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A bill to be entitled An act relating to insurance; amending s. 554.1021, F.S.; defining the term "authorized inspection agency"; amending s. 554.107, F.S.; requiring the chief inspector of the state boiler inspection program to issue a certificate of competency as a special inspector to certain individuals; specifying the duration of such certificate; amending s. 554.109, F.S.; authorizing specified insurers to contract with an authorized inspection agency for boiler inspections; requiring such insurers to annually report the identity of contracted authorized inspection agencies to the Department of Financial Services; amending s. 624.501, F.S.; revising original appointment and renewal fees related to certain insurance representatives; amending s. 626.015, F.S.; defining the term "unaffiliated insurance agent"; amending s. 626.0428, F.S.; requiring a branch place of business to have an agent in charge; authorizing an agent to be in charge of more than one branch office under certain circumstances; providing requirements relating to the designation of an agent in charge; providing that the agent in charge is accountable for misconduct and violations committed by the licensee and any person under his or her supervision; prohibiting an insurance agency from conducting

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insurance business at a location without a designated agent in charge; amending s. 626.112, F.S.; providing licensure exemptions that allow specified individuals or entities to conduct insurance business at specified locations under certain circumstances; revising licensure requirements and penalties with respect to registered insurance agencies; providing that the registration of an approved registered insurance agency automatically converts to an insurance agency license on a specified date; amending s. 626.172, F.S.; revising requirements relating to applications for insurance agency licenses; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 626.311, F.S.; limiting the types of business that may be transacted by certain agents; amending s. 626.321, F.S.; providing that a limited license to offer motor vehicle rental insurance issued to a business that rents or leases motor vehicles encompasses the employees of such business; amending s. 626.382, F.S.; providing that an insurance agency license continues in force until canceled, suspended, revoked, or terminated or expired; amending s. 626.601, F.S.; revising terminology relating to investigations conducted by the Department of Financial Services and the Office of Insurance Regulation with respect to individuals and entities involved in the insurance

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industry; revising a confidentiality provision; repealing s. 626.747, F.S., relating to branch agencies, agents in charge, and the payment of additional county tax under certain circumstances; amending s. 626.8411, F.S.; conforming a crossreference; amending s. 626.8805, F.S.; revising insurance administrator application requirements; amending s. 626.8817, F.S.; authorizing an insurer's designee to provide certain coverage information to an insurance administrator; authorizing an insurer to subcontract the review of an insurance administrator; amending s. 626.882, F.S.; prohibiting a person from acting as an insurance administrator without a specific written agreement; amending s. 626.883, F.S.; requiring an insurance administrator to furnish fiduciary account records to an insurer; requiring administrator withdrawals from a fiduciary account to be made according to a specific written agreement; providing that an insurer's designee may authorize payment of claims; amending s. 626.884, F.S.; revising an insurer's right of access to certain administrator records; amending s. 626.89, F.S.; revising the deadline for filing certain financial statements; amending s. 626.931, F.S.; deleting provisions requiring a surplus lines agent to file a quarterly affidavit with the Florida Surplus Lines Service

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Office; amending s. 626.932, F.S.; revising the due date of surplus lines tax; amending ss. 626.935 and 626.936, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 627.062, F.S.; requiring the Office of Insurance Regulation to use certain models or methods to estimate hurricane losses when determining whether the rates in a rate filing are excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory; amending s. 627.0628, F.S.; increasing the length of time during which an insurer must adhere to certain findings made by the Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology with respect to certain methods, principles, standards, models, or output ranges used in a rate finding; providing that the requirement to adhere to such findings does not limit an insurer from using an average of results of certain models or output ranges under specified circumstances; amending s. 627.0651, F.S.; revising provisions for making and use of rates for motor vehicle insurance; amending s. 627.072, F.S.; authorizing retrospective rating plans relating to workers' compensation and employer's liability insurance to allow negotiations between certain employers and insurers with respect to rating factors used to calculate premiums; amending ss. 627.281 and 627.3518, F.S.; conforming crossreferences; amending s. 627.311, F.S.; providing that

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certain dividends or premium refunds shall be retained by the joint underwriting plan for future use; amending s. 627.3519, F.S.; requiring the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund and Citizens Property Insurance Corporation to provide an annual report to the Legislature and the Financial Services Commission of their respective aggregate net probable maximum losses, financing options, and potential assessments; amending s. 627.4133, F.S.; increasing the amount of prior notice required with respect to the nonrenewal, cancellation, or termination of certain insurance policies; deleting certain provisions that require extended periods of prior notice with respect to the nonrenewal, cancellation, or termination of certain insurance policies; prohibiting the cancellation of certain policies that have been in effect for a specified amount of time except under certain circumstances; amending s. 627.4137, F.S.; adding licensed company adjusters to the list of persons who may respond to a claimant's written request for information relating to liability insurance coverage; amending s. 627.421, F.S.; authorizing a policyholder of personal lines insurance to affirmatively elect delivery of policy documents by electronic means; amending s. 627.43141, F.S.; authorizing a notice of change in policy terms to be sent in a separate

