

**By** the Committees on Rules; Fiscal Policy; and Agriculture; and  
Senator Truenow

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; creating s. 125.489, F.S.; defining the terms "gasoline-powered farm equipment" and "gasoline-powered landscape equipment"; prohibiting counties from enacting or enforcing any law that restricts or prohibits the use of gasoline-powered farm equipment or gasoline-powered landscape equipment or that distinguishes such equipment from any other equipment under certain circumstances; providing construction; amending s. 163.3164, F.S.; defining the terms "ecologically significant parcel" and "low-density municipality"; amending s. 163.3202, F.S.; prohibiting an application for a development on an ecologically significant parcel in a low-density municipality from being administratively approved without an attestation provided by the developer; specifying requirements for such attestation; providing applicability; specifying requirements for the attestation included in certain applications; providing for a waiver; creating s. 166.063, F.S.; defining the terms "gasoline-powered farm equipment" and "gasoline-powered landscape equipment"; prohibiting municipalities from enacting or enforcing any law that restricts or prohibits the use of gasoline-powered farm equipment or gasoline-powered landscape equipment or that distinguishes such equipment from any other equipment under certain circumstances; providing construction; amending s.

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212.055, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; making a technical change; amending s. 253.0341, F.S.; requiring the Acquisition and Restoration Council to determine whether certain surplus lands are suitable for bona fide agricultural purposes; prohibiting a local governmental entity from transferring future development rights for surplus lands determined to be suitable for bona fide agricultural purposes; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to determine whether certain state-owned conservation lands are suitable for bona fide agricultural purposes; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to surplus certain state-owned lands determined to be suitable for bona fide agricultural purposes; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to retain a rural-lands-protection easement for such surplus lands; requiring that all proceeds from the sale of such surplus lands be deposited in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Incidental Trust Fund for less than fee simple; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to annually provide a report of such surplus lands to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund; prohibiting certain lands from being surplus; amending s. 259.1053, F.S.; deleting provisions relating to the Babcock Ranch Advisory Group; amending s. 287.1351, F.S.; revising circumstances under which

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a vendor is prohibited from submitting a bid,  
proposal, or reply to an agency or from entering into  
or renewing any contract to provide goods or services  
to an agency; amending s. 322.12, F.S.; providing  
penalties for an applicant for a commercial driver  
license who receives unauthorized assistance on  
certain portions of the examination; amending s.  
322.36, F.S.; prohibiting a person from knowingly or  
willfully providing unauthorized assistance to an  
applicant for the examination required to hold a  
commercial driver license; repealing ss. 377.71,  
377.711, and 377.712, F.S., relating to definitions  
and the Southern States Energy Compact, Florida as  
party to the Southern States Energy Compact, and  
Florida's participation in the Southern States Energy  
Board, respectively; amending s. 403.0855, F.S.;  
deleting a provision relating to legislative approval  
of certain rules adopted by the Department of  
Environmental Protection; revising requirements for  
permittees of biosolids land application sites;  
revising the date by which permits must comply with  
specified provisions; requiring local governments that  
do not transport biosolids outside of their respective  
county boundaries to comply with specified provisions  
by a specified date; providing construction; amending  
s. 482.071, F.S.; requiring certain persons applying  
for a pest control business license or renewal to  
provide the department with a certificate of  
insurance; specifying requirements for such

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88 certificate of insurance; amending s. 482.161, F.S.;

89 revising the severity of an administrative fine for

90 violations of certain provisions; amending s. 482.165,

91 F.S.; revising civil penalties; amending s. 489.105,

92 F.S.; defining the terms "subcontractor" and

93 "supplier"; creating s. 489.1295, F.S.; requiring

94 licensed contractors to compensate subcontractors or

95 suppliers for services, labor, or materials within a

96 specified timeframe after receiving payment or in

97 accordance with the terms of the contract for

98 services, labor, or materials; providing an exception;

99 providing disciplinary measures; amending s. 500.04,

100 F.S.; revising the list of prohibited acts related to

101 the prevention of fraud, harm, adulteration,

102 misbranding, or false advertising in the preparation,

103 production, manufacture, storage, or sale of food;

104 repealing s. 500.81, F.S., relating to the Healthy

105 Food Financing Initiative; amending s. 500.93, F.S.;

106 making a technical change; amending s. 501.013, F.S.;

107 authorizing the Department of Agriculture and Consumer

108 Services to provide an exemption from certain health

109 studio regulations; creating s. 501.062, F.S.;

110 providing legislative intent; defining the terms

111 "commercial solicitation" and "dwelling"; prohibiting

112 a person from engaging in commercial solicitation

113 under certain circumstances; specifying requirements

114 for certain signage to be displayed on a property;

115 providing penalties; amending s. 570.07, F.S.;

116 authorizing the Department of Agriculture and Consumer

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Services to reorganize departmental units upon the approval of the Commissioner of Agriculture; amending s. 570.822, F.S.; providing additional eligibility requirements for the Agriculture and Aquaculture Producers Emergency Recovery Loan Program; creating s. 570.832, F.S.; requiring the Florida Wildflower Foundation, Inc., in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to establish the Florida Native Seed Research and Marketing Program, subject to legislative appropriation; providing the purpose of the program; creating s. 570.846, F.S.; establishing the Florida Food Animal and Equine Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program; providing the purpose of the program; defining terms; providing eligibility requirements for the program; authorizing the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to make loan principal repayments on behalf of eligible candidates up to a certain amount for a specified timeframe, subject to legislative appropriation; providing construction; authorizing the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to adopt rules; amending s. 570.85, F.S.; prohibiting a local government from requiring a property owner to obtain a rural event venue permit or license; amending s. 570.86, F.S.; defining the term "rural event venue"; amending s. 573.112, F.S.; renaming the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc., as the Citrus Research and Field Trial Foundation, Inc.; establishing the Citrus Research and Field Trial

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Foundation, Inc., as a direct-support organization of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; revising provisions relating to membership; amending s. 581.031, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made by the act; amending s. 583.01, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "dealer"; amending s. 590.02, F.S.; revising the Florida Forest Service's powers, authority, and duties; authorizing the Florida Forest Service to manage the Welaka Training Center; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; authorizing the Withlacoochee and Welaka Training Centers to assess fees for specified purposes as determined by the Florida Forest Service, regardless of where certain training occurs; renaming the Bonifay Forestry Station as the John Michael Mathis Forestry Station to honor the late John Michael Mathis; creating s. 595.421, F.S.; establishing the Farmers Feeding Florida Program for specified purposes; requiring Feeding Florida to take certain actions to implement the program; prohibiting the foods purchased by Feeding Florida through such program from reentering the wholesale, retail, or secondary market; prohibiting Feeding Florida from allowing a candidate for elective office to host a food distribution event during a specified timeframe; providing applicability; amending s. 597.004, F.S.; making a technical change; prohibiting the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services from renewing a certificate of registration for a noncompliant facility unless certain

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documentation is provided with the renewal application; prohibiting entities whose certificate of registration has been revoked from reapplying for a specified period of time; amending s. 597.010, F.S.; authorizing, rather than requiring, the periodic adjustment of the annual rental fee charged for certain leases; amending s. 599.012, F.S.; making technical changes; amending s. 601.13, F.S.; renaming the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc., as the Citrus Research and Field Trial Foundation, Inc.; amending s. 616.001, F.S.; revising and deleting definitions relating to public fairs and expositions; amending s. 616.01, F.S.; revising application requirements for a proposed charter for an association to conduct a public fair or exposition; requiring the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to provide an applicant for a proposed charter with specified information upon the denial of a proposed charter; revising requirements for information that must be included in the proposed charter; amending s. 616.02, F.S.; limiting the number of incorporated state fair associations per county; providing construction; authorizing the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to waive certain requirements at the discretion of the commissioner; authorizing fair associations incorporated before a certain date to conduct their affairs; deleting provisions relating to requirements for a proposed charter; amending s. 616.03, F.S.; revising

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requirements for the approval and recordation of the charter; amending s. 616.05, F.S.; revising the process by which a proposed charter amendment is incorporated into the original charter; amending s. 616.051, F.S.; revising the circumstances under which a circuit judge is authorized to dissolve an association and order the distribution of its remaining assets; requiring that such assets be distributed to certain counties; amending s. 616.07, F.S.; deleting provisions relating to distribution of public funds after the dissolution of an association; amending s. 616.101, F.S.; specifying the basis for annual public fair attendance records; requiring a fair association to review its charter every 5 years and submit an updated copy of the charter to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; requiring a designated member of the association to make an attestation; amending s. 616.15, F.S.; making a technical change; revising the information that an applicant must submit to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the department to issue a permit for an association to conduct a fair; revising the timeframe within which the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is required to issue the permit upon the receipt of specified information; making technical changes; deleting obsolete provisions; amending s. 616.251, F.S.; exempting the Florida State Fair Authority from specified provisions; amending s. 624.4032, F.S.; revising the



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definition of the term "nonprofit agricultural organization"; amending s. 843.085, F.S.; prohibiting a person from wearing or displaying an item that displays the words "concealed weapon permit" or "concealed weapon permitholder" with the intent to mislead another to believe that the person is authorized to wear or display such item; amending s. 934.02, F.S.; defining the term "signal jamming device"; creating s. 934.51, F.S.; prohibiting the possession, manufacture, sale, importation, distribution, or use of a signal jamming device; providing exceptions; providing criminal penalties; providing for the merger and transfer of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc., into the Citrus Research and Field Trial Foundation, Inc.; requiring the completion of the merger by a specified date; providing that the merger is subject to specified provisions; providing for the transfer of funds; providing for the transfer of any program, activity, duty, or function; establishing the Citrus Research and Field Trial Foundation, Inc., as the custodian of any property of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc.; amending s. 288.1175, F.S.; conforming cross-references; reenacting ss. 287.056(4) and 287.138(5), F.S., relating to disqualification for state term contract eligibility and contracting with entities of foreign countries of concern prohibited, respectively, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 287.1351, F.S., in references

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thereto; reenacting s. 500.177(1), F.S., relating to penalties for dissemination of a false advertisement, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 500.04, F.S., in a reference thereto; reenacting s. 212.08(13), F.S., relating to taxation and specified exemptions, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 616.07, F.S., in a reference thereto; reenacting s. 616.185, F.S., relating to trespass upon grounds or facilities of a public fair, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 616.15, F.S., in a reference thereto; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 125.489, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

125.489 Preemption of restrictions on gasoline-powered farm equipment or gasoline-powered landscape equipment.—

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

(a) "Gasoline-powered farm equipment" means any machine powered by an internal combustion engine or motor that uses gasoline, diesel, or a blend of gasoline and oil which is used on a farm or used to transport farm products.

(b) "Gasoline-powered landscape equipment" means any machine powered by an internal combustion engine or motor that uses gasoline, diesel, or a blend of gasoline and oil which is used to provide landscape management or maintenance or to move leaves, dirt, grass, or other debris off of sidewalks, driveways, lawns, or other surfaces.

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(2) A county may not enact or enforce a resolution, an ordinance, a rule, a code, or a policy or take any action that restricts or prohibits the use of gasoline-powered farm equipment or gasoline-powered landscape equipment and may not create differing standards for such equipment or distinguish such equipment from any electric or similar equipment in a retail, manufacturer, or distributor setting.

(3) This section does not prohibit or limit a county from encouraging the use of alternative farm or landscape equipment, such as battery-powered farm or landscape equipment.

Section 2. Present subsections (18) through (30) and (31) through (54) of section 163.3164, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (19) through (31) and (33) through (56), respectively, and new subsections (18) and (32) are added to that section, to read:

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

(18) "Ecologically significant parcel" means a parcel of land located within the boundaries of a low-density municipality which is currently undeveloped and has been designated as either rural, conservation, agricultural, or greenspace as provided by a local government comprehensive plan developed pursuant to s. 163.3177.

