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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation; amending s. 20.165, F.S.; expanding the jurisdiction of law over which employees serving as law enforcement officers for the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco may investigate, enforce, and prosecute; amending s. 448.095, F.S.; providing the Department of Business and Professional Regulation enforcement authority over employment eligibility verification; requiring the department, under certain circumstances, to notify certain other departments of certain violations within a specified timeframe; amending s. 468.412, F.S.; revising prohibitions relating to minors for a talent agency; providing criminal penalties; amending ss. 476.114, 477.019, and 477.0201, F.S.; requiring the Barbers' Board and the Board of Cosmetology, respectively, to establish by rule minimum standards for electronically reporting a student's course completion records to the department and the penalties for failing to adhere to such minimum standards; requiring the department to report all penalties imposed to the Department of Education; amending s. 509.261, F.S.; authorizing the department to take certain actions against certain establishments for violating laws relating to the

26 distribution and retail sale of hemp extract; amending  
27 s. 559.79, F.S.; authorizing the department to  
28 validate the identity and work authorization of an  
29 applicant before issuing a license or renewing a  
30 license; specifying personal identification  
31 information the department may request from an  
32 applicant; authorizing the department to submit such  
33 personal identification information to and enter into  
34 memoranda of understanding with appropriate federal  
35 agencies for a certain purpose; requiring the  
36 department to suspend the license of a person not  
37 authorized to work in the United States; requiring the  
38 department to reinstate a license without charge upon  
39 verification of a licensee's work authorization;  
40 providing immunity; authorizing the department to  
41 adopt rules; amending ss. 569.006 and 569.35, F.S.;  
42 authorizing the division to suspend or revoke the  
43 permit of a dealer if the division finds sufficient  
44 evidence of a violation of the laws of this state or  
45 any other state or territory of the United States;  
46 providing a short title; creating s. 569.24, F.S.;  
47 prohibiting licensed or permitted dealers from  
48 possessing, selling, intending to sell, delivering, or  
49 giving nitrous oxide on or from the dealer's licensed  
50 premises; providing a criminal penalty; providing

51        applicability; requiring the department to adopt rules  
52        relating to the sale and purchase of nitrous oxide;  
53        providing effective dates.

54

55        Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

56

57        **Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (9) of section  
58 20.165, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

59        20.165 Department of Business and Professional  
60        Regulation.—There is created a Department of Business and  
61        Professional Regulation.

62        (9)

63        (b) Each employee serving as a law enforcement officer for  
64        the division must meet the qualifications for employment or  
65        appointment as a law enforcement officer set forth under s.  
66        943.13 and must be certified as a law enforcement officer by the  
67        Department of Law Enforcement under chapter 943. Upon  
68        certification, each law enforcement officer is subject to and  
69        has the same authority as provided for law enforcement officers  
70        generally in chapter 901 and has statewide jurisdiction. Each  
71        officer also has arrest authority as provided for state law  
72        enforcement officers in s. 901.15. Each officer possesses the  
73        full law enforcement powers granted to other peace officers of  
74        this state, including the authority to make arrests, carry  
75        firearms, serve court process, and seize contraband and the

76 proceeds of illegal activities.

77       1. The primary responsibility of each officer appointed  
78 under this section is to investigate, enforce, and prosecute,  
79 throughout the state, violations and violators of parts I and II  
80 of chapter 210; chapter 310; chapter 326; parts I and III of  
81 chapter 450; chapter 455; parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, XI, XII, XV,  
82 and XVI of chapter 468; chapter 469; chapter 471; chapters 473-  
83 477; chapter 481; parts I and II of chapter 489; chapter 499;  
84 chapter 509; chapter 548; chapter 553;~~r~~ part VII of chapter  
85 559;~~r~~ and chapters 561-569; chapters 718 and 719; chapter 721;  
86 and chapter 723, and the rules adopted thereunder, as well as  
87 other state laws that the division, all state law enforcement  
88 officers, or beverage enforcement agents are specifically  
89 authorized to enforce.

90       2. The secondary responsibility of each officer appointed  
91 under this section is to enforce all other state laws, provided  
92 that the enforcement is incidental to exercising the officer's  
93 primary responsibility as provided in subparagraph 1., and the  
94 officer exercises the powers of a deputy sheriff, only after  
95 consultation or coordination with the appropriate local  
96 sheriff's office or municipal police department or when the  
97 division participates in the Florida Mutual Aid Plan during a  
98 declared state emergency.

