2011

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to title loans; amending s. 494.00797,
3	F.S.; exempting certain persons from specified financial
4	and lending regulations adopted by counties and
5	municipalities; amending s. 537.001, F.S.; conforming a
6	short title; amending s. 537.002, F.S.; revising
7	legislative intent; providing that regulation of title
8	loans is preempted to the state; amending s. 537.003,
9	F.S.; revising and providing definitions; transferring
10	regulation of title loans from the Office of Financial
11	Regulation to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
12	Services; amending s. 537.004, F.S.; prohibiting certain
13	activities at or within a certain proximity of title loan
14	offices; providing for deposit of certain moneys in the
15	General Inspection Trust Fund; amending s. 537.005, F.S.;
16	conforming provisions; amending s. 537.006, F.S.; revising
17	the grounds for disciplinary action against title loan
18	lenders; amending s. 537.007, F.S.; conforming provisions;
19	amending s. 537.008, F.S.; revising requirements for title
20	loan agreements, for transferring possession of the motor
21	vehicle's certificate of title, and for the recording and
22	releasing of liens against the motor vehicle; amending s.
23	537.009, F.S.; conforming provisions; amending s. 537.011,
24	F.S.; revising requirements for the accrual of interest on
25	title loans; prohibiting the extension, renewal, and
26	refinancing of title loans; authorizing certain fees and
27	charges associated with title loans; amending s. 537.012,
28	F.S.; revising requirements for the repossession and sale
	Page 1 of 34

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41 42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

of motor vehicles to satisfy unpaid title loans and for the disbursement of excess proceeds from such sales to the borrowers; limiting the liability of borrowers for unpaid title loans; authorizing a title loan lender to seek money damages against a borrower under certain circumstances; amending s. 537.013, F.S.; revising and providing additional prohibited acts by title loan lenders or any agents or employees thereof, to which penalties apply; amending s. 537.014, F.S.; revising requirements for rescission of a title loan agreement; deleting procedures for lost, destroyed, or stolen tile loan agreements; deleting a provision prohibiting a title loan lender from imposing a fee for providing the borrower with a copy of the title loan agreement; amending ss. 537.015, 537.016, and 537.017, F.S.; conforming provisions; repealing s. 537.018, F.S., relating to the authority of counties and municipalities to adopt more restrictive ordinances regulating title loans; providing an effective date. Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

50 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 494.00797, Florida 51 Statutes, is amended to read:

52 494.00797 General rule.—All counties and municipalities of 53 this state are prohibited from enacting and enforcing 54 ordinances, resolutions, and rules regulating financial or 55 lending activities, including ordinances, resolutions, and rules 56 disqualifying persons from doing business with a city, county, Page 2 of 34

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

hb0877-00

57 or municipality based upon lending interest rates or imposing 58 reporting requirements or any other obligations upon persons regarding financial services or lending practices of persons or 59 entities, and any subsidiaries or affiliates thereof, who: 60 61 Are subject to the jurisdiction of the office or the (1) Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, including for 62 63 activities subject to this chapter, except entities licensed 64 under s. 537.004; 65 Proof of noncompliance with this act can be used by a city, 66 67 county, or municipality of this state to disqualify a vendor or 68 contractor from doing business with a city, county, or municipality of this state. 69 70 Section 2. Section 537.001, Florida Statutes, is amended 71 to read: 72 537.001 Short title.-This chapter act may be cited as the 73 "Florida Title Loan Act." 74 Section 3. Section 537.002, Florida Statutes, is amended 75 to read: 76 537.002 Legislative intent; application; preemption.-77 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature in the creation of 78 this chapter that title loans to consumers be regulated by the 79 provisions of this chapter act. The provisions of This chapter 80 supersedes act supersede any provision other provisions of state law affecting title loans to the extent of any conflict. 81 82 (2) The regulation of all aspects of the business of 83 offering title loans as provided in this chapter is preempted to 84 the state. Any such regulation adopted by a county or

Page 3 of 34

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

2011 85 municipality, regardless of when adopted, is void. 86 Section 4. Section 537.003, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 87 537.003 Definitions.-As used in this chapter act, the term 88 89 unless the context otherwise requires: 90 (1) "Commercially reasonable" has the same meaning as used 91 in part VI part V of chapter 679. In addition, nonpublic sales 92 or disposal of personal property between a title loan lender and 93 any business affiliates of a title loan lender or a member of a title loan lender's family are presumed not to be made in a 94 95 commercially reasonable manner. (2) "Commission" means the Financial Services Commission. 96 (2) (3) "Consumer" means an individual borrowing money for 97 98 personal, family, or household purposes. 99 "Department" means the Department of Agriculture and (3) 100 Consumer Services. "Division" means the Division of Consumer Services of 101 (4) 102 the department. (4) "Office" means the Office of Financial Regulation of 103 104 the commission. 105 (5) "Executive officer" means the president, chief executive officer, chief financial officer, chief operating 106 107 officer, executive vice president, senior vice president, 108 secretary, and treasurer. "Identification" means a government-issued 109 (6) 110 photographic identification. "Interest" means the cost of obtaining a title loan 111 (7)and includes any profit or advantage of any kind whatsoever that 112 Page 4 of 34

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

hb0877-00

113 a title loan lender may charge, contract for, collect, receive, 114 or in any way obtain as a result of a title loan.

(8) "License" means a permit issued under this <u>chapter</u> act to make or service title loans in accordance with this <u>chapter</u> act at a single title loan office.

118 (9) "Licensee" means a person who is licensed as a title 119 loan lender.

120 (10) "Loan property" means any motor vehicle certificate 121 of title that is deposited with a title loan lender as a 122 security for a title loan in the course of the title loan 123 lender's business.

124 <u>(10) (11)</u> "Motor vehicle" means an automobile, motorcycle, 125 mobile home, truck, trailer, semitrailer, truck tractor and 126 semitrailer combination, or any other vehicle operated on the 127 public highways and streets of this state, used to transport 128 persons or property, and propelled by power other than muscular 129 power, but excluding a vehicle which runs only upon a track and 130 a mobile home that is the primary residence of the owner.