(32) "Low-density municipality" means a municipality existing on or before January 1, 2025, which is less than 2,500 acres in total size and contains a population of 5,000 or fewer legal residents.

Section 3. Present subsection (7) of section 163.3202, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (8), and a new

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subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

163.3202 Land development regulations.—

(7) (a) Notwithstanding any ordinance to the contrary, an application for a development on an ecologically significant parcel in a low-density municipality may not be administratively approved without an attestation provided by the developer, under penalty of perjury, to the low-density municipality which states that the development will not exceed a maximum density of 1 residential unit per 20 acres.

(b) This subsection does not apply to applications for the construction of residential units on an ecologically significant parcel for the express purpose of providing housing for family members of the applicant. However, the applicant must provide an attestation, under penalty of perjury, to the low-density municipality which states that the residential units being constructed will be used for such express purpose before the administrative approval of an application for development.

(c) The density requirements provided in this subsection may be waived upon a resolution approved by a unanimous vote of the commission or council of the low-density municipality.

Section 4. Section 166.063, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

166.063 Preemption of restrictions on gasoline-powered farm equipment or gasoline-powered landscape equipment.—

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

(a) "Gasoline-powered farm equipment" means a machine powered by an internal combustion engine or motor that uses gasoline, diesel, or a blend of gasoline and oil which is used on a farm or used to transport farm products.

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349       (b) "Gasoline-powered landscape equipment" means any  
350 machine powered by an internal combustion engine or motor that  
351 uses gasoline, diesel, or a blend of gasoline and oil which is  
352 used to provide landscape management or maintenance or to move  
353 leaves, dirt, grass, or other debris off of sidewalks,  
354 driveways, lawns, or other surfaces.

355       (2) A municipality may not enact or enforce a resolution,  
356 an ordinance, a rule, a code, or a policy or take any action  
357 that restricts or prohibits the use of gasoline-powered farm  
358 equipment or gasoline-powered landscape equipment and may not  
359 create differing standards for such equipment or distinguish  
360 such equipment from any electric or similar equipment in a  
361 retail, manufacturer, or distributor setting.

362       (3) This section does not prohibit or limit a municipality  
363 from encouraging the use of alternative farm or landscape  
364 equipment, such as battery-powered farm or landscape equipment.

365       Section 5. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section  
366 212.055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

367       212.055 Discretionary sales surtaxes; legislative intent;  
368 authorization and use of proceeds.—It is the legislative intent  
369 that any authorization for imposition of a discretionary sales  
370 surtax shall be published in the Florida Statutes as a  
371 subsection of this section, irrespective of the duration of the  
372 levy. Each enactment shall specify the types of counties  
373 authorized to levy; the rate or rates which may be imposed; the  
374 maximum length of time the surtax may be imposed, if any; the  
375 procedure which must be followed to secure voter approval, if  
376 required; the purpose for which the proceeds may be expended;  
377 and such other requirements as the Legislature may provide.

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378 Taxable transactions and administrative procedures shall be as  
379 provided in s. 212.054.

380 (2) LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE SURTAX.—

381 (d) The proceeds of the surtax authorized by this  
382 subsection and any accrued interest shall be expended by the  
383 school district, within the county and municipalities within the  
384 county, or, in the case of a negotiated joint county agreement,  
385 within another county, to finance, plan, and construct  
386 infrastructure; to acquire any interest in land for public  
387 recreation, conservation, or protection of natural resources or  
388 to prevent or satisfy private property rights claims resulting  
389 from limitations imposed by the designation of an area of  
390 critical state concern; to provide loans, grants, or rebates to  
391 residential or commercial property owners who make energy  
392 efficiency improvements to their residential or commercial  
393 property, if a local government ordinance authorizing such use  
394 is approved by referendum; or to finance the closure of county-  
395 owned or municipally owned solid waste landfills that have been  
396 closed or are required to be closed by order of the Department  
397 of Environmental Protection. Any use of the proceeds or interest  
398 for purposes of landfill closure before July 1, 1993, is  
399 ratified. The proceeds and any interest may not be used for the  
400 operational expenses of infrastructure, except that a county  
401 that has a population of fewer than 75,000 and that is required  
402 to close a landfill may use the proceeds or interest for long-  
403 term maintenance costs associated with landfill closure.  
404 Counties, as defined in s. 125.011, and charter counties may, in  
405 addition, use the proceeds or interest to retire or service  
406 indebtedness incurred for bonds issued before July 1, 1987, for

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407 infrastructure purposes, and for bonds subsequently issued to  
408 refund such bonds. Any use of the proceeds or interest for  
409 purposes of retiring or servicing indebtedness incurred for  
410 refunding bonds before July 1, 1999, is ratified.

411 1. For the purposes of this paragraph, the term  
412 "infrastructure" means:

413 a. Any fixed capital expenditure or fixed capital outlay  
414 associated with the construction, reconstruction, or improvement  
415 of public facilities that have a life expectancy of 5 or more  
416 years, any related land acquisition, land improvement, design,  
417 and engineering costs, and all other professional and related  
418 costs required to bring the public facilities into service. For  
419 purposes of this sub-subparagraph, the term "public facilities"  
420 has the same meaning ~~means facilities as defined in s.~~  
421 163.3164(43) ~~s. 163.3164(41)~~, s. 163.3221(13), or s. 189.012(5),  
422 and includes facilities that are necessary to carry out  
423 governmental purposes, including, but not limited to, fire  
424 stations, general governmental office buildings, and animal  
425 shelters, regardless of whether the facilities are owned by the  
426 local taxing authority or another governmental entity.

427 b. A fire department vehicle, an emergency medical service  
428 vehicle, a sheriff's office vehicle, a police department  
429 vehicle, or any other vehicle, and the equipment necessary to  
430 outfit the vehicle for its official use or equipment that has a  
431 life expectancy of at least 5 years.

432 c. Any expenditure for the construction, lease, or  
433 maintenance of, or provision of utilities or security for,  
434 facilities, as defined in s. 29.008.

435 d. Any fixed capital expenditure or fixed capital outlay

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associated with the improvement of private facilities that have a life expectancy of 5 or more years and that the owner agrees to make available for use on a temporary basis as needed by a local government as a public emergency shelter or a staging area for emergency response equipment during an emergency officially declared by the state or by the local government under s.

252.38. Such improvements are limited to those necessary to comply with current standards for public emergency evacuation shelters. The owner must enter into a written contract with the local government providing the improvement funding to make the private facility available to the public for purposes of emergency shelter at no cost to the local government for a minimum of 10 years after completion of the improvement, with the provision that the obligation will transfer to any subsequent owner until the end of the minimum period.

e. Any land acquisition expenditure for a residential housing project in which at least 30 percent of the units are affordable to individuals or families whose total annual household income does not exceed 120 percent of the area median income adjusted for household size, if the land is owned by a local government or by a special district that enters into a written agreement with the local government to provide such housing. The local government or special district may enter into a ground lease with a public or private person or entity for nominal or other consideration for the construction of the residential housing project on land acquired pursuant to this sub-subparagraph.

f. Instructional technology used solely in a school district's classrooms. As used in this sub-subparagraph, the



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term "instructional technology" means an interactive device that assists a teacher in instructing a class or a group of students and includes the necessary hardware and software to operate the interactive device. The term also includes support systems in which an interactive device may mount and is not required to be affixed to the facilities.

2. For the purposes of this paragraph, the term "energy efficiency improvement" means any energy conservation and efficiency improvement that reduces consumption through conservation or a more efficient use of electricity, natural gas, propane, or other forms of energy on the property, including, but not limited to, air sealing; installation of insulation; installation of energy-efficient heating, cooling, or ventilation systems; installation of solar panels; building modifications to increase the use of daylight or shade; replacement of windows; installation of energy controls or energy recovery systems; installation of electric vehicle charging equipment; installation of systems for natural gas fuel as defined in s. 206.9951; and installation of efficient lighting equipment.

3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, a local government infrastructure surtax imposed or extended after July 1, 1998, may allocate up to 15 percent of the surtax proceeds for deposit into a trust fund within the county's accounts created for the purpose of funding economic development projects having a general public purpose of improving local economies, including the funding of operational costs and incentives related to economic development. The ballot statement must indicate the intention to make an allocation under the

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authority of this subparagraph.

4. Surtax revenues that are shared with eligible charter schools pursuant to paragraph (c) shall be allocated among such schools based on each school's proportionate share of total school district capital outlay full-time equivalent enrollment as adopted by the education estimating conference established in s. 216.136. Surtax revenues must be expended by the charter school in a manner consistent with the allowable uses provided in s. 1013.62(4). All revenues and expenditures shall be accounted for in a charter school's monthly or quarterly financial statement pursuant to s. 1002.33(9). If a school's charter is not renewed or is terminated and the school is dissolved under the provisions of law under which the school was organized, any unencumbered funds received under this paragraph shall revert to the sponsor.

Section 6. Present subsection (19) of section 253.0341, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (21), and new subsection (19) and subsection (20) are added to that section, to read:

253.0341 Surplus of state-owned lands.—

(19) The Acquisition and Restoration Council shall determine whether any lands surplus by a local governmental entity, as defined in s. 218.72, on or after January 1, 2024, are suitable for bona fide agricultural purposes, as defined in s. 193.461(3)(b). A local governmental entity may not transfer future development rights for any surplus lands determined to be suitable for bona fide agricultural purposes on or after January 1, 2024.

(20) The Department of Environmental Protection, in

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coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, shall determine whether any state-owned conservation lands acquired on or after January 1, 2024, are suitable for bona fide agricultural purposes, as defined in s. 193.461(3)(b).

(a) Notwithstanding any other law or rule, the Department of Environmental Protection may surplus state-owned conservation lands acquired on or after January 1, 2024, determined to be suitable for bona fide agricultural purposes.

(b) For all state-owned conservation lands determined to be suitable for bona fide agricultural production and surplus by the Department of Environmental Protection, the department shall retain a rural-lands-protection easement pursuant to s. 570.71(3). All proceeds from the sale of such surplus lands must be deposited into the Incidental Trust Fund within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for less than fee simple land acquisition pursuant to ss. 570.71 and 570.715.

(c) By January 1, 2027, and each January 1 thereafter, the Department of Environmental Protection shall provide a report of state-owned conservation lands surplus pursuant to this subsection to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.

(d) Designated state forest lands, state park lands, or wildlife management areas may not be surplus pursuant to this subsection.

Section 7. Section 259.1053, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

259.1053 Babcock Ranch Preserve; ~~Babcock Ranch Advisory Group.~~

(1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Babcock

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Ranch Preserve Act."

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

(a) "Babcock Ranch Preserve" and "preserve" mean the lands and facilities acquired in the purchase of the Babcock Crescent B Ranch, as provided in s. 259.1052.

(b) "Commission" means the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

(c) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture.

(d) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

(e) "Executive director" means the Executive Director of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

(f) "Financially self-sustaining" means having management and operation expenditures not more than the revenues collected from fees and other receipts for resource use and development and from interest and invested funds.

(g) "Florida Forest Service" means the Florida Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

(h) "Multiple use" means the management of all of the renewable surface resources of the Babcock Ranch Preserve to best meet the needs of the public, including the use of the land for some or all of the renewable surface resources or related services over areas large enough to allow for periodic adjustments in use to conform to the changing needs and conditions of the preserve while recognizing that a portion of the land will be used for some of the renewable surface resources available on that land. The goal of multiple use is the harmonious and coordinated management of the renewable surface resources without impairing the productivity of the land

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581 and considering the relative value of the renewable surface  
582 resources, and not necessarily a combination of uses to provide  
583 the greatest monetary return or the greatest unit output.

