1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to electronic delivery of notices
3	between landlords and tenants; creating s. 83.505,
4	F.S.; authorizing a landlord or tenant to
5	electronically deliver notices to the other party if
6	certain conditions are met; requiring an addendum to a
7	rental agreement to be in a specified form;
8	authorizing a party to revoke his or her agreement to
9	electronic delivery without invalidating notices
10	previously sent by e-mail; specifying when such
11	revocation takes effect; authorizing a party to update
12	his or her e-mail address; specifying when such update
13	takes effect; providing that a notice delivered by e-
14	mail is deemed delivered at the time the e-mail is
15	sent; providing an exception; requiring the sender of
16	the e-mail to maintain certain information; providing
17	construction; amending ss. 83.49, 83.50, 83.51, 83.56,
18	and 83.575, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes
19	made by the act; making technical changes; providing
20	an effective date.
21	
22	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
23	
24	Section 1. Section 83.505, Florida Statutes, is created to
25	read:
	Page 1 of 11
	<b>.</b>

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26 83.505 Electronic delivery of notices.-27 (1) A landlord or tenant may electronically deliver via an 28 e-mail address any notices required under this part to the other 29 party if the parties have signed an addendum to the rental 30 agreement, in substantially the following form, specifically 31 agreeing to the electronic delivery of notices and providing a 32 valid e-mail address for such purpose: 33 34 Landlord election:  $\Box$  I ...(name)..., the landlord or the landlord's agent, 35 36 agree to receive notices required by the rental agreement 37 or under part II of chapter 83, Florida Statutes, from the tenant by e-mail. I designate the following e-mail address 38 39 for receipt of notices from the tenant: ... (landlord's or landlord's agent's e-mail address).... 40 41 □ I do not agree to receive notices by e-mail. 42 43 Tenant election:  $\Box$  I ... (name) ..., the tenant, agree to receive notices 44 required by the rental agreement or under part II of 45 chapter 83, Florida Statutes, from the landlord by e-mail. 46 I designate the following e-mail address for receipt of 47 notices from the landlord: ... (tenant's e-mail address) .... 48 49 □ I do not agree to receive notices by e-mail. 50 Page 2 of 11

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51 A party who agrees to electronic delivery may revoke (2) 52 such agreement at any time by providing written notice to the 53 other party. Such revocation takes effect upon delivery of the 54 written notice to the other party and does not affect the 55 validity of any notice previously sent by e-mail. 56 (3) A party may update the e-mail address designated for 57 electronic delivery at any time by providing written notice to 58 the other party specifying the new e-mail address. The update 59 takes effect upon delivery of the written notice to the other 60 party. (4) A notice sent electronically pursuant to this section 61 62 is deemed delivered at the time it is sent, unless the e-mail is returned to the sender as undeliverable. 63 64 (5) The sender of the e-mail must maintain a copy of any notice sent electronically and evidence of the transmission of 65 66 the e-mail. 67 This section does not preclude service of notices by (6) 68 any other means permitted by law. 69 Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (2), 70 paragraph (a) of subsection (3), and subsections (4), (5), (8), 71 and (9) of section 83.49, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 72 83.49 Deposit money or advance rent; duty of landlord and 73 tenant.-(2) 74 The landlord shall, in the lease agreement or within 75 30 days after receipt of advance rent or a security deposit, Page 3 of 11

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76 give written notice to the tenant which includes disclosure of 77 the advance rent or security deposit. Subsequent to providing 78 such written notice, if the landlord changes the manner or 79 location in which he or she is holding the advance rent or 80 security deposit, he or she must notify the tenant within 30 81 days after the change as provided in paragraphs (a)-(d). The 82 landlord is not required to give new or additional notice solely 83 because the depository has merged with another financial institution, changed its name, or transferred ownership to a 84 85 different financial institution. This subsection does not apply 86 to any landlord who rents fewer than five individual dwelling 87 units. Failure to give this notice is not a defense to the payment of rent when due. The written notice must: 88

89 (a) Be given in person or <u>delivered</u> by mail <u>or e-mail in</u>
90 accordance with s. 83.505 to the tenant.