131 <u>(11)(12)</u> "Title loan" or "loan" means a loan of money to a 132 consumer secured by <u>a nonpurchase money security interest in</u> 133 bailment of a certificate of title to a motor vehicle, except 134 such loan made by a person licensed under chapter 516, chapter 135 520, chapter 655, chapter 657, chapter 658, chapter 660, chapter 136 663, chapter 665, or chapter 667 or a person who complies with 137 s. 687.03.

138 <u>(12) (13)</u> "Title loan agreement" or "agreement" means a 139 written agreement in which a title loan lender agrees to make a 140 title loan to a borrower.

Page 5 of 34

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

141 142

(13) (14) "Title loan lender" or "lender" means any person who engages in the business of making or servicing title loans.

(14) (15) "Title loan office" means the location at which, 143 144 or premises from which, a title loan lender regularly conducts 145 business under this chapter or any other location that is held 146 out to the public as a location at which a lender makes or 147 services title loans.

148 (16) "Titled personal property" means a motor vehicle that 149 has as evidence of ownership a state-issued certificate of title except for a mobile home that is the primary residence of the 150 151 borrower.

152 (15) (17) "Ultimate equitable owner" means a person who, 153 directly or indirectly, owns or controls an ownership interest 154 in a corporation, a foreign corporation, an alien business 155 organization, or any other form of business organization, 156 regardless of whether such person owns or controls such 157 ownership interest through one or more persons or one or more 158 proxies, powers of attorney, nominees, corporations, 159 associations, partnerships, trusts, joint stock companies, or 160 other entities or devices, or any combination thereof.

161 Section 5. Section 537.004, Florida Statutes, is amended 162 to read:

163

537.004 License required; license fees.-

164 A person may not act as a title loan lender or own or (1) 165 operate a title loan office unless such person has an active title loan lender license issued by the division office under 166 167 this chapter act. A title loan lender may not own or operate more than one title loan office unless the lender obtains a 168

Page 6 of 34

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

ΗB	87	7
----	----	---

169 separate title loan lender license for each title loan office. A 170 title loan lender may not own or operate a title loan office 171 that: 172 (a) Offers or makes deferred presentment transactions as 173 defined in s. 560.402; or 174 (b) Is located within 1,000 feet of any location owned or 175 operated by a person who shares a common ultimate equitable 176 ownership interest with the title loan lender, if title loans or 177 deferred presentment transactions are offered or made at such 178 location. 179 (2) A person applying for licensure as a title loan lender 180 shall file with the division office an application, the bond required by s. 537.005(3), a nonrefundable application fee of 181 182 \$1,200, a nonrefundable investigation fee of \$200, and a complete set of fingerprints taken by an authorized law 183 184 enforcement officer. The division office shall submit such 185 fingerprints to the Department of Law Enforcement for state 186 processing, and the Department of Law Enforcement shall forward 187 the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for 188 national processing.

189 (3) If the <u>division</u> office determines that an application
190 should be approved, the <u>division</u> office shall issue a license
191 for a period not to exceed 2 years.

(4) A license <u>must shall</u> be renewed biennially by filing a
renewal form and a nonrefundable renewal fee of \$1,200. A
license that is not renewed by the end of the biennial period
shall automatically <u>reverts</u> revert to inactive status. An
inactive license may be reactivated within 6 months after

Page 7 of 34

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

197 becoming inactive by filing a reactivation form, payment of the 198 nonrefundable \$1,200 renewal fee, and payment of a nonrefundable 199 reactivation fee of \$600. A license that is not reactivated 200 within 6 months after becoming inactive may not be reactivated 201 and shall automatically expires expire. The department 202 commission shall adopt rules establishing establish by rule the 203 procedures for the renewal and reactivation of a license and 204 prescribing shall adopt a renewal form and a reactivation form.

(5) Each license must be conspicuously displayed at the title loan office. When A licensee <u>must give the division</u> written notice before moving wishes to move a title loan office to another location, the licensee shall provide prior written notice to the office.

(6) A license issued <u>under pursuant to</u> this <u>chapter</u> act is
 not transferable or assignable.

212 (7) Each licensee <u>must</u> shall designate and maintain a
 213 registered agent in this state for service of process.

(8) Whenever A person or a group of persons who, directly
or indirectly, or acting by or through one or more persons,
<u>purchases proposes to purchase</u> or <u>acquires</u> acquire a <u>50-percent</u>
50 percent or more interest in a licensee, <u>must</u> such person or
group shall submit an initial application for licensure under
this <u>chapter before</u> act prior to such purchase or acquisition.

(9) The <u>department</u> commission may adopt rules <u>authorizing</u>
 <u>the</u> to allow for electronic filing of applications, fees, and
 forms required by this <u>chapter</u> act.

(10) All moneys collected by the <u>division</u> office under this <u>chapter</u> act shall be deposited into the <u>General Inspection</u> Page 8 of 34

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

225 Regulatory Trust Fund of the department office.

226 Section 6. Section 537.005, Florida Statutes, is amended 227 to read:

228

537.005 Application for license.-

(1) A verified application for licensure under this chapter act, in the form prescribed by <u>department</u> commission rule, must shall:

(a) Contain the name and the residence and business
address of the applicant. If the applicant is other than a
natural person, the application <u>must</u> shall contain the name and
the residence and business address of each ultimate equitable
owner of 10 percent or more of such entity and each director,
general partner, and executive officer of such entity.

(b) State whether any individual identified in paragraph
(a) has, within the last 10 years, pleaded nolo contendere to,
or has been convicted or found guilty of, a felony, regardless
of whether adjudication was withheld.

(c) Identify the county and municipality with the streetand number or location where the business is to be conducted.