584 (i) "Sustained yield of the renewable surface resources"  
585 means the achievement and maintenance of a high level of annual  
586 or regular periodic output of the various renewable surface  
587 resources of the preserve without impairing the productivity of  
588 the land.

589 (3) CREATION OF BABCOCK RANCH PRESERVE.—

590 (a) Upon the date of acquisition of the Babcock Crescent B  
591 Ranch, there is created the Babcock Ranch Preserve, which shall  
592 be managed in accordance with the purposes and requirements of  
593 this section.

594 (b) The preserve is established to protect and preserve the  
595 environmental, agricultural, scientific, scenic, geologic,  
596 watershed, fish, wildlife, historic, cultural, and recreational  
597 values of the preserve, and to provide for the multiple use and  
598 sustained yield of the renewable surface resources within the  
599 preserve consistent with this section.

600 (c) This section does not preclude the use of common  
601 varieties of mineral materials such as sand, stone, and gravel  
602 for construction and maintenance of roads and facilities within  
603 the preserve.

604 (d) This section does not affect the constitutional  
605 responsibilities of the commission in the exercise of its  
606 regulatory and executive power with respect to wild animal life  
607 and freshwater aquatic life, including the regulation of  
608 hunting, fishing, and trapping within the preserve.

609 (e) This section does not interfere with or prevent the

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610 implementation of agricultural practices authorized by the  
611 agricultural land use designations established in the local  
612 comprehensive plans of either Charlotte County or Lee County as  
613 those plans apply to the Babcock Ranch Preserve.

614 (f) This section does not preclude the maintenance and use  
615 of roads and trails or the relocation of roads in existence on  
616 the effective date of this section, or the construction,  
617 maintenance, and use of new trails, or any motorized access  
618 necessary for the administration of the land contained within  
619 the preserve, including motorized access necessary for  
620 emergencies involving the health or safety of persons within the  
621 preserve.

622 ~~(4) BABCOCK RANCH ADVISORY GROUP.—~~

623 ~~(a) The purpose of the Babcock Ranch Advisory Group is to~~  
624 ~~assist the department by providing guidance and advice~~  
625 ~~concerning the management and stewardship of the Babcock Ranch~~  
626 ~~Preserve.~~

627 ~~(b) The Babcock Ranch Advisory Group shall be comprised of~~  
628 ~~nine members appointed to 5-year terms. Based on recommendations~~  
629 ~~from the Governor and Cabinet, the commission, and the governing~~  
630 ~~boards of Charlotte County and Lee County, the commissioner~~  
631 ~~shall appoint members as follows:~~

632 ~~1. One member with experience in sustainable management of~~  
633 ~~forest lands for commodity purposes.~~

634 ~~2. One member with experience in financial management,~~  
635 ~~budget and program analysis, and small business operations.~~

636 ~~3. One member with experience in management of game and~~  
637 ~~nongame wildlife and fish populations, including hunting,~~  
638 ~~fishing, and other recreational activities.~~

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~~4. One member with experience in domesticated livestock management, production, and marketing, including range management and livestock business management.~~

~~5. One member with experience in agriculture operations or forestry management.~~

~~6. One member with experience in hunting, fishing, nongame species management, or wildlife habitat management, restoration, and conservation.~~

~~7. One member with experience in public outreach and education.~~

~~8. One member who is a resident of Lee County, to be designated by the Board of County Commissioners of Lee County.~~

~~9. One member who is a resident of Charlotte County, to be designated by the Board of County Commissioners of Charlotte County.~~

~~Vacancies will be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. A member appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of that term.~~

~~(c) Members of the Babcock Ranch Advisory Group shall:~~

~~1. Elect a chair and vice chair from among the group members.~~

~~2. Meet regularly as determined by the chair.~~

~~3. Serve without compensation but shall receive reimbursement for travel and per diem expenses as provided in s. 112.061.~~

~~(4)(5) MANAGEMENT OF PRESERVE; FEES.—~~

~~(a) The department shall assume all authority provided by this section to manage and operate the preserve as a working~~

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668 ranch upon the termination or expiration of the management  
669 agreement attached as Exhibit "E" to that certain agreement for  
670 sale and purchase approved by the Board of Trustees of the  
671 Internal Improvement Trust Fund on November 22, 2005, and by Lee  
672 County on November 20, 2005.

673 (b) Upon assuming management and operation of the preserve,  
674 the department shall:

675 1. Manage and operate the preserve and the uses thereof,  
676 including, but not limited to, the activities necessary to  
677 administer and operate the preserve as a working ranch; the  
678 activities necessary for the preservation and development of the  
679 land and renewable surface resources of the preserve; the  
680 activities necessary for interpretation of the history of the  
681 preserve on behalf of the public; the activities necessary for  
682 the management, public use, and occupancy of facilities and  
683 lands within the preserve; and the maintenance, rehabilitation,  
684 repair, and improvement of property within the preserve.

685 2. Develop programs and activities relating to the  
686 management of the preserve as a working ranch.

687 3. Establish procedures for entering into lease agreements  
688 and other agreements for the use and occupancy of the facilities  
689 of the preserve. The procedures shall ensure reasonable  
690 competition and set guidelines for determining reasonable fees,  
691 terms, and conditions for such agreements.

692 4. Assess reasonable fees for admission to, use of, and  
693 occupancy of the preserve to offset costs of operating the  
694 preserve as a working ranch. These fees are independent of fees  
695 assessed by the commission for the privilege of hunting,  
696 fishing, or pursuing outdoor recreational activities within the



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697 preserve, and shall be deposited into the Incidental Trust Fund  
698 of the Florida Forest Service, subject to appropriation by the  
699 Legislature.

700 (c) The commission, in cooperation with the department,  
701 shall:

702 1. Establish and implement public hunting and other fish  
703 and wildlife management activities. Tier I and Tier II public  
704 hunting opportunities shall be provided consistent with the  
705 management plan and the recreation master plan. Tier I public  
706 hunting shall provide hunting opportunities similar to those  
707 offered on wildlife management areas with an emphasis on youth  
708 and family-oriented hunts. Tier II public hunting shall be  
709 provided specifically by fee-based permitting to ensure  
710 compatibility with livestock grazing and other essential  
711 agricultural operations on the preserve.

712 2. Establish and administer permit fees for Tier II public  
713 hunting to capitalize on the value of hunting on portions of the  
714 preserve and to help ensure the preserve is financially self-  
715 sufficient. The fees shall be deposited into the State Game  
716 Trust Fund of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to  
717 be used to offset the costs of providing public hunting and to  
718 support fish and wildlife management and other land management  
719 activities on the preserve.

720 (d) The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust  
721 Fund or its designated agent may:

722 1. Negotiate directly with and enter into such agreements,  
723 leases, contracts, and other arrangements with any person, firm,  
724 association, organization, corporation, or governmental entity,  
725 including entities of federal, state, and local governments, as

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are necessary and appropriate to carry out the purposes and activities authorized by this section.

2. Grant privileges, leases, concessions, and permits for the use of land for the accommodation of visitors to the preserve, provided no natural curiosities or objects of interest shall be granted, leased, or rented on such terms as shall deny or interfere with free access to them by the public. Such grants, leases, and permits may be made and given without advertisement or securing competitive bids. Such grants, leases, or permits may not be assigned or transferred by any grantee without consent of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund or its designated agent.

(5)~~(6)~~ DISSOLUTION OF BABCOCK RANCH, INC.—Upon dissolution of the Babcock Ranch, Inc., all statutory powers, duties, functions, records, personnel, property, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds of the corporation shall be transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services unless otherwise provided by law. Any cash balances of funds shall revert to the Incidental Trust Fund of the Florida Forest Service.

Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 287.1351, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (3) of that section is republished, to read:

287.1351 Suspended vendors; state contracts.—

(2)(a) A vendor that is in default on any contract with an agency, has failed to timely compensate its subcontractors or suppliers, or has otherwise repeatedly demonstrated a recent inability to fulfill the terms and conditions of previous state contracts or to adequately perform its duties under those

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contracts may not submit a bid, proposal, or reply to an agency or enter into or renew a contract to provide any goods or services to an agency after its placement, pursuant to this section, on the suspended vendor list.

(3) An agency shall notify the department of any vendor that has met the grounds for suspension described in paragraph (2)(a). The agency must provide documentation to the department evidencing the vendor's default or other grounds for suspension. The department shall review the documentation provided and determine whether good cause exists to remove the vendor from the vendor list and to place it on the suspended vendor list. If good cause exists, the department must notify the vendor in writing of its intent to remove the vendor from the vendor list and of the vendor's right to an administrative hearing and the applicable procedures and time requirements for any such hearing. If the vendor does not request an administrative hearing, the department must enter a final order removing the vendor from the vendor list. A vendor may not be removed from the vendor list without receiving an individual notice of intent from the department.

Section 9. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (4) of section 322.12, Florida Statutes, to read:

322.12 Examination of applicants.—

(4) The examination for an applicant for a commercial driver license shall include a test of the applicant's eyesight given by a driver license examiner designated by the department or by a licensed ophthalmologist, optometrist, or physician and a test of the applicant's hearing given by a driver license examiner or a licensed physician. The examination shall also

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784 include a test of the applicant's ability to read and understand  
785 highway signs regulating, warning, and directing traffic; his or  
786 her knowledge of the traffic laws of this state pertaining to  
787 the class of motor vehicle which he or she is applying to be  
788 licensed to operate, including laws regulating driving under the  
789 influence of alcohol or controlled substances, driving with an  
790 unlawful blood-alcohol level, and driving while intoxicated; his  
791 or her knowledge of the effects of alcohol and controlled  
792 substances and the dangers of driving a motor vehicle after  
793 having consumed alcohol or controlled substances; and his or her  
794 knowledge of any special skills, requirements, or precautions  
795 necessary for the safe operation of the class of vehicle which  
796 he or she is applying to be licensed to operate. In addition,  
797 the examination shall include an actual demonstration of the  
798 applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control  
799 in the safe operation of a motor vehicle or combination of  
800 vehicles of the type covered by the license classification which  
801 the applicant is seeking, including an examination of the  
802 applicant's ability to perform an inspection of his or her  
803 vehicle.

804 (c) An applicant for a commercial driver license who  
805 receives unauthorized assistance from another person in  
806 completing the portion of the examination which tests the  
807 applicant's ability to read and understand highway signs  
808 regulating, warning, and directing traffic or his or her  
809 knowledge of the traffic laws of this state pertaining to the  
810 class of motor vehicle for which he or she is applying to be  
811 licensed to operate, including laws regulating driving under the  
812 influence of alcohol or controlled substances, driving with an

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813 unlawful blood-alcohol level, and driving while intoxicated,  
814 commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as  
815 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

816 Section 10. Section 322.36, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
817 read:

818 322.36 Permitting unauthorized operator to drive.—

819 (1) A person may not authorize or knowingly permit a motor  
820 vehicle owned by him or her or under his or her dominion or  
821 control to be operated upon any highway or public street except  
822 by a person who is duly authorized to operate a motor vehicle  
823 under this chapter.

824 (2) A person may not knowingly or willfully provide  
825 unauthorized assistance to an applicant for the examination  
826 required to hold a commercial driver license pursuant to s.  
827 322.12(4).