99       **Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 448.095, Florida  
100 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (2) of that section is**

101 **republished, to read:**

102 448.095 Employment eligibility.—

103 (2) EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION.—

104 (a) An employer shall verify each new employee's  
105 employment eligibility within 3 business days after the first  
106 day that the new employee begins working for pay as required  
107 under 8 C.F.R. s. 274a.

108 (b) 1. A public agency shall use the E-Verify system to  
109 verify a new employee's employment eligibility as required under  
110 paragraph (a).

111 2. Beginning on July 1, 2023, a private employer with 25  
112 or more employees shall use the E-Verify system to verify a new  
113 employee's employment eligibility as required under paragraph  
114 (a).

115 3. Each employer required to use the E-Verify system under  
116 this paragraph must certify on its first return each calendar  
117 year to the tax service provider that it is in compliance with  
118 this section when making contributions to or reimbursing the  
119 state's unemployment compensation or reemployment assistance  
120 system. An employer that voluntarily uses the E-Verify system  
121 may also make such a certification on its first return each  
122 calendar year in order to document such use.

123 (c) If the E-Verify system is unavailable for 3 business  
124 days after the first day that the new employee begins working  
125 for pay and an employer cannot access the system to verify a new

126 employee's employment eligibility, the employer must use the  
127 Employment Eligibility Verification form (Form I-9) to verify  
128 employment eligibility. The unavailability of the E-Verify  
129 system does not bar the employer from using the rebuttable  
130 presumption established in paragraph (4) (a). An employer must  
131 document the unavailability of the E-Verify system by retaining  
132 a screenshot from each day which shows the employer's lack of  
133 access to the system, a public announcement that the E-Verify  
134 system is not available, or any other communication or notice  
135 recorded by the employer regarding the unavailability of the  
136 system.

137 (d) The employer must retain a copy of the documentation  
138 provided and any official verification generated, if applicable,  
139 for at least 3 years.

140 (e) An employer may not continue to employ an unauthorized  
141 alien after obtaining knowledge that a person is or has become  
142 an unauthorized alien.

143 (f) An employee leasing company licensed under part XI of  
144 chapter 468 which enters into a written agreement or  
145 understanding with a client company which places the primary  
146 obligation for compliance with this section upon the client  
147 company is not required to verify employment eligibility of any  
148 new employees of the client company. In the absence of a written  
149 agreement or understanding, the employee leasing company is  
150 responsible for compliance with this section. Such employee

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151 leasing company shall, at all times, remain an employer as  
152 otherwise defined in federal laws or regulations.

153 (3) ENFORCEMENT.—

154 (a) For the purpose of enforcement of this section, any of  
155 the following persons or entities may request, and an employer  
156 must provide, copies of any documentation relied upon by the  
157 employer for the verification of a new employee's employment  
158 eligibility:

159 1. The Department of Law Enforcement;

160 2. The Attorney General;

161 3. The state attorney in the circuit in which the new  
162 employee works;

163 4. The statewide prosecutor; ~~or~~

164 5. The Department of Commerce; or

165 6. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

166 (b) A person or an entity that makes a request under  
167 paragraph (a) must rely upon the Federal Government to verify an  
168 employee's employment eligibility and may not independently make  
169 a final determination as to whether an employee is an  
170 unauthorized alien.

171 (c) If the Department of Business and Professional  
172 Regulation believes that an employer has violated subsection (2)  
173 or s. 448.09, it must notify the Department of Commerce and the  
174 Florida Department of Law Enforcement within 30 days after  
175 making such determination.

176       **Section 3. Effective October 1, 2026, subsection (7) of**  
177       **section 468.412, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

178       468.412 Talent agency regulations; prohibited acts.—

179       (7) (a) A ~~No~~ talent agency may not send or cause to be sent  
180       any person as an employee to any house of ill fame, to any house  
181       or place of amusement for immoral purposes, to any place  
182       resorted to for the purposes of prostitution, to any place for  
183       the modeling or photographing of a minor in the nude in the  
184       absence of written permission from the minor's parents or legal  
185       guardians, the character of which places the talent agency could  
186       have ascertained upon reasonable inquiry. Any person who  
187       violates this paragraph commits a misdemeanor of the first  
188       degree.