(d) Contain additional information as the <u>department</u>
 commission determines by rule to be necessary to ensure
 compliance with this <u>chapter</u> act.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the application need
not state the full name and address of each officer, director,
and shareholder if the applicant is owned directly or
beneficially by a person who as an issuer has a class of
securities registered pursuant to s. 12 of the Securities
Exchange Act of 1934 or, pursuant to s. 13 or s. 15(d) of such

Page 9 of 34

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

hb0877-00

act, is an issuer of securities which is required to file reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission, if the person files with the <u>division</u> office any information, documents, and reports required by such act to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

258 An applicant for licensure shall file with the (3) 259 division office a bond, in the amount of \$100,000 for each license, with a surety company qualified to do business in this 260 261 state. However, in no event shall the aggregate amount of the 262 bond required for a single title loan lender may not exceed \$1 263 million. In lieu of the bond, the applicant may establish a 264 certificate of deposit or an irrevocable letter of credit in a financial institution, as defined in s. 655.005, in the amount 265 266 of the bond. The original bond, certificate of deposit, or letter of credit must shall be filed with the division office, 267 and the department must office shall be the beneficiary to that 268 269 document. The bond, certificate of deposit, or letter of credit 270 must shall be in favor of the department office for the use and 271 benefit of any consumer who is injured pursuant to a title loan 272 transaction by the fraud, misrepresentation, breach of contract, 273 financial failure, or violation of any provision of this chapter 274 act by the title loan lender. Such liability may be enforced 275 either by proceeding in an administrative action or by filing a judicial suit at law in a court of competent jurisdiction. 276 277 However, in such court suit, the bond, certificate of deposit, 278 or letter of credit posted with the division is office shall not be amenable or subject to any judgment or other legal process 279 280 issuing out of or from such court in connection with such

Page 10 of 34

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

hb0877-00

281 lawsuit, but such bond, certificate of deposit, or letter of 282 credit is shall be amenable to and enforceable only by and 283 through administrative proceedings before the division office. It is the intent of the Legislature that such bond, certificate 284 285 of deposit, or letter of credit shall be applicable and liable only for the payment of claims duly adjudicated by order of the 286 287 division office. The bond, certificate of deposit, or letter of 288 credit shall be payable on a pro rata basis as determined by the 289 division office, but the aggregate amount may not exceed the 290 amount of the bond, certificate of deposit, or letter of credit.

(4) The <u>division</u> office shall approve an application and
issue a license if the <u>division</u> office determines that the
applicant satisfies the requirements of this <u>chapter</u> act.

294 Section 7. Section 537.006, Florida Statutes, is amended 295 to read:

296

537.006 Denial, suspension, or revocation of license.-

(1) The following acts are violations of this <u>chapter</u> act and constitute grounds for the disciplinary actions specified in subsection (2):

300 (a) Failure to comply with any provision of this <u>chapter</u>
301 act, any rule or order adopted <u>under pursuant to</u> this <u>chapter</u>
302 act, or any written agreement entered into with the <u>division</u>
303 office.

304 (b) Fraud, misrepresentation, deceit, or gross negligence
305 in any title loan transaction, regardless of reliance by or
306 damage to the borrower.

307 (c) Fraudulent misrepresentation, circumvention, or 308 concealment of any matter required to be stated or furnished to Page 11 of 34

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

309 a borrower <u>under pursuant to</u> this <u>chapter</u> act, regardless of 310 reliance by or damage to the borrower.

311 (d) Imposition of illegal or <u>unauthorized</u> excessive 312 charges in any title loan transaction.

313 (e) False, deceptive, or misleading advertising by a title314 loan lender.

(f) Failure to maintain, preserve, and keep available for examination all books, accounts, or other documents required by this <u>chapter</u> act, by any rule or order adopted <u>under</u> pursuant to this <u>chapter</u> act, or by any agreement entered into with the division office.

(g) Aiding, abetting, or conspiring by a title loan lender
with a person to circumvent or violate any of the requirements
of this chapter act.

(h) Refusal to provide information upon request of the division office, to permit inspection of books and records in an investigation or examination by the <u>division</u> office, or to comply with a subpoena issued by the <u>division</u> office.

327 (i) Pleading nolo contendere to or having been convicted 328 or found guilty, regardless of whether adjudication was 329 withheld, of a crime involving fraud, dishonest dealing, or any 330 act of moral turpitude or acting as an ultimate equitable owner 331 of 10 percent or more of a licensee who has pleaded pled nolo 332 contendere to or has been convicted or found guilty, regardless of whether adjudication was withheld, of a crime involving 333 fraud, dishonest dealing, or any act of moral turpitude. 334

(j) Making or having made material misstatement of fact inan initial or renewal application for a license.

Page 12 of 34

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

hb0877-00

337 Having been the subject of any decision, finding, (k) 338 injunction, suspension, prohibition, revocation, denial, 339 judgment, or administrative order by any court of competent 340 jurisdiction or administrative law judge, or by any state or 341 federal agency, involving a violation of any federal or state 342 law relating to title loans or any rule or regulation adopted 343 under such law, or has been the subject of any injunction or 344 adverse administrative order by a state or federal agency regulating banking, insurance, finance or small loan companies, 345 real estate, mortgage brokers, or other related or similar 346 347 industries for acts involving fraud, dishonest dealing, or any 348 act of moral turpitude.

349 (1) Failing to continuously maintain the bond, certificate
 350 of deposit, or letter of credit required <u>under by</u> s. 537.005(3).

(m) Failing to timely pay any fee, charge, or fine imposed
or assessed <u>under pursuant to</u> this <u>chapter</u> act or rules adopted
under this <u>chapter</u> act.

(n) Having a license or registration, or the equivalent,
to practice any profession or occupation denied, suspended,
revoked, or otherwise acted against by a licensing authority in
any jurisdiction for fraud, dishonest dealing, or any act of
moral turpitude.

(o) Having demonstrated unworthiness, as defined by
 <u>department</u> commission rule, to transact the business of a title
 loan lender.