828 (3) A ~~Any~~ person who violates this section commits a  
829 misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.  
830 775.082 or s. 775.083. If a person violates this section by  
831 knowingly loaning a vehicle to a person whose driver license is  
832 suspended and if that vehicle is involved in an accident  
833 resulting in bodily injury or death, the driver license of the  
834 person violating this section must ~~shall~~ be suspended for 1  
835 year.

836 Section 11. Section 377.71, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

837 Section 12. Section 377.711, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

838 Section 13. Section 377.712, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

839 Section 14. Present paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection  
840 (3) of section 403.0855, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
841 paragraphs (b) and (c), respectively, a new paragraph (a) is

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added to that subsection, and subsections (2) and (4) of that section are amended, to read:

403.0855 Biosolids management.—

(2) The department shall adopt rules for biosolids management. ~~Rules adopted by the department pursuant to this section may not take effect until ratified by the Legislature.~~

(3) For a new land application site permit or a permit renewal issued after July 1, 2020, the permittee of a biosolids land application site shall:

(a) Ensure that only Class AA biosolids are applied to the soil.

(4)(a) All permits shall comply with the requirements of paragraph (3)(a) ~~subsection (3)~~ by July 1, ~~2028~~ 2022.

(b) Local governments that do not transport biosolids for land application outside of their respective county boundaries shall comply with the requirements of paragraph (3)(a) by July 1, 2031. This paragraph may not be construed to prohibit the transportation of Class B biosolids by a local government outside of its boundaries to a Class AA biosolids treatment facility or waste-to-energy facility located within the boundaries of another local government.

Section 15. Present subsection (5) of section 482.071, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (6), and a new subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

482.071 Licenses.—

(5) Each person applying for a pest control business license or renewal thereof who will offer and perform fumigations as a part of his or her regular business operations must furnish to the department a certificate of insurance that

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meets the requirement for minimum financial responsibility for  
bodily injury and property damage, consisting of:

(a) Bodily injury coverage of \$1 million per person and \$2  
million per occurrence; and property damage coverage of \$1  
million per occurrence and \$2 million in the aggregate; or

(b) Combined single-limit coverage of \$2 million in the  
aggregate.

Section 16. Subsection (7) of section 482.161, Florida  
Statutes, is amended to read:

482.161 Disciplinary grounds and actions; reinstatement.—

(7) The department, pursuant to chapter 120, in addition to  
or in lieu of any other remedy provided by state or local law,  
may impose an administrative fine in the Class III ~~II~~ category  
pursuant to s. 570.971 for a violation of this chapter or of the  
rules adopted pursuant to this chapter. In determining the  
amount of fine to be levied for a violation, the following  
factors shall be considered:

(a) The severity of the violation, including the  
probability that the death, or serious harm to the health or  
safety, of any person will result or has resulted; the severity  
of the actual or potential harm; and the extent to which this  
chapter or the rules adopted pursuant to this chapter were  
violated;

(b) Any actions taken by the licensee or certified operator  
in charge, or limited certificateholder, to correct the  
violation or to remedy complaints;

(c) Any previous violations of this chapter or of the rules  
adopted pursuant to this chapter; and

(d) The cost to the department of investigating the

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violation.

Section 17. Subsections (3) and (5) of section 482.165, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

482.165 Unlicensed practice of pest control; cease and desist order; injunction; civil suit and penalty.—

(3) In addition to or in lieu of any remedy provided under subsection (2), the department may institute a civil suit in circuit court to recover a civil penalty for any violation for which the department may issue a notice to cease and desist under subsection (2). The civil penalty shall be in the Class III ~~II~~ category pursuant to s. 570.971 for each offense. The court may also award to the prevailing party court costs and reasonable attorney fees.

(5) In addition to or in lieu of any remedy provided under subsections (2) and (3), the department may, even in the case of a first offense, impose a fine not less than twice the cost of a pest control business license, but not more than a fine in the Class III ~~II~~ category pursuant to s. 570.971, upon a determination by the department that a person is in violation of subsection (1). For the purposes of this subsection, the lapse of a previously issued license for a period of less than 1 year is not considered a violation.

Section 18. Subsections (20) and (21) are added to section 489.105, Florida Statutes, to read:

489.105 Definitions.—As used in this part:

(20) "Subcontractor" has the same meaning as in s. 558.002.

(21) "Supplier" has the same meaning as in s. 558.002.

Section 19. Section 489.1295, Florida Statutes, is created to read:



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929       489.1295 Prohibition against nonpayment.—

930       (1) A licensed contractor must compensate a subcontractor  
931 or supplier, unless there is a bona fide dispute regarding the  
932 amount due, if any, for services, labor, or materials:

933       (a) Within 45 days after receiving payment for the services  
934 performed or materials supplied by the subcontractor or  
935 supplier; or

936       (b) In accordance with the terms of the contract for such  
937 services, labor, or materials.

938       (2) A licensed contractor who knowingly or willfully  
939 violates this section is subject to disciplinary proceedings as  
940 provided in s. 489.129.

941       Section 20. Subsection (6) of section 500.04, Florida  
942 Statutes, is amended to read:

943       500.04 Prohibited acts.—The following acts and the causing  
944 thereof within the state are prohibited:

945       (6) The obstruction of or refusal to permit entry or  
946 inspection, or to permit the taking of a sample, as authorized  
947 by s. 500.147.

948       Section 21. Section 500.81, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

949       Section 22. Subsection (5) of section 500.93, Florida  
950 Statutes, is amended to read:

951       500.93 Mislabeling of plant-based products as milk, meat,  
952 or poultry.—

953       (5) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
954 shall notify the Division of Law Revision upon the enactment  
955 into law by any 11 of the group of 14 states composed of  
956 Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana,  
957 Maryland, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee,

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958 Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia of the mandatory labeling  
959 requirements pursuant to paragraphs (2) (a), (3) (a), and (4) (a)  
960 ~~subsections (2) and (3).~~

961 Section 23. Section 501.013, Florida Statutes, is amended  
962 to read:

963 501.013 Health studios; exemptions.—

964 (1) The following businesses or activities may be declared  
965 exempt from ~~the provisions of~~ ss. 501.012-501.019 upon the  
966 filing of an affidavit with the department establishing that the  
967 stated qualifications are met:

968 (a)~~(1)~~ A bona fide nonprofit organization which has been  
969 granted tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service.

970 (b)~~(2)~~ A gymnastics school which engages only in  
971 instruction and training and in which exercise is only  
972 incidental to such instruction and training.

973 (c)~~(3)~~ A golf, tennis, or racquetball club in which sports  
974 play is the only activity offered by the club. If the facility  
975 offers the use of physical exercise equipment, this exemption  
976 shall not apply.

977 (d)~~(4)~~ A program or facility which is offered and used  
978 solely for the purpose of dance, aerobic exercise, or martial  
979 arts, and which utilizes no physical exercise equipment.

980 (e)~~(5)~~ A country club that has as its primary function the  
981 provision of a social life and recreational amenities to its  
982 members, and for which a program of physical exercise is merely  
983 incidental to membership. As used in this paragraph subsection,  
984 the term "country club" means a facility that offers its members  
985 a variety of services that may include, but need not be limited  
986 to, social activities; dining, banquet, catering, and lounge

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987 facilities; swimming; yachting; golf; tennis; card games such as  
988 bridge and canasta; and special programs for members' children.  
989 Upon the filing of an affidavit with the department establishing  
990 that the stated qualifications of this paragraph subsection were  
991 met before July 1, 1997, this paragraph subsection will apply  
992 retroactively to the date that the country club met these  
993 qualifications.

994 (f)(6) A program or facility that is offered by an  
995 organization for the exclusive use of its employees and their  
996 family members.

997 (2) In addition to the businesses and activities listed in  
998 subsection (1), the department may exempt any other business or  
999 activity not in existence as of July 1, 2026, from ss. 501.012-  
1000 501.019.

1001 Section 24. Section 501.062, Florida Statutes, is created  
1002 to read:

1003 501.062 Unauthorized commercial solicitation; legislative  
1004 intent; definitions; prohibited acts; penalties.—

1005 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—It is the intent of the Legislature  
1006 to protect, preserve, and promote the safety, welfare, and peace  
1007 of the citizens of this state by adopting measures to reduce the  
1008 threat to private property rights, including the right to  
1009 exclude and to be free from trespass of unauthorized commercial  
1010 solicitation on private property when noticed by the property  
1011 owner. It is the intent of this section to protect such private  
1012 property rights by creating a uniform standard for notifying  
1013 individuals or groups of individuals that commercial  
1014 solicitation is prohibited on private property.

1015 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

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(a) "Commercial solicitation" means the act of attempting to sell goods or services, or to raise funds for a commercial purpose, through direct or indirect contact with individuals, including, but not limited to, using words, body gestures, or signs, on behalf of a business or commercial entity.

(b) "Dwelling" has the same meaning as in s. 810.011(2).

(3) PROHIBITED ACTS.—A person may not engage in commercial solicitation on any dwelling that clearly and prominently displays a sign that is no less than 8.5 by 11 inches, is visible to any person approaching the dwelling, and clearly displays a statement which identifies the dwelling as private property on which commercial solicitation is prohibited, in substantially the following manner with letters at least 1 inch in height:

THIS DWELLING IS DESIGNATED PRIVATE PROPERTY. NO COMMERCIAL SOLICITATION IS PERMITTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 501.062, FLORIDA STATUTES.

(4) PENALTIES.—A person who violates subsection (3) commits a noncriminal violation, punishable as provided in s. 775.083. A person who commits a second or subsequent violation commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 25. Subsection (50) is added to section 570.07, Florida Statutes, to read:

570.07 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; functions, powers, and duties.—The department shall have and exercise the following functions, powers, and duties:

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1045       (50) Notwithstanding s. 20.04(7), to reorganize  
1046 departmental units upon the approval of the commissioner.

1047       Section 26. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (3) of  
1048 section 570.822, Florida Statutes, to read:

1049       570.822 Agriculture and Aquaculture Producers Emergency  
1050 Recovery Loan Program.—

1051       (3) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—To be eligible for the program, an  
1052 applicant must:

1053       (c) Be a United States citizen and a legal resident of this  
1054 state before or on the date of the declared emergency. If the  
1055 applicant is an entity as defined in s. 605.0102, the entity  
1056 must be wholly owned and operated in the United States and  
1057 possess an active certificate of status issued by the Department  
1058 of State pursuant to chapter 605.

1059       Section 27. Section 570.832, Florida Statutes, is created  
1060 to read:

1061       570.832 Florida Native Seed Research and Marketing  
1062 Program.—The Florida Wildflower Foundation, Inc., in  
1063 coordination with the department, shall, subject to  
1064 appropriation, establish the Florida Native Seed Research and  
1065 Marketing Program to conduct research designed to expand the  
1066 availability and uses of native seeds and strengthen the market  
1067 position of this state's native seed industry through marketing  
1068 campaigns and promotions in this state and across the nation.

1069       Section 28. Section 570.846, Florida Statutes, is created  
1070 to read:

1071       570.846 Florida Food Animal and Equine Veterinary Medicine  
1072 Loan Repayment Program.—

1073       (1) PURPOSE.—To encourage specialized and qualified

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1074 veterinary professionals to practice in this state, to retain  
1075 the employment of such professionals in this state, and to  
1076 promote the care and treatment of food animals and equine  
1077 animals, there is established the Florida Food Animal and Equine  
1078 Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program. The purpose of the  
1079 program is to authorize the department to make payments that  
1080 offset loans incurred, for up to three new eligible candidates  
1081 annually, for studies leading to a veterinary degree with a  
1082 specialization in food animal or equine veterinary medicine.

1083 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

1084 (a) "Equine" means a species of animal belonging to the  
1085 taxonomic family *equidae*, which includes horses and donkeys.