189       (b) A talent agency may not send or cause to be sent any  
190       minor to any house of ill fame, to any house or place of  
191       amusement for immoral purpose, to any place resorted to for the  
192       purpose of prostitution, the character of which places the  
193       talent agency could have ascertained upon reasonable inquiry. A  
194       talent agency may not send a minor to any place for the modeling  
195       or photographing in the nude in the absence of written  
196       permission from the minor's parents or legal guardians. Any  
197       person who violates this paragraph commits a felony of the third  
198       degree punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

199       **Section 4. Subsection (3) of section 476.114, Florida**  
200       **Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (4), and a new subsection**

201 (3) is added to that section, to read:

202 476.114 Examination; prerequisites.—

203 (3) The board shall establish by rule minimum standards  
204 for electronically reporting a student's course completion  
205 records to the department and the penalties if a school or  
206 program fails to adhere to the minimum standards adopted.  
207 Penalties must include, but are not limited to, suspending the  
208 school's or program's ability to report a student's course  
209 completion records to the department. The department must report  
210 all penalties imposed for failing to adhere to the minimum  
211 standards for electronic reporting to the Department of  
212 Education for further investigation and prosecution.

213 Section 5. Subsection (8) is added to section 477.019,

214 Florida Statutes, to read:

215 477.019 Cosmetologists; qualifications; licensure;  
216 supervised practice; license renewal; endorsement; continuing  
217 education.—

218 (8) The board shall establish by rule minimum standards  
219 for electronically reporting a student's course completion  
220 records to the department and the penalties if a school or  
221 program fails to adhere to the minimum standards adopted.  
222 Penalties must include, but are not limited to, suspending the  
223 school's or program's ability to report a student's course  
224 completion records to the department. The department must report  
225 all penalties imposed for failing to adhere to the minimum

226 standards for electronic reporting to the Department of  
227 Education for further investigation and prosecution.

228 **Section 6. Subsections (5) and (6) of section 477.0201, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6) and (7), respectively, and a new subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:**

232 477.0201 Specialty registration; qualifications; registration renewal; endorsement.—

234 (5) The board shall establish by rule minimum standards  
235 for electronically reporting a student's course completion  
236 records to the department and the penalties if a school or  
237 program fails to adhere to the minimum standards adopted.  
238 Penalties must include, but are not limited to, suspending the  
239 school's or program's ability to report a student's course  
240 completion records to the department. The department must report  
241 all penalties imposed for failing to adhere to the minimum  
242 standards for electronic reporting to the Department of  
243 Education for further investigation and prosecution.

244 **Section 7. Subsection (1) of section 509.261, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

246 509.261 Revocation or suspension of licenses; fines; procedure.—

248 (1) Any public lodging establishment or public food service establishment that has operated or is operating in violation of this chapter or the rules of the division,

251 operating in violation of s. 581.217(7), operating without a  
252 license, or operating with a suspended or revoked license may be  
253 subject by the division to:

254 (a) Fines not to exceed \$1,000 per offense;

255 (b) Mandatory completion, at personal expense, of a  
256 remedial educational program administered by a food safety  
257 training program provider approved by the division, as provided  
258 in s. 509.049; and

259 (c) The suspension, revocation, or refusal of a license  
260 issued pursuant to this chapter.

261 **Section 8. Subsection (3) of section 559.79, Florida**  
262 **Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (4), and a new subsection**  
263 **(3) is added to that section, to read:**

264 559.79 Applications for license or renewal.—

265 (3) (a) For each application for a license or renewal of a  
266 license, the Department of Business and Professional Regulation  
267 may validate the applicant's identity and work authorization  
268 status. As part of the validation process, the department is  
269 authorized to request personal identification information from  
270 the applicant, including, but not limited to, a social security  
271 number; a passport, including visa information; a birth  
272 certificate; immigration status; an alien registration number; a  
273 Student and Exchange Visitor Information System identification  
274 number; a naturalization or citizenship certificate number;  
275 arrival and departure records; a permanent resident card;

276 employment authorization documents; a certificate of  
277 citizenship; a naturalization certificate; refugee travel  
278 documents; or other state issued identification. The department  
279 may submit an applicant's personal identification information to  
280 the appropriate federal agencies for the purpose of validating  
281 the applicant's identity or work authorization status. The  
282 department may enter into memoranda of understanding with the  
283 appropriate federal agencies to validate an applicant's identity  
284 or work authorization status.