362 (2) Upon a finding by the <u>division</u> office that any person
363 has committed any of the acts set forth in subsection (1), the
364 division office may enter an order taking one or more of the

Page 13 of 34

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

hb0877-00

365 following actions:

366 (a) Denying an application for licensure under this367 chapter act.

368 (b) Revoking or suspending a license previously granted
 369 under pursuant to this chapter act.

370 (c) Placing a licensee or an applicant for a license on
371 probation for a period of time and subject to such conditions as
372 the division office specifies.

373

(d) Issuing a reprimand.

374 (e) Imposing an administrative fine not to exceed \$5,000375 for each separate act or violation.

(3) If a person seeking licensure is anything other than a
natural person, the eligibility requirements of this section
apply to each direct or ultimate equitable owner of 10 percent
or more of the outstanding equity interest of such entity and to
each director, general partner, and executive officer.

(4) It is sufficient cause for the <u>division</u> office to take any of the actions specified in subsection (2), as to any entity other than a natural person, if the <u>division</u> office finds grounds for such action as to any member of such entity, as to any executive officer or director of the entity, or as to any person with power to direct the management or policies of the entity.

(5) Each licensee is subject to the provisions of subsection (2) for the acts of employees and agents of the licensee if the licensee knew or should have known about such acts.

392 (6) Licensure under this <u>chapter</u> act may be denied or any Page 14 of 34

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

hb0877-00

393 license issued under this <u>chapter</u> act may be suspended or 394 restricted if an applicant or licensee is charged, in a pending 395 enforcement action or pending criminal prosecution, with any 396 conduct that would authorize denial or revocation under this 397 section.

398 Section 8. Section 537.007, Florida Statutes, is amended 399 to read:

537.007 Remedies for title loans made without licensure.-400 401 Any title loan made without benefit of a license is void, in 402 which case the person making the title loan forfeits the right 403 to collect any moneys, including principal and interest charged 404 on the title loan, from the borrower in connection with such 405 agreement. The person making the title loan must shall return to 406 the borrower the loan property, the titled personal property pledged or the fair market value of such titled personal 407 408 property, and all principal and interest paid by the borrower. 409 The borrower is entitled to receive reasonable attorney's fees 410 and costs in any action brought by the borrower to recover from 411 the person making the title loan the loan property, the titled 412 personal property, or the principal and interest paid by the 413 borrower.

414 Section 9. Section 537.008, Florida Statutes, is amended 415 to read:

416

537.008 Title loan agreement.-

(1) <u>When</u> At the time a title loan lender makes a title
loan, the lender and the borrower shall execute a title loan
agreement, which <u>must</u> shall be legibly typed or written in
indelible ink and completed as to all essential provisions

Page 15 of 34

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

hb0877-00

421 before prior to execution by the borrower and lender. The title 422 loan agreement must shall include the following information: 423 The make, model, and year of the motor vehicle that (a) 424 serves as collateral for titled personal property to which the 425 loan property relates. 426 The vehicle identification number, or other comparable (b) 427 identification number, along with the license plate number, if 428 applicable, of the motor vehicle that serves as collateral for 429 titled personal property to which the loan property relates. 430 The name, residential address, date of birth, physical (C) 431 description, and social security number of the borrower. 432 The date upon which the title loan agreement is (d) 433 executed by the title loan lender and the borrower. 434 (e) The identification number and the type of 435 identification, including the issuing agency, accepted from the 436 borrower. 437 (f) The amount of money advanced, designated as the "amount financed." 438 439 (f) - (g) The maturity date of the title loan agreement, 440 which must shall be at least 120 $\frac{30}{20}$ days, but not more than 1 441 year, after the date upon which the title loan agreement is 442 executed by the title loan lender and the borrower. 443 (h) The total title loan interest payable on the maturity 444 date, designated as the "finance charge." 445 (i) The amount financed plus finance charge, which must be 446 paid to reclaim the loan property on the maturity date, designated as the "total amount of all payments." 447 448 (g) (j) The "amount financed," "finance charge," "total of Page 16 of 34

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIV	FL	OR	IDA	ΗΟU	SΕ	ΟF	RΕ	PRE	SΕ	ΝΤ	ΑΤΙ	VE	S
--------------------------------	----	----	-----	-----	----	----	----	-----	----	----	-----	----	---

2011

449	payments," and "annual percentage rate" interest rate, computed
450	and disclosed in accordance with the federal Truth in Lending
451	Act and regulations adopted by the Federal Reserve Board under
452	pursuant to the federal Truth in Lending act., designated as the
453	
454	(2) The following information <u>must</u> shall also be printed
455	on all title loan agreements:
456	(a) The name and physical address of the title loan
457	office.
458	(b) The name and address of the <u>division</u> Department of
459	Financial Services as well as a telephone number to which
460	consumers may address complaints.
461	(c) The following statement in <u>at least</u> not less than 12-
462	point, boldface type, immediately above the borrower's signature
463	that:
464	
465	THE INTEREST RATE ON THIS LOAN IS HIGH. YOU SHOULD
466	CONSIDER WHETHER THERE ARE OTHER LOWER COST LOANS
467	AVAILABLE TO YOU.
468	
469	THIS IS A MOTOR VEHICLE TITLE LOAN AGREEMENT. IT ALLOWS
470	YOU TO RECEIVE LOAN PROCEEDS TO MEET YOUR IMMEDIATE CASH
471	NEEDS. IT IS NOT INTENDED TO MEET YOUR LONG-TERM FINANCIAL
472	NEEDS.
473	
474	WHEN USING THIS LOAN, YOU SHOULD REQUEST THE MINIMUM
475	AMOUNT REQUIRED TO MEET YOUR IMMEDIATE NEEDS AND REPAY THE
476	LOAN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF
I	Page 17 of 34