1086 (b) "Food animal" means a species of animal raised for the  
1087 human food supply. Food animals include cattle, swine, sheep,  
1088 goat, poultry, aquaculture, and apiary species.

1089 (c) "Food animal and equine animal veterinary medicine"  
1090 means a veterinary medical practice that encompasses medical  
1091 care, disease prevention, and consultation on the feeding,  
1092 housing, and overall flock, herd, or equine health management.

1093 (d) "Food animal or equine veterinarian" means a  
1094 veterinarian working in food and equine animal veterinary  
1095 medicine who focuses on the management and health of such  
1096 animals and who spends a minimum of 20 hours per week on food  
1097 animal species or equine animal species care and treatment.

1098 (3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for the program, a  
1099 candidate must have graduated from an American Veterinary  
1100 Medical Association-accredited college of veterinary medicine,  
1101 have received a Florida veterinary medical license, have  
1102 obtained a Category II Accreditation from the United States

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Department of Agriculture, and be a practicing food animal or equine animal veterinarian in this state.

(4) FUNDING.—Subject to legislative appropriation, the department may make loan principal repayments of up to \$25,000 per eligible candidate per year. Loan principal repayments may be made on behalf of each eligible candidate each year for up to 5 years. The department may select up to three new eligible candidates each year. All repayments are contingent upon continued proof of employment in this state as a practicing food animal or equine animal veterinarian.

(5) DUPLICATION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—An eligible candidate receiving financial assistance from the federal veterinary medicine loan repayment program as established in 7 U.S.C. part 3151a is ineligible to receive financial assistance from the program under this section.

(6) RULEMAKING.—The department may adopt any rule necessary for the administration of the program.

Section 29. Subsection (1) of section 570.85, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

570.85 Agritourism.—

(1) It is the intent of the Legislature to promote agritourism as a way to support bona fide agricultural production by providing a stream of revenue and by educating the general public about the agricultural industry. It is also the intent of the Legislature to eliminate duplication of regulatory authority over agritourism as expressed in this section. Except as otherwise provided for in this section, and notwithstanding any other law, a local government may not adopt or enforce a local ordinance, regulation, rule, or policy that prohibits,

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restricts, regulates, or otherwise limits an agritourism activity on land classified as agricultural land under s. 193.461, and may not require a property owner to obtain a rural event venue permit or license. This subsection does not limit the powers and duties of a local government to address substantial offsite impacts of agritourism activities or an emergency as provided in chapter 252.

Section 30. Subsection (6) is added to section 570.86, Florida Statutes, to read:

570.86 Definitions.—As used in ss. 570.85-570.89, the term: (6) “Rural event venue” means a venue located on property classified as agricultural pursuant to s. 193.461 and used for special functions, such as weddings, receptions, corporate meetings, or similar gatherings.

Section 31. Subsection (7) of section 573.112, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

573.112 Advisory council.—

(7) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, the Citrus Research and Field Trial Development Foundation, Inc., a direct-support organization of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services ~~University of Florida~~ established pursuant to s. 570.691 ~~s. 1004.28~~, shall serve as the advisory council for a citrus research marketing order, provide the department with advice on administering the order, and, in accordance with the order, conduct citrus research and perform other duties assigned by the department. Notwithstanding s. 570.691 ~~s. 1004.28(3)~~ or any provision of this section, the foundation’s board of directors shall be composed of the Florida State Plant Health Inspection Service Director and, appointed by the Commissioner



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of Agriculture, 7 members who are ~~13 members, including 10~~  
citrus growers, ~~2 representatives of the university's Institute~~  
~~of Food and Agricultural Sciences,~~ and 1 member who is a Florida  
citrus nursery representative. Members of the board of directors  
shall serve without compensation but ~~appointed by the~~  
~~Commissioner of Agriculture,~~ who are each entitled to  
reimbursement from the foundation for per diem and travel  
expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

Section 32. Subsection (32) of section 581.031, Florida  
Statutes, is amended to read:

581.031 Department; powers and duties.—The department has  
the following powers and duties:

(32) To conduct or cause to be conducted research projects,  
including, but not limited to, citrus canker and citrus  
greening, which are recommended by the Citrus Research and Field  
Trial Development Foundation, Inc., within the limits of  
appropriations made specifically for such purpose.

Section 33. Subsection (4) of section 583.01, Florida  
Statutes, is amended to read:

583.01 Definitions.—For the purpose of this chapter, unless  
elsewhere indicated, the term:

(4) "Dealer" means a person, firm, or corporation,  
including a producer, processor, retailer, or wholesaler, that  
sells, offers for sale, or holds for the purpose of sale in this  
state 30 dozen or more eggs or its equivalent in any one week,  
or more than 20,000 ~~384~~ dressed birds annually ~~in any one week~~.

Section 34. Section 590.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
read:

590.02 Florida Forest Service; powers, authority, and

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1190 duties; liability; building structures; Withlacoochee and Welaka  
1191 Training Centers ~~Center~~.—

1192 (1) The Florida Forest Service has the following powers,  
1193 authority, and duties to:

1194 (a) Enforce the provisions of this chapter;

1195 (b) Prevent, detect, and suppress wildfires wherever they  
1196 may occur on public or private land in this state and do all  
1197 things necessary in the exercise of such powers, authority, and  
1198 duties;

1199 (c) Provide firefighting crews, who shall be under the  
1200 control and direction of the Florida Forest Service and its  
1201 designated agents;

1202 (d) Appoint center managers, forest area supervisors,  
1203 forestry program administrators, a forest protection bureau  
1204 chief, a forest protection assistant bureau chief, a field  
1205 operations bureau chief, deputy chiefs of field operations,  
1206 district managers, forest operations administrators, senior  
1207 forest rangers, investigators, forest rangers, firefighter  
1208 rotorcraft pilots, and other employees who may, at the Florida  
1209 Forest Service's discretion, be certified as forestry  
1210 firefighters pursuant to s. 633.408(8). Other law  
1211 notwithstanding, center managers, district managers, forest  
1212 protection assistant bureau chief, and deputy chiefs of field  
1213 operations have Selected Exempt Service status in the state  
1214 personnel designation;

1215 (e) Develop a training curriculum for wildland firefighters  
1216 which must contain a minimum of 40 hours of structural  
1217 firefighter training, a minimum of 40 hours of emergency medical  
1218 training, and a minimum of 376 hours of wildfire training;

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(f) Pay the cost of the initial commercial driver license examination fee, and renewal for those employees whose position requires them to operate equipment requiring a license. This paragraph is intended to be an authorization to the department to pay such costs, not an obligation;

(g) Provide fire management services and emergency response assistance and set and charge reasonable fees for performance of those services. Moneys collected from such fees shall be deposited into the Incidental Trust Fund of the Florida Forest Service;

(h) Require all state, regional, and local government agencies operating aircraft in the vicinity of an ongoing wildfire to operate in compliance with the applicable state Wildfire Aviation Plan;

(i) Authorize broadcast burning, prescribed burning, pile burning, and land clearing debris burning to carry out the duties of this chapter and the rules adopted thereunder; and

(j) Make rules to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

(2) The Florida Forest Service's employees, and the firefighting crews under their control and direction, may enter upon any lands for the purpose of preventing, detecting, and suppressing wildfires and investigating smoke complaints or open burning not in compliance with authorization and to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

(3) Employees of the Florida Forest Service and of federal, state, and local agencies, and all other persons and entities that are under contract or agreement with the Florida Forest Service to assist in firefighting operations as well as those entities, called upon by the Florida Forest Service to assist in

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1248 firefighting may, in the performance of their duties, set  
1249 counterfires, remove fences and other obstacles, dig trenches,  
1250 cut firelines, use water from public and private sources, and  
1251 carry on all other customary activities in the fighting of  
1252 wildfires without incurring liability to any person or entity.

1253 The manner in which the Florida Forest Service monitors a  
1254 smoldering wildfire or smoldering prescribed fire or fights any  
1255 wildfire are planning level activities for which sovereign  
1256 immunity applies and is not waived.

1257 (4) (a) The department may build structures, notwithstanding  
1258 chapters 216 and 255, not to exceed a cost of \$50,000 per  
1259 structure from existing resources on forest lands, federal  
1260 excess property, and unneeded existing structures. These  
1261 structures must meet all applicable building codes.

1262 (b) Notwithstanding s. 553.80(1), the department shall  
1263 exclusively enforce the Florida Building Code as it pertains to  
1264 wildfire, law enforcement, and other Florida Forest Service  
1265 facilities under the jurisdiction of the department.

1266 (5) The Florida Forest Service shall organize its  
1267 operational units to most effectively prevent, detect, and  
1268 suppress wildfires, and to that end, may employ the necessary  
1269 personnel to manage its activities in each unit. The Florida  
1270 Forest Service may construct lookout towers, roads, bridges,  
1271 firelines, and other facilities and may purchase or fabricate  
1272 tools, supplies, and equipment for firefighting. The Florida  
1273 Forest Service may reimburse the public and private entities  
1274 that it engages to assist in the suppression of wildfires for  
1275 their personnel and equipment, including aircraft.

1276 (6) The Florida Forest Service shall undertake

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1277 privatization alternatives for fire prevention activities  
1278 including constructing fire lines and conducting prescribed  
1279 burns and, where appropriate, entering into agreements or  
1280 contracts with the private sector to perform such activities.

1281 (7) The Florida Forest Service may organize, staff, equip,  
1282 and operate the Withlacoochee and Welaka Training Centers  
1283 ~~Center~~. The centers ~~center~~ shall serve as sites ~~a site~~ where  
1284 fire and forest resource managers can obtain current knowledge,  
1285 techniques, skills, and theory as they relate to their  
1286 respective disciplines, and the centers:-

1287 (a) ~~The center~~ May establish cooperative efforts involving  
1288 federal, state, and local entities; hire appropriate personnel;  
1289 and engage others by contract or agreement with or without  
1290 compensation to assist in carrying out the training and  
1291 operations of the centers ~~center~~.

1292 (b) ~~The center~~ Shall provide wildfire suppression training  
1293 opportunities for rural fire departments, volunteer fire  
1294 departments, and other local fire response units.

1295 (c) ~~The center~~ Shall focus on curriculum related to, but  
1296 not limited to, fuel reduction, an incident management system,  
1297 prescribed burning certification, multiple-use land management,  
1298 water quality, forest health, environmental education, and  
1299 wildfire suppression training for structural firefighters.

1300 (d) ~~The center~~ May assess appropriate fees for food,  
1301 lodging, travel, course materials, and supplies in order to meet  
1302 their ~~its~~ operational costs and may grant free meals, room, and  
1303 scholarships to persons and other entities as determined by the  
1304 Florida Forest Service, regardless of whether training occurs at  
1305 the Withlacoochee Training Center or Welaka Training Center or

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at another location ~~in exchange for instructional assistance.~~

(8) (a) The Cross City Work Center shall be named the L. Earl Peterson Forestry Station. This is to honor Mr. L. Earl Peterson, Florida's sixth state forester, whose distinguished career in state government has spanned 44 years, and who is a native of Dixie County.

(b) The Madison Forestry Station shall be named the Harvey Greene Sr. Forestry Station. This is to honor Mr. Harvey Greene Sr., a World War I veteran and pioneer in forestry in Madison County. In 1947, Mr. Harvey Greene Sr. offered to give the land on which the forestry station is located to the state; however, at that time, the state could not accept donations of land. Instead, Mr. Harvey Greene Sr. sold the land to the state and, with the proceeds of the sale, purchased forestry equipment to be used by the citizens of Madison County to plant trees and fight wildfires.