91 92 (d) Contain the following disclosure:

93 YOUR RENTAL AGREEMENT LEASE REQUIRES PAYMENT OF CERTAIN 94 DEPOSITS. THE LANDLORD MAY TRANSFER ADVANCE RENTS TO THE 95 LANDLORD'S ACCOUNT AS THEY ARE DUE AND WITHOUT NOTICE. WHEN YOU 96 MOVE OUT, YOU MUST GIVE THE LANDLORD YOUR NEW ADDRESS SO THAT THE LANDLORD CAN SEND YOU NOTICES REGARDING YOUR DEPOSIT. THE 97 98 LANDLORD MUST PROVIDE YOU WRITTEN MAIL YOU NOTICE IN PERSON, BY 99 MAIL, OR BY E-MAIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 83.505, FLORIDA 100 STATUTES, WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER YOU MOVE OUT, OF THE LANDLORD'S

## Page 4 of 11

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101 INTENT TO IMPOSE A CLAIM AGAINST THE DEPOSIT. IF YOU DO NOT 102 REPLY TO THE LANDLORD STATING YOUR OBJECTION TO THE CLAIM WITHIN 103 15 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE LANDLORD'S WRITTEN NOTICE, THE 104 LANDLORD WILL COLLECT THE CLAIM AND MUST MAIL YOU THE REMAINING 105 DEPOSIT, IF ANY. 106 107 IF THE LANDLORD FAILS TO TIMELY PROVIDE MAIL YOU NOTICE, THE 108 LANDLORD MUST RETURN THE DEPOSIT BUT MAY LATER FILE A LAWSUIT AGAINST YOU FOR DAMAGES. IF YOU FAIL TO TIMELY OBJECT TO A 109 110 CLAIM, THE LANDLORD MAY COLLECT FROM THE DEPOSIT, BUT YOU MAY 111 LATER FILE A LAWSUIT CLAIMING A REFUND. 112 YOU SHOULD ATTEMPT TO INFORMALLY RESOLVE ANY DISPUTE BEFORE 113 114 FILING A LAWSUIT. GENERALLY, THE PARTY IN WHOSE FAVOR A JUDGMENT 115 IS RENDERED WILL BE AWARDED COSTS AND ATTORNEY FEES PAYABLE BY THE LOSING PARTY. 116 117 118 THIS DISCLOSURE IS BASIC. PLEASE REFER TO PART II OF CHAPTER 83, 119 FLORIDA STATUTES, TO DETERMINE YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS. 120 121 122 (3) The landlord or the landlord's agent may disburse 123 advance rents from the deposit account to the landlord's benefit 124 when the advance rental period commences and without notice to 125 the tenant. For all other deposits:

Page 5 of 11

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126 Upon the vacating of the premises for termination of (a) 127 the rental agreement lease, if the landlord does not intend to 128 impose a claim on the security deposit, the landlord must shall have 15 days to return the security deposit together with 129 130 interest if otherwise required within 15 days after the termination of the rental agreement. If the landlord intends to 131 132 impose a claim on the deposit, or the landlord must, within 30 133 days after the termination of the rental agreement, provide shall have 30 days to give the tenant written notice by 134 135 certified mail to the tenant's last known mailing address or by e-mail in accordance with s. 83.505 of his or her intention to 136 137 impose a claim on the deposit and the reason for imposing the 138 claim. The written notice must shall contain a statement in 139 substantially the following form: 140 This is a notice of my intention to impose a claim for 141

142 damages in the amount of .... upon your security deposit, due to 143 ..... It is sent to you as required by s. 83.49(3), Florida 144 Statutes. You are hereby notified that you must object in writing to this deduction from your security deposit within 15 145 146 days after from the time you receive this notice or I will be authorized to deduct my claim from your security deposit. Your 147 objection must be sent to ... (landlord's address) .... 148 149 150 If the landlord fails to give the required written notice within

## Page 6 of 11

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151 the 30-day period, he or she forfeits the right to impose a 152 claim upon the security deposit and may not seek a setoff 153 against the deposit but may file an action for damages after 154 returning return of the security deposit to the tenant.

155 (4) The provisions of This section does do not apply to transient rentals by hotels or motels as defined in chapter 509 156 157 or; nor do they apply in those instances in which the amount of 158 rent or deposit, or both, is regulated by law or by rules or 159 regulations of a public body, including public housing authorities and federally administered or regulated housing 160 programs including s. 202, s. 221(d)(3) and (4), s. 236, or s. 8 161 162 of the National Housing Act, as amended, other than for rent stabilization. With the exception of subsections (3), (5), and 163 (6), this section is not applicable to housing authorities or 164 165 public housing agencies created pursuant to chapter 421 or other 166 statutes.

167 (5) Except when otherwise provided by the terms of a 168 written rental agreement lease, any tenant who vacates or 169 abandons the premises before prior to the expiration of the term 170 specified in the rental agreement written lease, or any tenant 171 who vacates or abandons premises which are the subject of a tenancy from week to week, month to month, quarter to quarter, 172 or year to year, must shall give at least 7 days' written notice 173 by certified mail or personal delivery to the landlord before 174 prior to vacating or abandoning the premises which notice must 175

## Page 7 of 11

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176 shall include the address where the tenant may be reached. 177 Failure to give such notice <u>relieves</u> shall relieve the landlord 178 of the notice requirement of paragraph (3)(a) but <u>does</u> shall not 179 waive any right the tenant may have to the security deposit or 180 any part of it.