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

F	L	0	R	D	А	F	ł	0	U	S	Е	0	F	R	Е	Ρ	R	Е	S	Е	Ν	Т	A	Т	-	I '	V	Е	S

2011

477	INTEREST YOU ARE CHARGED.
478	
479	YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON
480	THE LOAN IN SUBSTANTIALLY EQUAL MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS. YOU
481	SHOULD TRY TO PAY EVEN MORE TOWARD YOUR PRINCIPAL BALANCE
482	EACH MONTH. DOING SO WILL SAVE YOU MONEY.
483	
484	YOU MAY RESCIND THIS LOAN WITHOUT COST OR FURTHER
485	OBLIGATION IF YOU RETURN THE LOAN PROCEEDS IN CASH OR
486	RETURN THE ORIGINAL LOAN CHECK BEFORE THE CLOSE OF
487	BUSINESS ON THE BUSINESS DAY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE
488	DATE UPON WHICH THIS AGREEMENT IS EXECUTED.
489	
490	YOU ARE PLEDGING YOUR MOTOR VEHICLE AS COLLATERAL FOR THIS
491	LOAN. IF YOU FAIL TO REPAY THE LOAN ACCORDING TO THIS
492	AGREEMENT, WE MAY REPOSSESS YOUR MOTOR VEHICLE.
493	
494	UNLESS YOU CONCEAL OR INTENTIONALLY DAMAGE THE MOTOR
495	VEHICLE OR OTHERWISE IMPAIR OUR SECURITY INTEREST BY
496	PLEDGING THE MOTOR VEHICLE TO A THIRD PARTY OR PLEDGING A
497	MOTOR VEHICLE TO US THAT IS ALREADY SUBJECT TO AN
498	UNDISCLOSED EXISTING LIEN, YOUR LIABILITY FOR DEFAULTING
499	UNDER THIS LOAN IS LIMITED TO THE LOSS OF THE MOTOR
500	VEHICLE.
501	
502	IF YOUR MOTOR VEHICLE IS SOLD DUE TO YOUR DEFAULT, YOU ARE
503	ENTITLED TO ANY SURPLUS OBTAINED AT SUCH SALE BEYOND WHAT
504	IS OWED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT AND ANY REASONABLE COSTS OF
ı.	Page 18 of 34

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

505 RECOVERY, STORAGE, AND SALE. 506 507 1. If the borrower fails to repay the full amount of the 508 title loan on or before the end of the maturity date or any 509 extension of the maturity date and fails to make a payment on 510 the title loan within 30 days after the end of the maturity date 511 or any extension of the maturity date, whichever 512 title loan lender may take possession of the borrower's motor 513 vehicle and sell the vehicle in the manner provided by law. If 514 the vehicle is sold, the borrower is entitled to any proceeds of the sale in excess of the amount owed on the title loan and the 515 516 reasonable expenses of repossession and sale. 517 2. If the title loan agreement is lost, destroyed, or 518 stolen, the borrower should immediately so advise the issuing 519 title loan lender in writing. 520 (d) The statement that "The borrower represents and warrants that the motor vehicle that serves as collateral for 521 titled personal property to which the title loan property 522 523 relates is not stolen and does not have any has no liens or 524 encumbrances against it, the borrower has the right to enter 525 into this transaction, and the borrower is prohibited from applying will not apply for a duplicate certificate of title 526 527 while the title loan agreement is in effect." 528 A blank line for the signature of the borrower and the (e) 529 title loan lender or the lender's agent. 530 531 Each owner All owners of the motor vehicle that serves as

532 collateral for the title loan titled personal property must sign Page 19 of 34

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

2011

later,

is

the

533 the title loan agreement.

(3) At the time of the transaction, the title loan lender
shall deliver to the borrower an exact copy of the executed
title loan agreement.

537 Upon execution of a title loan agreement, the title (4) 538 loan lender must may take possession of the certificate of title of the motor vehicle that serves as collateral for the loan, and 539 within 7 business days thereafter, record the lender's lien on 540 541 such title as provided by law. The title loan lender 542 subsequently retains property and retain possession of such 543 certificate of title property until the title loan such property 544 is repaid in full redeemed. The borrower shall have the 545 exclusive right to redeem the loan property by repaying all 546 amounts legally due under the agreement. When a title the loan 547 property is repaid in full redeemed, the lender shall 548 immediately release the lien on return the certificate of title 549 loan property and return the certificate of title to the 550 borrower commence action to release any security interest in the 551 titled personal property. During the term of the agreement or any extension of the agreement, a title loan lender may retain 552 553 physical possession of the loan property only. A title loan 554 lender may shall not require a borrower to provide any 555 additional collateral security or guaranty as a condition to 556 entering into a title loan transaction. A title loan lender may 557 not enter into a title loan agreement if the certificate of 558 title of the motor vehicle that serves as collateral for the 559 loan evidences that the motor vehicle is security for another 560 loan or is otherwise encumbered by a lien.

Page 20 of 34

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

561 Section 10. Section 537.009, Florida Statutes, is amended 562 to read:

563 537.009 Recordkeeping; reporting; safekeeping of 564 property.-

(1) <u>A</u> Every title loan lender shall maintain, at the lender's title loan office, such books, accounts, and records of the business conducted under the license issued for such place of business as will enable the <u>division</u> office to determine the licensee's compliance with this <u>chapter</u> act.

(2) The <u>division</u> office may authorize the maintenance of books, accounts, and records at a location other than the lender's title loan office. The <u>division</u> office may require books, accounts, and records to be produced and available at a reasonable and convenient location in this state within a reasonable period of time after such a request.

(3) <u>A</u> The title loan lender shall maintain the original
copy of each completed title loan agreement on the premises of
the title loan office premises, and may shall not obliterate,
discard, or destroy any such original copy, for a period of at
least 2 years after making the final entry on any loan recorded
in such office or after an examination by the division Office of
Financial Regulation, whichever is later.

(4) <u>A certificate of title that</u> Loan property which is <u>held by</u> delivered to a title loan lender <u>must</u> shall be securely stored and maintained at the title loan office unless the <u>certificate of title is</u> loan property has been forwarded to the appropriate state agency for the purpose of having a lien recorded or deleted.