(c) The Bonifay Forestry Station shall be named the John Michael Mathis Forestry Station. This is to honor the late Mr. John Michael Mathis, the Chipola Forestry Center manager whose distinguished career spanned 18 years, and who received many awards for his service, including commendation for leadership in wildfire mitigation for his service during Hurricane Michael. Mr. John Michael Mathis was a proud husband, father, forester, and friend.

(9) (a) Notwithstanding ss. 273.055 and 287.16, the department may retain, transfer, warehouse, bid, destroy, scrap, or otherwise dispose of surplus equipment and vehicles that are used for wildland firefighting.

(b) All money received from the disposition of state-owned

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equipment and vehicles that are used for wildland firefighting shall be retained by the department. Money received pursuant to this section is appropriated for and may be disbursed for the acquisition of exchange and surplus equipment used for wildland firefighting, and for all necessary operating expenditures related to such equipment, in the same fiscal year and the fiscal year following the disposition. The department shall maintain records of the accounts into which the money is deposited.

(10)(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 252.38, the Florida Forest Service has exclusive authority to require and issue authorizations for broadcast burning and agricultural and silvicultural pile burning. An agency, commission, department, county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state may not adopt or enforce laws, regulations, rules, or policies pertaining to broadcast burning or agricultural and silvicultural pile burning.

(b) The Florida Forest Service may delegate to a county, municipality, or special district its authority:

1. As delegated by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to ss. 403.061(29) and 403.081, to manage and enforce regulations pertaining to the burning of yard trash in accordance with s. 590.125(6).

2. To manage the open burning of land clearing debris in accordance with s. 590.125.

Section 35. Section 595.421, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

595.421 Farmers Feeding Florida Program.—There is established the Farmers Feeding Florida Program to coordinate

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with Feeding Florida, or its successor entity, for the acquisition, transportation, and distribution of non-Emergency Food Assistance Program fresh food products for the benefit of residents who are food insecure due to a lack of local food resources, accessibility, and affordability.

(1) In order to implement the program, Feeding Florida shall:

(a) Enter into an agreement with the department to provide, at a minimum, all of the following services:

1. Transportation of non-Emergency Food Assistance Program fresh food products using owned vehicles or contracted commercial vehicles.

2. Coordination of the purchase and pickup of food from the purchase location and delivery to the distribution location.

(b) Submit monthly reports to the department, beginning July 1, 2026, which include, at a minimum, all of the following:

1. A detailed record of the amount of food purchased, measured per pound and itemized according to its commodity type.

2. Food purchase locations.

3. Food purchase dates.

4. The date of delivery and locations to which the food was distributed.

(c) Submit quarterly reports, beginning July 1, 2026, to the chairs of the legislative appropriations committees, including all of the following information:

1. A detailed record of the amount of food distributed, measured per pound and itemized according to its commodity type.

2. The distribution locations.

3. An itemized list of the types of commodities



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distributed.

(2) Foods purchased by Feeding Florida through the program are restricted to charitable purposes for hunger relief and may not reenter the wholesale, retail, or secondary market.

(3) Feeding Florida may not, in implementing this section, allow a candidate for elective office to host a food distribution event during the period of time between the last day of the election qualifying period and the date of the election if the candidate is opposed for election or reelection at the time of the event. This subsection does not apply if the event is in response to a declared state of emergency.

Section 36. Present paragraph (c) of subsection (7) of section 597.004, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (d) and amended, a new paragraph (c) is added to that subsection, and paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of that section is amended, to read:

597.004 Aquaculture certificate of registration.—

(2) RULES.—

(a) The department, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection, the water management districts, environmental groups, and representatives from the affected farming groups, shall adopt rules to:

1. Specify the requirement of best management practices to be implemented by holders of aquaculture certificates of registration.

2. Establish procedures for holders of aquaculture certificates of registration to submit the notice of intent to comply with best management practices.

3. Establish schedules for implementation of best

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management practices, and of interim measures that can be taken prior to adoption of best management practices. Interim measures may include the continuation of regulatory requirements in effect on June 30, 1998.

4. Establish a system to assure the implementation of best management practices, including recordkeeping requirements.

5. Require any facility that cultures *Micropterus salmoides floridanus* to maintain stock acquisition documentation or records of genetic testing.

(7) REGISTRATION AND RENEWALS.—

(c) The department may not renew a certificate of registration for a facility that is not compliant with this section unless documentation of corrective action is provided with the renewal application.

(d)(e) A Any person whose certificate of registration has been revoked or suspended must reapply to the department for certification. A person, a company, or an entity, or a principal of a company or an entity whose certificate of registration has been revoked, may not reapply for a period of 3 years.

Section 37. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 597.010, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

597.010 Shellfish regulation; leases.—

(5) LEASES IN PERPETUITY; RENT.—

(a) All leases issued previously under ~~the provisions of s.~~ 379.2525 shall be enforced under the authority of this chapter, notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, and shall continue in perpetuity under such restrictions as stated in the lease agreement. The annual rental fee charged for all leases shall consist of the minimum rate of \$15 per acre, or any

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fraction of an acre, per year and may ~~shall~~ be adjusted on January 1, 1995, and every 5 years thereafter, based on the 5-year average change in the Consumer Price Index. Rent must ~~shall~~ be paid in advance of January 1 of each year or, in the case of a new lease, at the time of signing, regardless of who holds the lease.

Section 38. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1) of section 599.012, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

599.012 Florida Wine Trust Fund; creation.—

(1) There is established the Florida Wine Trust Fund within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The department shall use the moneys deposited in the trust fund pursuant to subsection (2) to do all the following:

(b) Promote wine ~~viticulture~~ products manufactured from products grown in the state.

(c) Provide grants for wine and viticultural research.

Section 39. Subsection (3) of section 601.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

601.13 Citrus research; administration by Department of Citrus; appropriation.—

(3) An entity that solicits research proposals and awards funding for those proposals expending funds received from the State Treasury on citrus production research conducted pursuant to chapter 573, as recommended by the Citrus Research and Field Trial Development ~~Foundation~~ Foundation, Inc., or conducted through contract with the department shall deliver a report that includes all of the following information to the commission biannually and at the request of the commission:

(a) Project plans selected for funding.

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(b) The financial status of the projects.

(c) Current findings of the funded research.

(d) Availability of citrus products or application of growers' practices found through funded research.

(e) The status of the commercialization process of such products or practices.

Section 40. Section 616.001, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(1) "Annual public fair" means a ~~community, county, district, regional, or state~~ fair that is held and conducted by a fair association and permitted by the department pursuant to s. 616.15.

(2) "Authority" means the Florida State Fair Authority.

(3) ~~"Community fair" means an annual public fair that serves an area of less than an entire county, has exhibits that are in accordance with s. 616.17, and gives premiums or awards to exhibitors. Agricultural products shall be produced in the community the exhibit represents. The majority of the board of directors of the fair shall reside, be employed, or operate a business in the community the fair represents.~~

~~(4)~~ "Concession" means use by a fair association, or a grant, lease, or license to a third party, of a portion of the land under the ownership, custody, or control of a fair association for specific uses, or the right to enter upon the land for specific purposes, such as providing rides, games, food, beverage, merchandise for sale, exhibits, projects, activities, events, programs, or other uses authorized in this chapter.

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~~(5) "County fair" means an annual public fair that serves an entire county and provides exhibitors with premiums or awards for exhibits that are in accordance with s. 616.17. Agricultural products must be typical of those produced in the county the exhibit represents. The majority of the board of directors of the fair shall reside, be employed, or operate a business in the county that the fair association represents.~~

(4)~~(6)~~ "Department" means the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

~~(7) "District fair" means an annual public fair that serves at least five counties and has exhibits that meet the requirements of s. 616.17. A district fair shall pay at least \$25,000 in cash premiums or awards to exhibitors. Agricultural products must be typical of those produced in the counties the exhibit represents. Livestock may originate from outside the district, but must be registered in the exhibitor's name at least 30 days before the opening day of the fair. Each county is encouraged to have proportionate exhibits, typical of its respective natural resources. Each county shall have exhibits representing basic resources in agriculture and industry.~~

(5)~~(8)~~ "Entry" means one item entered for competition or show. An entry may constitute an exhibit, depending upon the regulations stated in the premium book.

(6)~~(9)~~ "Exhibit" means one or more entries entered for exhibition and constituting a unit. An exhibit may consist of one or more entries, depending upon the regulations stated in the premium book. The term includes parades and displays of articles or a collection of articles, whether static, interactive, or dynamic, by a fair association or a third party

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contracting with a fair association, such as exhibits of animals, art, housewares, or motor vehicles.

(7)~~(10)~~ "Exhibitor" means an individual, a group of individuals, or a business, including a fair association or third party contracting with a fair association, which has an exhibit.

(8)~~(11)~~ "Fair association" or "association" means an association not for profit incorporated under this chapter for the purpose of conducting and operating public fairs or expositions.

(9)~~(12)~~ "Public fair or exposition" means a project, activity, event, or program, and use by a fair association, including, but not limited to, the annual public fair, which serves the purposes specified in s. 616.08 and benefits and develops the educational, agricultural, horticultural, livestock, charitable, historical, civic, cultural, scientific, and other resources of this state, or any county, municipality, or other community in this state.

~~(13) "Regional fair" or "interstate fair" means an annual public fair of this state and other states in which fair exhibits meet the requirements of s. 616.17. Agricultural products must be typical of those produced in the area the exhibit represents.~~

(10)~~(14)~~ "Specialized show" means a show or an exhibition exhibiting and emphasizing livestock or poultry, or a fruit or vegetable festival, and must meet the minimum exhibit requirements specified in s. 616.17. ~~A specialized show may qualify under one of the definitions in subsections (3), (5), (7), and (15).~~

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1567        ~~(11)(15)~~ "State fair" means an annual public fair that  
1568 serves the entire state. ~~Exhibits must comply with s. 616.17,~~  
1569 ~~and cash premiums or awards may be given to exhibitors.~~

1570        Section 41. Section 616.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
1571 read:

1572        616.01 Requirements for ~~Number of persons required;~~  
1573 ~~requisites of~~ proposed charter. ~~Twenty-five or more persons who~~  
1574 ~~are~~ Residents and qualified electors of the county in which the  
1575 annual public fair is to be located, who wish to form an  
1576 association not for profit for the purpose of conducting and  
1577 operating public fairs or expositions, may become incorporated  
1578 in the following manner. The applicant must ~~subscribers shall~~  
1579 submit the proposed charter to the department for review and  
1580 approval or denial. If the proposed charter is denied, the  
1581 department must provide the applicant with a letter sent to the  
1582 mailing address provided on the proposed charter and include a  
1583 complete listing of all deficiencies, if any, which must be  
1584 remedied before resubmittal of the proposed charter for  
1585 approval. If the proposed charter is approved, the applicant  
1586 must ~~subscribers shall~~ sign and present a notarized copy of the  
1587 proposed charter to the judge of the circuit court for the  
1588 county in which the principal office of the association will be  
1589 located. The proposed charter must specify:

1590        (1) The name of the association and the place where the  
1591 principal office is to be located. The name of the association  
1592 must ~~shall~~ include the word, "Inc."

1593        (2) The general nature of the objectives and powers of the  
1594 association, including a provision that the association is  
1595 incorporated for the sole purpose of conducting and operating

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public fairs or expositions.

(3) The qualifications and terms of association members and criteria for their admission and expulsion. Provision must ~~may~~ be made in the charter for ex officio membership.

(4) The time for which the association is to exist.

(5) The name and residence of each subscriber.

(6) Procedures for the election of and governance by officers, who may be elected or appointed.

(7) The designation of officers who will manage the affairs of the association until the first election or appointment under the charter.