285       (b) The department must immediately suspend the license of  
286 any licensee found not to have a work authorization status that  
287 entitles the licensee to work in the United States. The  
288 department shall reinstate the license, without an additional  
289 charge to the licensee, upon verification from the appropriate  
290 federal agencies that the licensee is authorized to work in the  
291 United States.

292       (c) The department may not be held liable for any  
293 licensure delay, denial, or suspension resulting from the  
294 discharge of its duties under this subsection.

295       (d) The department may adopt rules to implement this  
296 subsection.

297       **Section 9. Section 569.006, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
298 **to read:**

299       569.006 Retail tobacco products dealers; administrative  
300 penalties.—The division may suspend or revoke the permit of the

301 dealer if the division determines or finds that upon sufficient  
302 cause exists of a appearing of the violation of any of the  
303 provisions of this chapter or a violation of the laws of this  
304 state or any state or territory of the United States, including  
305 part II of this chapter if the dealer deals, at retail, in  
306 nicotine products within the state or allows a nicotine products  
307 vending machine to be located on its premises within the state,  
308 by a dealer or by a dealer's agent or employee. The division may  
309 also assess and accept administrative fines of up to \$1,000  
310 against a dealer for each violation. The division shall deposit  
311 all fines collected into the General Revenue Fund as collected.  
312 An order imposing an administrative fine becomes effective 15  
313 days after the date of the order. The division may suspend the  
314 imposition of a penalty against a dealer, conditioned upon the  
315 dealer's compliance with terms the division considers  
316 appropriate.

317       **Section 10.** Section 11 of this act may be cited as "Meg's  
318 Law."

319       **Section 11. Effective October 1, 2026, section 569.24,**  
320 **Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

321       569.24 Prohibition on selling, furnishing, or giving  
322 nitrous oxide; exceptions.—

323       (1) It is unlawful for any dealer who is licensed or  
324 permitted under this chapter, or a dealer's agent or employee,  
325 to possess, sell, possess with intent to sell, deliver, or give,

326 directly or indirectly, nitrous oxide on or from the dealer's  
327 licensed premises. A dealer or a dealer's agent or employee who  
328 violates this subsection commits a felony of the third degree,  
329 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

330 (2) This section does not apply to a grocery store or  
331 supermarket, as licensed or permitted by the Department of  
332 Agriculture and Consumer Services, but does apply to a  
333 convenience business, as defined by s. 812.171.

334 (3) This section does not prohibit the purchase or sale of  
335 a finished food product in which nitrous oxide is used solely as  
336 a propellant, including aerosol whipped cream and alcoholic  
337 whipped topping products.

338 (4) The Department of Business and Professional Regulation  
339 shall adopt rules regarding the sale and purchase of nitrous  
340 oxide to prevent the use of nitrous oxide for inducing a  
341 condition of intoxication. Such rules may address products  
342 containing nitrous oxide and finished food products in which  
343 nitrous oxide is used solely as a propellant.

344 **Section 12. Section 569.35, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
345 **to read:**

346 569.35 Retail nicotine product dealers; administrative  
347 penalties.—The division may suspend or revoke the permit of a  
348 dealer, including the retail tobacco products dealer permit of a  
349 retail tobacco products dealer as defined in s. 569.002(4), if  
350 the division determines or finds that upon sufficient cause

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351 exists of a ~~appearing of the~~ violation of any of the provisions  
352 of this part or a violation of the laws of this state or any  
353 state or territory of the United States, by a dealer, or by a  
354 dealer's agent or employee. The division may also assess and  
355 accept an administrative fine of up to \$1,000 against a dealer  
356 for each violation. The division shall deposit all fines  
357 collected into the General Revenue Fund as collected. An order  
358 imposing an administrative fine becomes effective 15 days after  
359 the date of the order. The division may suspend the imposition  
360 of a penalty against a dealer, conditioned upon the dealer's  
361 compliance with terms the division considers appropriate.

362 **Section 13.** Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
363 act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2026.