Page 21 of 34

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

589	(5) The <u>department</u> commission may <u>adopt rules prescribing</u>
590	prescribe by rule the books, accounts, documents, and records,
591	and the minimum information to be shown in the books, accounts,
592	documents, and records, of licensees so that such records will
593	enable the <u>division</u> office to determine compliance with the
594	provisions of this <u>chapter</u> act . Such rules In addition, the
595	commission may <u>include</u> prescribe by rule requirements for the
596	destruction of books, accounts, records, and documents retained
597	by the licensee after completion of the time period specified in
598	subsection (3).
599	Section 11. Section 537.011, Florida Statutes, is amended
600	to read:
601	(Substantial rewording of section. See
602	s. 537.011, F.S., for present text.)
603	537.011 Title loan charges.—
604	(1) A licensee may charge and collect interest on a title
605	loan at rates not to exceed the following:
606	(a) Twenty-two percent per month on that portion of the
607	principal which does not exceed \$700.
608	(b) Eighteen percent per month on that portion of the
609	principal which exceeds \$700 but does not exceed \$1,400.
610	(c) Fifteen percent per month on that portion of the
611	principal which exceeds \$1,400.
612	(2) Interest may be charged only upon principal balances
613	outstanding from time to time. Interest may not be charged on an
614	add-on basis and may not be compounded, paid, deducted, or
615	received in advance. For title loans that exceed \$700, a
616	licensee may accrue interest using a single blended interest
	Page 22 of 34

Page 22 of 34

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

rate, but the interest charged may not exceed the maximum charge

HB	877
----	-----

617

618 allowed under subsection (1). 619 (3) Notwithstanding subsection (1) or any provision of a 620 title loan agreement, interest may not accrue on the principal 621 balance of a title loan after: 622 The date upon which the motor vehicle that serves as (a) 623 collateral for the title loan is repossessed by the licensee 624 making the loan. However, if the licensee allows the borrower to redeem the motor vehicle while any portion of the principal 625 626 balance remains unpaid, interest accrual may resume upon the 627 borrower's regaining possession of the motor vehicle; or 628 (b) The 60th day after the borrower fails to make a 629 monthly payment on the title loan as required by the loan 630 agreement, unless the borrower fails to surrender the motor 631 vehicle and conceals, thereby preventing repossession of, the motor vehicle. However, after the 60th day following the 632 633 borrower's failure to make a monthly payment but before the 634 licensee repossesses the motor vehicle, upon the borrower's 635 making all delinquent payments, interest accrual may resume and

636 <u>interest may be added to the borrower's principal balance for</u>
637 the period from the day that interest accrual ceased under this

638 paragraph through the date on which the borrower made all
639 delinquent payments.

640 (4) A title loan shall be a term loan providing for
641 repayment of the principal and interest in substantially equal
642 monthly installments of principal and interest. However, this
643 section does not prohibit a loan agreement from providing for an
644 odd first-payment period and an odd first payment greater than

Page 23 of 34

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

HB	877
----	-----

2011

645	other monthly payments because of such odd first-payment period.
646	(5) A title loan agreement may not be extended, renewed,
647	or refinanced.
648	(6) A licensee may impose a late charge for the borrower's
649	failure to make timely payment of any amount due under the loan
650	agreement, but such late charge may not exceed the amount
651	allowed under s. 516.031(3).
652	(7) A licensee must credit payments on the date received.
653	(8) In addition to the loan principal, interest, and fees
654	allowed under this section, a licensee may not directly or
655	indirectly charge, contract for, collect, receive, recover, or
656	require a borrower to pay any further or other fee, charge, or
657	amount whatsoever, except for:
658	(a) A licensee's actual cost of perfecting its security
659	interest in the motor vehicle that serves as collateral for the
660	borrower's obligations under the title loan agreement.
661	(b) The licensee's reasonable and actual costs of
662	repossession, storage, and sale of the motor vehicle, if the
663	borrower defaults under the terms of the title loan agreement.
664	(9) If any excess interest or fee is charged and such
665	charge resulted from a bona fide error by the title loan lender
666	or an agent of the title loan lender, the lender shall refund
667	the excess interest or fee to the borrower within 30 days after
668	discovery by the lender of the error or within 30 days after
669	notice of the error from the borrower, whichever occurs first.
670	(10) If any excess interest or fee is charged by the title
671	loan lender or an agent of the title loan lender in an effort to

Page 24 of 34

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

673	fees allowed by this chapter:
674	(a) The title loan agreement is void.
675	(b) The title loan lender must refund to the borrower any
676	interest paid on the title loan and return to the borrower the
677	certificate of title with the lender's lien released.
678	(c) The title loan lender forfeits the lender's right to
679	collect any principal owed by the borrower on the title loan.
680	
681	The division may order a title loan lender or an agent of the
682	title loan lender to comply with this subsection.
683	Section 12. Section 537.012, Florida Statutes, is amended
684	to read:
685	(Substantial rewording of section. See
686	<u>s. 537.012, F.S., for present text.)</u>
687	537.012 Limited liability for default of title loan;
688	repossession and disposal of pledged property; excess proceeds
689	(1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (5), a
690	licensee taking a security interest in a motor vehicle under
691	this chapter is limited, upon default by the borrower, to
692	seeking repossession of, preparing for sale of, and selling the
693	motor vehicle in accordance with Article 9 of the Uniform
694	Commercial Code as provided in chapter 679. The licensee may not
695	collect or charge the costs of repossessing and selling the
696	motor vehicle described in s. 537.011(8)(b) unless:
697	(a) The licensee, at least 10 days before repossessing the
698	motor vehicle, sends to the borrower, by first-class mail,
699	written notice advising the borrower that the title loan is in
700	default and stating that the motor vehicle may be repossessed
I	Page 25 of 3/