(8) Procedures for the adoption, amendment, or rescission of bylaws of the association.

(9) The highest amount of indebtedness or liability that may be accrued by the association.

(10) The name of an elected member of the board of county commissioners of the county in which the principal office of the association will be located, who will serve as an ex officio member of the board of directors of the association.

(11) The official e-mail address of the association which will be used for the purpose of official communication between the association and governmental entities.

(12) The language for the oath that will be taken by the applicant, which must include, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(a) That the primary objective of the association is for public service and to hold, conduct, and promote public fairs or expositions.

(b) That money and other available assets in value



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1625 exceeding \$5,000 have been provided for purposes designated by  
1626 the association.

1627 (c) That the association will operate in good faith to  
1628 carry out the purposes and objectives set forth in the charter.

1629 Section 42. Section 616.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
1630 read:

1631 616.02 Fair associations per county ~~Acknowledgment of~~  
1632 ~~charter.-~~

1633 (1) Beginning July 1, 2026, there may be only one  
1634 incorporated fair association per county in this state,  
1635 excluding the state fair, which may be incorporated and  
1636 conducted in any county. The department may not approve a  
1637 proposed charter incorporating a fair association within the  
1638 same county in which a fair association currently exists. The  
1639 department may waive this requirement at the discretion of the  
1640 Commissioner of Agriculture.

1641 (2) Any fair association incorporated before July 1, 2026,  
1642 may conduct public fairs or expositions and exercise the  
1643 authority provided to them pursuant to this chapter ~~The proposed~~  
1644 ~~charter of a fair association shall be acknowledged by at least~~  
1645 ~~three of its subscribers before an officer authorized to make~~  
1646 ~~acknowledgment of deeds. Subscribers shall also make and take an~~  
1647 ~~oath, which must be attached to the proposed charter, stating~~  
1648 ~~that the primary objective of the association is public service~~  
1649 ~~and holding, conducting, and promoting public fairs or~~  
1650 ~~expositions; that money and other available assets in value~~  
1651 ~~exceeding \$5,000 have been provided for the purposes of the~~  
1652 ~~association; and that the association will operate in good faith~~  
1653 ~~to carry out the purposes and objectives set forth in its~~

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1654 ~~charter.~~

1655       Section 43. Section 616.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
1656 read:

1657       616.03 ~~Notice of application;~~ Approval and record of  
1658 charter.~~Upon approval by the department, A notice of intention~~  
1659 ~~to apply to the circuit court for the charter of a fair~~  
1660 ~~association must specify the date that application will be made,~~  
1661 ~~shall be sent to the department for approval, and shall be~~  
1662 ~~published in a newspaper in the county where the principal~~  
1663 ~~office of the association will be located once each week for 4~~  
1664 ~~consecutive weeks. The notice must briefly summarize the charter~~  
1665 ~~and objectives of the proposed association. the proposed charter~~  
1666 ~~must shall~~ be submitted to and approved by the board of county  
1667 commissioners of the county in which the principal office of the  
1668 association will be located. After approval by the ~~department~~  
1669 ~~and the~~ board of county commissioners, the proposed charter and  
1670 proof of approval must ~~and publication shall~~ be submitted to the  
1671 circuit judge ~~on the date specified in the notice~~. If no cause  
1672 is shown to the contrary and the judge finds that the proposed  
1673 charter is in proper form and will serve the primary objective  
1674 of public service, the judge must ~~shall~~ approve the charter and  
1675 issue an order incorporating the applicant ~~subscribers~~ under the  
1676 charter for the objectives and purposes specified in the  
1677 charter. The charter and order of incorporation must ~~shall~~ be  
1678 recorded in the office of the clerk of the circuit court in the  
1679 county where the principal office of the association will be  
1680 located and provided to the department. After the order is  
1681 recorded, the applicant ~~subscribers~~ and any ~~their~~ associates are  
1682 incorporated with the objectives and powers established in the

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1683 charter and under the name given in the charter. ~~During the~~  
1684 ~~publication period, the proposed charter shall be on file in the~~  
1685 ~~office of the clerk of the circuit court.~~ This section does not  
1686 preclude a fair association from also filing its duly approved  
1687 charter with the Department of State pursuant to chapter 617 for  
1688 notice purposes.

1689 Section 44. Subsection (2) of section 616.05, Florida  
1690 Statutes, is amended to read:

1691 616.05 Amendment of charter.—A fair association may propose  
1692 an amendment to its charter by resolution as provided in its  
1693 charter or bylaws.

1694 (2) After the department approves the proposed amendment,  
1695 it will be incorporated into the original charter upon:

1696 (a) ~~Publication of notice in the same manner as provided in~~  
1697 ~~s. 616.03;~~

1698 ~~(b)~~ Filing the order of the circuit judge approving the  
1699 amendment with the office of the clerk of the circuit court and  
1700 the department; and

1701 (b) ~~(c)~~ Being recorded in the clerk's office.

1702  
1703 If a fair association has filed its charter with the Department  
1704 of State pursuant to chapter 617, a copy of any amendment to the  
1705 charter must be filed with the Department of State for notice  
1706 purposes.

1707 Section 45. Section 616.051, Florida Statutes, is amended  
1708 to read:

1709 616.051 Dissolving a charter.—

1710 (1) A fair association may dissolve its charter by  
1711 resolution as provided in its charter or bylaws. The proposal

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for dissolving the charter shall be submitted to the department for approval.

(2) Upon approval by the department and upon presentation of sufficient evidence demonstrating ~~and publication of notice and proof~~ that all indebtedness has been paid and no claims are outstanding against the association, the circuit judge may, by decree, dissolve the association and order the distribution of its remaining assets. Such assets must be distributed, by resolution of the board of directors, to the county in which the principal office of the association is located unless otherwise specified by the deed of the property held by the association ~~its remaining public funds to be distributed as recommended by the board of directors~~.

Section 46. Subsection (3) of section 616.07, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsections (1) and (2) of that section are republished, to read:

616.07 Members not personally liable; property of association held in trust; exempt from taxation.—

(1) A member, officer, director, or trustee of a fair association is not personally liable for any of the debts of the association, and money or property of a fair association may not be distributed as profits or dividends among its members, officers, directors, or trustees.

(2) All money and property of the association, except that necessary for the payment of its just debts and liabilities, are public property, shall be administered by the association as trustee, and shall be used exclusively for the legitimate purpose of the association. So long as they are used for that purpose, all money and property of the association are exempt

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from all forms of taxation, including special assessments, and any projects, activities, events, programs, and uses authorized by this part serve an essential governmental purpose and, therefore, are not taxable and are not subject to assessments. This subsection does not apply to chapter 212.

~~(3) Upon order of the circuit judge, any public funds or property remaining in a fair association when the association is dissolved shall be distributed by resolution of the board of directors to any county or any municipality within the county. The board may designate in the distribution resolution the public project that will benefit from the funds or the manner in which the property will be used. If property has been contributed by a municipality or county, the property shall be reconveyed to the municipality or county that gave the property to the association.~~

Section 47. Section 616.101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

616.101 Annual review of accounts and records; review of charter.—

(1) The accounts and records of a ~~every~~ fair association whose annual public fair has an annual attendance of more than 25,000, based upon recorded attendance from the previous year, must ~~shall~~ be reviewed annually by a qualified accountant licensed by the state. A fair association whose annual public fair has an annual attendance of 25,000 or fewer, based upon recorded attendance from the previous year, or a fair association that is holding an annual public fair for the first time, must submit an annual financial statement that has been signed by an officer of the county. The results of the reviews

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1770 ~~must shall~~ be kept in the official records of each association,  
1771 available to all directors of the association. A certified copy  
1772 of the review must ~~shall~~ be filed with the department:

1773 (a) ~~(1)~~ On request by the department to certify expenditures  
1774 of the premiums awarded to exhibitors of a fair or of building  
1775 funds if ~~when~~ there is evidence of a violation of state laws; or

1776 (b) ~~(2)~~ When the association is applying for a fair permit.

1777 (2) A fair association shall, every 5 years beginning July  
1778 1, 2026, review its charter and submit to the department a  
1779 certified copy of the charter which incorporates any amendment  
1780 made during the last 5 years. A designated member of the  
1781 association shall attest that the charter is accurate and  
1782 factual when submitting the certified copy to the department.

1783 Section 48. Section 616.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
1784 read:

1785 616.15 Permit from Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
1786 Services required.—

1787 (1) An annual public fair may not be conducted by a fair  
1788 association without a permit issued by the department. The  
1789 association shall present to the department an application for a  
1790 permit, signed by an officer of the association, at least 90  
1791 calendar days ~~3 months~~ before holding the annual public fair.  
1792 The application must ~~shall~~ be accompanied by a fee in an amount  
1793 to be determined by the department for processing the  
1794 application and making any required investigation. The  
1795 application fee must be at least \$183 and may not exceed \$366.  
1796 Fees collected under this subsection shall be deposited in the  
1797 General Inspection Trust Fund of the State Treasury in a special  
1798 account to be known as the "Agricultural and Livestock Fair

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Account." A copy of the application must be sent to each fair association located within 50 miles of the site of the proposed annual public fair at the same time the application is sent to the department. The department may issue a permit if the applicant provides:

(a) The opening and closing dates of the proposed annual public fair.

(b) The name and address of the owner of the central amusement attraction that will operate during the annual public fair.

(c) An affidavit properly executed by the president or chief executive officer of the applicant association certifying the existence of a binding contract entered into by the association and the owner of the central amusement attraction covering the period for which the permit from the department is applied. The contract between the parties must ~~shall~~ be available for inspection by duly authorized agents of the department in administering this chapter.

(d) A copy of the association's charter which incorporates all amendments made ~~A written statement that the main purpose of the association is to conduct and operate a public fair and exposition, including the annual fair, for the benefit and development of the educational, agricultural, horticultural, livestock, charitable, historical, civic, cultural, scientific, and other resources of the geographical area the fair association represents and serves. The statement must be subscribed and acknowledged by an officer of the association before an officer authorized to take acknowledgments.~~

(e) A premium list of the current annual public fair to be

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conducted and ~~or~~ a copy of the previous year's premium list showing all premiums and awards to be offered to exhibitors in various departments of the annual public fair, which may include, but are not limited to, art exhibition;; beef cattle;; county exhibits;; dairy cattle;; horticulture;; swine;; ~~women's department;~~ 4-H Club activities;; Future Farmers of America activities; Family, Career and Community Leaders of America ~~Future Homemakers of America~~ activities;; poultry and egg exhibits;; and community exhibits. The premium list, which may be submitted separately from the application, must be submitted at least 60 calendar days before the annual public fair begins operation.

(f) A complete listing of all exhibits required pursuant to s. 616.17 ~~Proof of liability insurance insuring the association against liability for injury to persons, in an amount of not less than \$300,000 per occurrence.~~

~~(g) A copy of the most recent review.~~

~~(h) A list of all current members of the board of directors of the association and their contact information, including home address.~~

The department shall issue the permit within 10 calendar days after it receives ~~all~~ the information required by this subsection ~~and the applicant qualifies pursuant to this section.~~

(2) At least 21 calendar days before holding the annual public fair, the association shall present the department with all of the following information:

(a) Proof of liability insurance insuring the association against liability for injury to persons, in an amount not less



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1857 than \$300,000 per occurrence.

1858 (b) A copy of the association's most recent annual  
1859 financial statement pursuant to s. 616.101.

1860 (c) A list of all current members of the board of directors  
1861 of the association and their contact information, including  
1862 mailing addresses.

