a specified objection; requiring an agency to publish a notice of repromulgation in the Florida Administrative Register and file a rule for repromulgation with the department within a specified timeframe; requiring an agency to file a notice of repromulgation with the committee within a specified timeframe; requiring the committee to certify if the agency has provided certain responses to the committee; providing that a repromulgated rule is not subject to challenge as a proposed rule and that certain hearing requirements do not apply; requiring an agency to electronically file a certified copy of a proposed repromulgated rule and any material incorporated by reference; providing that a rule is considered repromulgated upon filing with the department; requiring the department to update certain information in the Florida Administrative Code; requiring the committee to submit a specified list to the Legislature within a specified timeframe; requiring each agency to initiate rulemaking proceedings to repeal certain rules within a specified timeframe if certain conditions exist; requiring the department to adopt rules by a certain date; amending s. 120.545, F.S.; requiring the committee to examine certain existing rules; amending s. 120.55, F.S.;

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requiring the Department of State to publish the Florida Administrative Register once each business day by a specified time; providing exceptions; requiring the department to indicate if a rule, proposed rule, or notice of rule development was corrected or replaced by republishing the register and noting the rule, proposed rule, or notice of rule development was corrected; requiring that certain rulemaking timeframes revert to the initial date of publication; requiring the agency, rather than the department, to publish specified information at the beginning of specified sections of the Florida Administrative Code; requiring that materials incorporated by reference be filed in a specified manner; requiring the department to include the date of a technical rule change in the Florida Administrative Code; providing that a technical change does not affect the effective date of a rule; revising the required contents of the Florida Administrative Register; requiring the department to adopt specified rules; amending s. 120.56, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending s. 120.74, F.S.; requiring an agency to list each rule it plans to develop, adopt, or repeal during the forthcoming year in the agency's annual regulatory plan; requiring that an agency's annual regulatory plan identify any

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1602	rules repromulgated over the previous year and those
1603	that are required to be repromulgated during the
1604	forthcoming year; requiring the agency to make certain
1605	declarations concerning the annual regulatory plan;
1606	requiring agencies to include information regarding
1607	the prior year's licensing practices in their
1608	regulatory plan; amending ss. 120.80, 120.81,
1609	420.9072, 420.9075, and 443.091, F.S.; conforming
1610	cross-references; providing an effective date.

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