Page 25 of 34

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

2011

701	unless the principal and interest owed under the loan agreement
702	are paid; and
703	(b) The borrower does not pay such principal and interest
704	before the date that the motor vehicle is repossessed by, or at
705	the direction of, the licensee.
706	
707	A licensee may not repossess a motor vehicle securing a title
708	loan before the date specified in the notice required under this
709	subsection. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (5), a
710	licensee may not seek or obtain a personal money judgment
711	against a borrower for any amount owed under a loan agreement or
712	any deficiency resulting after the sale of a motor vehicle. If
713	the borrower voluntarily surrenders the motor vehicle, the
714	notice requirements of this subsection do not apply.
715	(2) At least 15 days before the sale of a motor vehicle, a
716	licensee must notify the borrower of the date and time after
717	which the motor vehicle is subject to sale and provide the
718	borrower with a written accounting of the principal amount due
719	to the licensee, interest accrued through the date that the
720	licensee took possession of the motor vehicle, and any
721	reasonable expenses incurred to date by the licensee in taking
722	possession of, preparing for sale of, storing, and selling the
723	motor vehicle. At any time before such sale, the licensee must
724	allow the borrower to redeem the motor vehicle by tendering cash
725	or any other valid funds instrument for the amount owed.
726	(3) Within 60 days after the licensee's receipt of funds
727	from the sale of a motor vehicle, the borrower is entitled to
728	

Page 26 of 34

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

	F	L	0	R		D	Α		Н	0	U	S	Е	(0	F		R	Е	Ρ	R	Е	S	Е	N	٦	Γ	А	Т		V	Е	S
--	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---

2011

I	
729	excess of the principal amount due to the licensee, interest
730	accrued through the date the licensee took possession, and the
731	reasonable expenses incurred by the licensee in taking
732	possession of, storing, preparing for sale of, and selling the
733	motor vehicle.
734	(4) Except in the case of fraud or a voluntary surrender
735	of the motor vehicle, a licensee may not take possession of a
736	motor vehicle until the borrower is in default under the loan
737	agreement. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the
738	repossession and sale of a motor vehicle is subject to Article 9
739	of the Uniform Commercial Code as provided in chapter 679.
740	(5) Notwithstanding any provision of law, upon default by
741	a borrower, a licensee may seek a personal money judgment
742	against the borrower for any amounts owed under the loan
743	agreement if the borrower impairs the licensee's security
744	interest by:
745	(a) Intentionally damaging or destroying the motor
746	vehicle;
747	(b) Intentionally concealing the motor vehicle;
748	(c) Giving the licensee a lien in a motor vehicle that is
749	already encumbered by an undisclosed prior lien; or
750	(d) Subsequently giving a security interest in, or
751	selling, the motor vehicle that serves as collateral for the
752	title loan to a third party without the licensee's written
753	consent.
754	Section 13. Section 537.013, Florida Statutes, is amended
755	to read:
756	537.013 Prohibited acts
I	Page 27 of 34

Page 27 of 34

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

757 (1) A title loan lender, or any agent or employee of a 758 title loan lender, may shall not:

759 <u>(1) (a)</u> Falsify or fail to make an entry of any material 760 matter in a title loan agreement or any extension of such 761 agreement.

762 (2) (b) Refuse to allow the <u>division</u> office to inspect 763 completed title loan agreements <u>and supporting documents</u>, 764 extensions of such agreements, or loan property during the 765 ordinary operating hours of the title loan lender's business or 766 other times acceptable to both parties.

767 (3) (c) Enter into a title loan agreement with a person
 768 younger than under the age of 18 years of age.

769 <u>(4) (d)</u> Make any agreement requiring or allowing for the 770 personal liability of a borrower <u>beyond the limits authorized in</u> 771 <u>s. 537.012</u> or the waiver of any <u>provision</u> of the provisions of 772 this <u>chapter</u> act.

773 <u>(5)(e)</u> Knowingly enter into a title loan agreement with 774 any person who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol when 775 such condition is visible or apparent, or with any person using 776 a name other than such person's own name or the registered name 777 of the person's business.

778 <u>(6)(f)</u> Fail to exercise reasonable care, as defined by 779 <u>department</u> commission rule, in the safekeeping of <u>certificates</u> 780 <u>of title</u> loan property or of <u>motor vehicles</u> titled personal 781 property repossessed under pursuant to this chapter act.

782 <u>(7) (g)</u> Fail to return <u>the borrower's certificate of title</u> 783 <u>and, if repossessed, the borrower's motor vehicle</u> loan property 784 or repossessed titled personal property to a borrower, with any Page 28 of 34

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

hb0877-00

785 and all of the title loan lender's liens on the motor vehicle 786 property properly released, upon payment of the full amount due 787 the title loan lender, unless the motor vehicle property has 788 been seized or impounded by an authorized law enforcement 789 agency, taken into custody by a court, or otherwise disposed of 790 by court order. If, while a title loan lender is awaiting return 791 of a certificate of title pending the recording of the lender's 792 lien, the borrower repays the title loan in full, the lender 793 shall release its lien and return the certificate of title to 794 the borrower within 3 days after regaining possession thereof. 795 (8) (h) Sell or otherwise charge for any type of insurance 796 in connection with a title loan agreement. 797 (9) (i) Intentionally charge or receive any finance charge, interest, or fees that which are not authorized under pursuant 798 799 to this chapter or fail to timely refund such unauthorized 800 finance charge, interest, or fees received due to a bona fide 801 error act. 802 (10) (i) Act as a title loan lender without an active 803 license issued under this chapter act. 804 (11) (k) Refuse to accept partial payments toward 805 satisfying any obligation owed under a title loan agreement or 806 extension of such agreement. 807 (12) (1) Charge a prepayment penalty. 808 (13) (m) Engage in the business of selling new or used 809 motor vehicles, or parts for motor vehicles. (14) (n) Act as a title loan lender under this chapter act 810 within a place of business in which the licensee solicits or 811 812 engages in business outside the scope of this chapter act if the Page 29 of 34

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

hb0877-00

813 <u>division</u> office determines that the licensee's operation of and 814 conduct pertaining to such other business results in an evasion 815 of this <u>chapter</u> act. Upon making such a determination, the 816 <u>division</u> office shall order the licensee to cease and desist 817 from such evasion; provided, no licensee shall engage in the 818 pawnbroker business.