1863 (3)~~(2)~~ The department shall administer and enforce ~~the~~  
1864 ~~provisions of~~ this chapter except as to the regulation of games,  
1865 which shall be regulated by local law enforcement agencies. The  
1866 department shall adopt rules to administer this chapter,  
1867 including rules governing the form and contents of the  
1868 application for the permit and any reports that it deems ~~may~~  
1869 ~~deem~~ necessary in enforcing the provisions of this chapter.

1870 (4)~~(3)~~ Notwithstanding any fair association meeting the  
1871 requirements set forth in subsection (1), the department may  
1872 order a full investigation to determine if the fair association  
1873 meets the requirements of this part ~~s. 616.01~~, and may withhold  
1874 a permit from, deny a permit to, or withdraw a permit once  
1875 issued to the association. The department shall also consider  
1876 whether any proposed annual public fair, as set forth in an  
1877 application for a permit, will compete with another annual  
1878 public fair within 50 miles of the proposed annual public fair  
1879 with respect to name, dates of operation, or market. The  
1880 department may deny, withhold, or withdraw a permit from a fair  
1881 association if the department determines that such fair  
1882 association will compete with another association. The  
1883 department shall give preference to existing fair associations  
1884 with established dates, locations, and names. The determination  
1885 by the department is final.

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1886 Section 49. Section 616.251, Florida Statutes, is amended  
1887 to read:

1888 616.251 Florida State Fair Authority; creation;  
1889 responsibility for staging annual state fair; exemptions.—

1890 (1) There is created and constituted the "Florida State  
1891 Fair Authority," a public body corporate and politic, for the  
1892 purposes and with the powers set forth in this part. Such  
1893 instrumentality, hereinafter referred to as "the authority,"  
1894 shall have perpetual succession. For the purposes of  
1895 implementing the intent of this part, the authority shall be  
1896 considered an instrumentality of the state, subject to the  
1897 jurisdiction of the state. Any conflict with respect to that  
1898 jurisdiction will be resolved by the authority and respective  
1899 state agencies.

1900 (2) The authority shall operate under the supervision of  
1901 the Commissioner of Agriculture, which supervision may include,  
1902 but is not limited to, assisting, advising, and making  
1903 recommendations regarding the financing and operation of the  
1904 authority. In assisting and advising the authority, the  
1905 Commissioner of Agriculture may make appropriate staff of the  
1906 department available to the authority.

1907 (3) The authority is charged with the responsibility of  
1908 staging an annual fair to serve the entire state. Cash premiums  
1909 or awards may be given to exhibitors.

1910 (4) The authority shall be exempt from the requirements of  
1911 part I of this chapter.

1912 (5)~~(4)~~ The principal offices of the authority shall be in  
1913 such place or places in or near the City of Tampa as the  
1914 authority may from time to time designate.

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1915 Section 50. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section  
1916 624.4032, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1917 624.4032 Nonprofit agricultural organization medical  
1918 benefit plans.—

1919 (2) For purposes of this section, the term "nonprofit  
1920 agricultural organization" means an organization that meets all  
1921 of the following criteria:

1922 (b) Is exempt from federal income tax under s. 501(c)(5) ~~s.~~  
1923 ~~501(e)(3)~~ of the Internal Revenue Code.

1924 Section 51. Subsection (1) of section 843.085, Florida  
1925 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (5) of that section is  
1926 republished, to read:

1927 843.085 Unlawful use of badges or other indicia of  
1928 authority.—

1929 (1) It is unlawful for any person, unless appointed by the  
1930 Governor pursuant to chapter 354, authorized by the appropriate  
1931 agency, or displayed in a closed or mounted case as a collection  
1932 or exhibit, to wear or display any authorized indicia of  
1933 authority, including any badge, insignia, emblem, identification  
1934 card, or uniform, or any colorable imitation thereof, of any  
1935 federal, state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency, or  
1936 other criminal justice agency as defined in s. 943.045, with the  
1937 intent to mislead or cause another person to believe that he or  
1938 she is a member of that agency or is authorized to display or  
1939 wear such item, or to wear or display any item that displays in  
1940 any manner or combination the word or words "police,"  
1941 "patrolman," "patrolwoman," "agent," "sheriff," "deputy,"  
1942 "trooper," "highway patrol," "commission officer," "Wildlife  
1943 Officer," "Department of Environmental Protection officer,"

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1944 "Marine Patrol Officer," "state attorney," "public defender,"  
1945 "marshal," "constable," "bailiff," ~~or~~ "fire department,"  
1946 "concealed weapon permit," or "concealed weapon permitholder,"  
1947 with the intent to mislead or cause another person to believe  
1948 that he or she is a member of that agency, if applicable, or is  
1949 authorized to wear or display such item.

1950 (5) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor of the  
1951 first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.  
1952 775.083. This section is cumulative to any law now in force in  
1953 the state.

1954 Section 52. Subsection (27) is added to section 934.02,  
1955 Florida Statutes, to read:

1956 934.02 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

1957 (27) "Signal jamming device" means a device or process,  
1958 such as a phone jammer, global positioning systems blocker, or  
1959 other similar device designed to intentionally block, jam, or  
1960 interfere with radio communications, such as cellular and  
1961 personal communication services, police radar, or global  
1962 positioning systems.

1963 Section 53. Section 934.51, Florida Statutes, is created to  
1964 read:

1965 934.51 Possession, use, and sale of signal jamming device;  
1966 prohibition; exceptions; penalties.—

1967 (1) PROHIBITION.—It is unlawful to possess, manufacture,  
1968 hold or offer for sale, sell, import, distribute, or use a  
1969 signal jamming device in this state.

1970 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—This section does not apply to a federal or  
1971 military law enforcement agency that lawfully installs, places,  
1972 or uses a signal jamming device as part of a criminal

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investigation, or to any person duly authorized by the Federal Communications Commission.

(3) PENALTIES.—A person who violates this section commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 54. (1) The Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc., the nonprofit corporation established in s. 573.112(7), Florida Statutes, is merged into the Citrus Research and Field Trial Foundation, Inc.

(2) The Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc., must enter into a plan with the Citrus Research and Field Trial Foundation, Inc., for the merger. Such merger must be completed by October 1, 2026. The merger is subject to chapter 617, Florida Statutes, related to the merger of nonprofit corporations.

(3) Any funds held in trust which were donated to or earned by the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc., shall be transferred to the Citrus Research and Field Trial Foundation, Inc., and shall be used for the original purposes of the funds.

(4) The transfer of any program, activity, duty, or function under this act includes the transfer of any records and unexpected balances of appropriations, allocations, or other funds related to such program, activity, duty, or function. Except as otherwise provided by law, the Citrus Research and Field Trial Foundation, Inc., shall become the custodian of any property of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc., on the date specified in the plan of merger or October 1, 2026, whichever occurs first.

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Section 55. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) and subsection (6) of section 288.1175, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

288.1175 Agriculture education and promotion facility.—

(4) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall certify a facility as an agriculture education and promotion facility if the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services determines that:

(a) The applicant is a unit of local government as defined in s. 218.369, or a fair association as defined in s. 616.001(8) ~~s. 616.001(11)~~, which is responsible for the planning, design, permitting, construction, renovation, management, and operation of the agriculture education and promotion facility or holds title to the property on which such facility is to be developed and located.

(6) Funds may not be expended to develop or subsidize privately owned facilities, except for facilities owned by fair associations as defined in s. 616.001(8) ~~s. 616.001(11)~~.

Section 56. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 287.1351, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (4) of section 287.056, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

287.056 Purchases from purchasing agreements and state term contracts; vendor disqualification.—

(4) A firm or individual placed on the suspended vendor list pursuant to s. 287.1351 or placed on a disqualified vendor list pursuant to s. 287.133 or s. 287.134 is immediately disqualified from state term contract eligibility.

Section 57. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 287.1351, Florida Statutes, in a

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reference thereto, subsection (5) of section 287.138, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

287.138 Contracting with entities of foreign countries of concern prohibited.—

(5) The Attorney General may bring a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction against an entity that violates this section. Violations of this section may result in:

(a) A civil penalty equal to twice the amount of the contract for which the entity submitted a bid or proposal for, replied to, or entered into;

(b) Ineligibility to enter into, renew, or extend any contract, including any grant agreements, with any governmental entity for up to 5 years;

(c) Ineligibility to receive or renew any license, certification, or credential issued by a governmental entity for up to 5 years; and

(d) Placement on the suspended vendor list pursuant to s. 287.1351.

Section 58. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 500.04, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 500.177, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

500.177 Penalty for violation of s. 500.04; dissemination of false advertisement.—

(1) Any person who violates any provision of s. 500.04 is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083; but, if the violation is committed after a conviction of such person under this section has become final, such person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the

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first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 59. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 616.07, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (13) of section 212.08, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.

(13) LIMITATIONS ON EXEMPTIONS.—No transactions shall be exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter except those expressly exempted herein. All laws granting tax exemptions, to the extent they may be inconsistent or in conflict with this chapter, including, but not limited to, the following designated laws, shall yield to and be superseded by the provisions of this subsection: ss. 125.019, 153.76, 154.2331, 159.15, 159.31, 159.50, 159.708, 163.385, 163.395, 215.76, 243.33, 315.11, 348.65, 348.762, 349.13, 403.1834, 616.07, and 623.09, and the following Laws of Florida, acts of the year indicated: s. 31, chapter 30843, 1955; s. 19, chapter 30845, 1955; s. 12, chapter 30927, 1955; s. 8, chapter 31179, 1955; s. 15, chapter 31263, 1955; s. 13, chapter 31343, 1955; s. 16, chapter 59-1653; s. 13, chapter 59-1356; s. 12, chapter 61-2261; s. 19, chapter 61-2754; s. 10, chapter 61-2686; s. 11, chapter 63-1643; s. 11, chapter 65-1274; s. 16, chapter 67-1446; and s. 10, chapter 67-1681. This subsection does not supersede the authority of a local



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government to adopt financial and local government incentives pursuant to s. 163.2517.

Section 60. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 616.15, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, section 616.185, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

616.185 Trespass upon grounds or facilities of public fair; penalty; arrests.—

(1) For the purposes of this chapter, trespass upon the grounds of the Florida State Fair Authority or any other fair association permitted under s. 616.15 means:

(a) Entering and remaining upon any grounds or facilities owned, operated, or controlled by the Florida State Fair Authority or any other association permitted under s. 616.15 and committing any act that disrupts the orderly conduct of any authorized activity of the fair association in charge, or its lessees, licensees, or the general public on those grounds or facilities; or

(b) Entering and remaining on those grounds or facilities after being directed not to enter or to leave them by the executive director of the authority, chief administrative officer of the fair association, or any employee or agent of the association designated by the executive director or administrator to maintain order on those grounds and facilities, after a determination by the executive director, administrator, employee, or agent that the entering or remaining on those grounds or facilities is in violation of the rules and regulations of the Florida State Fair Authority or permitted fair association or is disrupting the orderly conduct of any

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2118 authorized activity of the fair association in charge, or its  
2119 lessees, licensees, or the general public on those grounds or  
2120 facilities.

2121 (2) Any person committing the offense of trespass upon the  
2122 grounds of the Florida State Fair Authority or any other fair  
2123 association permitted under s. 616.15 commits a misdemeanor of  
2124 the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.  
2125 775.083.

2126 (3) A law enforcement officer may arrest any person on or  
2127 off the premises, without a warrant, if the officer has probable  
2128 cause for believing such person has committed the offense of  
2129 trespass upon the grounds of the Florida State Fair Authority or  
2130 any fair association permitted under s. 616.15. Such an arrest  
2131 does not render the law enforcement officer criminally or  
2132 civilly liable for false arrest, false imprisonment, or unlawful  
2133 detention.

2134 Section 61. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.