(8) Any person licensed under the provisions of s.
509.241, unless excluded by the provisions of this part, who
fails to comply with the provisions of this part <u>is shall be</u>
subject to a fine or to the suspension or revocation of his or
her license by the Division of Hotels and Restaurants of the
Department of Business and Professional Regulation in the manner
provided in s. 509.261.

(9) In those cases in which interest is required to be paid to the tenant, the landlord <u>must</u> shall pay directly to the tenant, or credit against the current month's rent, the interest due to the tenant at least once annually. However, <u>a landlord is</u> <u>not required to pay interest to</u> <del>no interest shall be due</del> a tenant who wrongfully terminates his or her tenancy <u>before</u> <del>prior</del> tenant who end of the rental term.

195 Section 3. Section 83.50, Florida Statutes, is amended to 196 read:

197 83.50 Disclosure of landlord's address.—In addition to any 198 other disclosure required by law, the landlord, or a person 199 authorized to enter into a rental agreement on the landlord's 200 behalf, shall disclose in writing to the tenant, at or before

## Page 8 of 11

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201 the commencement of the tenancy, the name and address of the 202 landlord or a person authorized to receive notices and demands 203 in the landlord's behalf. The person so authorized to receive 204 notices and demands retains authority until the tenant is 205 notified otherwise. All notices of such names and addresses or 206 changes thereto must shall be delivered to the tenant's 207 residence or, if specified in writing by the tenant, to any 208 other address, or such notices may be sent by e-mail in accordance with s. 83.505. 209

210 Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 211 83.51, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

212

83.51 Landlord's obligation to maintain premises.-

(2) (a) Unless otherwise agreed in writing, in addition to the requirements of subsection (1), the landlord of a dwelling unit other than a single-family home or duplex shall, at all times during the tenancy, make reasonable provisions for:

217 1. The extermination of rats, mice, roaches, ants, wood-218 destroying organisms, and bedbugs. If the tenant must vacate 219 When vacation of the premises is required for such 220 extermination, the landlord is not liable for damages but must 221 shall abate the rent. The landlord must provide 7 days' written notice, in person, by mail, or by e-mail in accordance with s. 222 223 83.505, to the tenant if the tenant must temporarily vacate the 224 premises for a period of time not to exceed 4 days, on 7 days' written notice, if necessary, for extermination pursuant to this 225

## Page 9 of 11

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226	subparagraph. A tenant is only required to vacate the premises
227	for a period of time not to exceed 4 days.
228	2. Locks and keys.
229	3. The clean and safe condition of common areas.
230	4. Garbage removal and outside receptacles therefor.
231	5. Functioning facilities for heat during winter, running
232	water, and hot water.
233	Section 5. Subsection (4) of section 83.56, Florida
234	Statutes, is amended to read:
235	83.56 Termination of rental agreement
236	(4) The delivery of the written notices required by
237	subsections (1), (2), and (3) shall be by mailing, delivering $\overline{\mathrm{or}}$
238	delivery of a true copy thereof, e-mailing in accordance with s.
239	83.505, or, if the tenant is absent from the premises, by
240	leaving a copy thereof at the residence. The notice requirements
241	of subsections (1), (2), and (3) may not be waived in the rental
242	agreement lease.
243	Section 6. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 83.575,
244	Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
245	83.575 Termination of tenancy with specific duration
246	(1) A rental agreement with a specific duration may
247	contain a provision requiring the tenant to notify the landlord
248	within a specified period before vacating the premises at the
249	end of the rental agreement, if such provision <u>also</u> requires the
250	landlord to notify the tenant $\underline{in}$ a manner prescribed by s.

# Page 10 of 11

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251 <u>83.56(4)</u> within such notice period if the rental agreement will 252 not be renewed.; however, A rental agreement may not require 253 less than 30 days' notice or more than 60 days' notice from 254 either the tenant or the landlord.

255 (2) A rental agreement with a specific duration may 256 provide that if a tenant fails to give the required notice 257 before vacating the premises at the end of the rental agreement, 258 the tenant may be liable for liquidated damages as specified in 259 the rental agreement if the landlord provides written notice to the tenant specifying the tenant's obligations under the 260 261 notification provision contained in the rental agreement lease 262 and the date the rental agreement is terminated. The landlord 263 must provide such written notice to the tenant in a manner 264 prescribed by s. 83.56(4) within 15 days before the start of the 265 notification period contained in the rental agreement lease. The 266 written notice must shall list all fees, penalties, and other 267 charges applicable to the tenant under this subsection. 268 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Page 11 of 11

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