819 (15) Engage in the pawnbroker business or deferred 820 presentment business or allow another person to engage in such 821 business at the licensee's title loan office.

822 (16) Cause a borrower to be obligated for a title loan for 823 a principal amount that exceeds 50 percent of the fair market 824 value of the motor vehicle in which the licensee is securing an 825 interest, which value shall be determined by reference to the 826 market value of similarly situated motor vehicles specified in a 827 recognized pricing guide, if included in such pricing guide.

828 (2) Title loan companies may not advertise using the words 829 "interest free loans" or "no finance charges."

830 Section 14. Section 537.014, Florida Statutes, is amended 831 to read:

832 (Substantial rewording of section. See

833 s. 537.014, F.S., for present text.)

834 537.014 Right of rescission.-A licensee shall allow a

835 borrower under a title loan agreement to rescind the title loan

836 without cost or further obligation if the borrower returns the

837 <u>full amount of the loan proceeds in cash or returns the original</u>

838 loan check before the close of business on the business day

839 immediately following the date on which the title loan agreement

840 is executed.

Page 30 of 34

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

841 Section 15. Section 537.015, Florida Statutes, is amended 842 to read:

843

855

537.015 Criminal penalties.-

844 (1) Any person who acts as a title loan lender without
845 first securing the license prescribed by this <u>chapter</u> act
846 commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in
847 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(2) In addition to any other applicable penalty, any
person who willfully violates any provision of this <u>chapter</u> act
or who willfully makes a false entry in any record specifically
required by this <u>chapter</u> act commits a misdemeanor of the first
degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

853 Section 16. Section 537.016, Florida Statutes, is amended 854 to read:

537.016 Subpoenas; enforcement actions; rules.-

856 (1)The division office may issue and serve subpoenas to 857 compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of 858 documents, papers, books, records, and other evidence before the 859 division office in any matter pertaining to this chapter act. 860 The division office may administer oaths and affirmations to any 861 person whose testimony is required. If any person refuses to 862 testify or; produce books, records, and documents; or otherwise 863 refuses to obey a subpoena issued under this section, the 864 division office may enforce the subpoena in the same manner as 865 subpoenas issued under the Administrative Procedure Act are enforced. Witnesses are entitled to the same fees and mileage as 866 they are entitled to by law for attending as witnesses in the 867 868 circuit court, unless such examination or investigation is held

Page 31 of 34

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

hb0877-00

869 at the place of business or residence of the witness.

870 (2) In addition to any other powers conferred upon the
 871 <u>division</u> office to enforce or administer this <u>chapter</u> act, the
 872 <u>division</u> office may:

(a) Bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction
to enforce or administer this <u>chapter</u> act, any rule or order
adopted under this <u>chapter</u> act, or any written agreement entered
into with the <u>division</u> office. In such action, the <u>division</u>
office may seek any relief at law or equity, including a
temporary or permanent injunction, appointment of a receiver or
administrator, or an order of restitution.

(b) Issue and serve upon a person an order requiring such
person to cease and desist and take corrective action whenever
the <u>division</u> office finds that such person is violating, has
violated, or is about to violate any provision of this <u>chapter</u>
act, any rule or order adopted under this <u>chapter</u> act, or any
written agreement entered into with the <u>division</u> office.

886 Whenever the division office finds that conduct (C) 887 described in paragraph (b) presents an immediate danger to the 888 public health, safety, or welfare requiring an immediate final 889 order, the division office may issue an emergency cease and 890 desist order reciting with particularity the facts underlying 891 such findings. The emergency cease and desist order is effective 892 immediately upon service of a copy of the order on the 893 respondent named in the order and shall remain effective for 90 days. If the division office begins nonemergency proceedings 894 under paragraph (b), the emergency cease and desist order 895 896 remains effective until the conclusion of the proceedings under

Page 32 of 34

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

hb0877-00

897 ss. 120.569 and 120.57.

898 (3) The <u>department</u> commission may adopt rules to
899 administer this chapter act.

900 Section 17. Section 537.017, Florida Statutes, is amended 901 to read:

902

537.017 Investigations and complaints.-

903 The division office may investigate make any (1)904 investigation and examine examination of any licensee or other 905 person whom the division office deems necessary to determine 906 compliance with this chapter act. For such purposes, the 907 division office may examine the books, accounts, records, and 908 other documents or matters of any licensee or other person. The 909 division office may compel the production of all relevant books, 910 records, and other documents and materials relative to an examination or investigation. Examinations shall not be made 911 912 more often than once during any 12-month period unless the 913 division office has reason to believe the licensee is not 914 complying with the provisions of this chapter act.

(2) 915 The division office shall conduct all examinations at 916 a convenient location in this state unless the division office 917 determines that it is more effective or cost-efficient to perform an examination at the licensee's out-of-state location. 918 919 For an examination performed at the licensee's out-of-state 920 location, the licensee shall pay the travel expense and per diem subsistence at the rate provided by law for up to thirty 8-hour 921 days per year for each of the division's examiners office 922 923 examiner who participates in such an examination. However, if 924 the examination involves or reveals possible fraudulent conduct Page 33 of 34

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

hb0877-00

925 by the licensee, the licensee shall pay the travel expenses and 926 per diem subsistence provided by law, without limitation, for 927 each participating examiner.

928 (3) Any person having reason to believe that <u>a violation</u> 929 <u>of any provision of this chapter act has occurred been violated</u> 930 may file with the department of Financial Services or the office 931 a written complaint setting forth the details of such alleged 932 violation, and the <u>division</u> office may investigate <u>the</u> such 933 complaint.

934 Section 18. <u>Section 537.018</u>, Florida Statutes, is 935 <u>repealed.</u>

936

Section 19. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.

Page 34 of 34

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.