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mailing to an insured under certain circumstances; requiring an insurer to provide such notice to insured's insurance agent; creating s. 627.4553, F.S.; providing requirements for the recommendation to surrender an annuity or life insurance policy; amending s. 627.7015, F.S.; revising the rulemaking authority of the department with respect to qualifications and specified types of penalties covered under the property insurance mediation program; creating s. 627.70151, F.S.; providing criteria for an insurer or policyholder to challenge the impartiality of a loss appraisal umpire for purposes of disqualifying such umpire; amending s. 627.706, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "neutral evaluator"; amending s. 627.7074, F.S.; requiring the department to adopt rules relating to certification of neutral evaluators; revising notification requirements for participation in the neutral evaluation program; amending s. 627.711, F.S.; revising verification requirements for uniform mitigation verification forms; amending s. 627.736, F.S.; revising the time period for applicability of certain Medicare fee schedules or payment limitations; amending s. 627.744, F.S.; revising preinsurance inspection requirements for private passenger motor vehicles; amending s. 627.745, F.S.; revising

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qualifications for approval as a mediator by the department; providing grounds for the department to deny an application, or suspend or revoke approval of a mediator or certification of a neutral evaluator; authorizing the department to adopt rules; amending s. 627.782, F.S.; revising the date by which title insurance agencies and certain insurers must annually submit specified information to the Office of Insurance Regulation; amending s. 627.841, F.S.; providing that an insurance premium finance company may impose a charge for payments returned, declined, or unable to be processed due to insufficient funds; amending s. 628.461, F.S.; revising filing requirements relating to the acquisition of controlling stock; revising the amount of outstanding voting securities of a domestic stock insurer or a controlling company that a person is prohibited from acquiring unless certain requirements have been met; prohibiting persons acquiring a certain percentage of voting securities from acquiring certain securities; providing that a presumption of control may be rebutted by filing a disclaimer of control; deleting a definition; amending s. 634.406, F.S.; revising criteria authorizing premiums of certain service warranty associations to exceed their specified net assets limitations; revising requirements relating to

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183	contractual liability policies that insure warranty
184	associations; providing an effective date.
L85	
186	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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188	Section 1. Subsection (8) is added to section 554.1021,
L89	Florida Statutes, to read:
L90	554.1021 Definitions.—As used in ss. 554.1011-554.115:
191	(8) "Authorized inspection agency" means:
192	(a) A county, city, town, or other governmental
L93	subdivision that has adopted and administers, at a minimum,
L94	Section I of the A.S.M.E. Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code as a
L95	legal requirement and whose inspectors hold valid certificates
L96	of competency in accordance with s. 554.113; or
L97	(b) An insurance company that is licensed or registered by
L98	an appropriate authority of any state of the United States or
L99	province of Canada and whose inspectors hold valid certificates
200	of competency in accordance with s. 554.113.
201	Section 2. Section 554.107, Florida Statutes, is amended
202	to read:
203	554.107 Special inspectors.—
204	(1) Upon application by an authorized inspection agency
205	any company licensed to insure boilers in this state, the chief
206	inspector shall issue a certificate of competency as a special
207	inspector to $\underline{an}$ $\underline{any}$ inspector employed by the $\underline{agency}$ if he or
208	she <del>company, provided that such inspector</del> satisfies the

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competency requirements for inspectors as provided in s. 554.113.

- remains shall remain in effect only so long as the special inspector is employed by an authorized inspection agency a company licensed to insure boilers in this state. Upon termination of employment with such agency company, a special inspector shall, in writing, notify the chief inspector of such termination. Such notice shall be given within 15 days following the date of termination.
- Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 554.109, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

554.109 Exemptions.-

(1) An Any insurance company that insures insuring a boiler located in a public assembly location in this state shall inspect or contract with an authorized inspection agency to inspect such boiler so insured, and shall annually report to the department the identity of any authorized inspection agency that performs a required boiler inspection on behalf of the company.

A any county, city, town, or other governmental subdivision that which has adopted into law the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the National Board Inspection Code for the construction, installation, inspection, maintenance, and repair of boilers, regulating such boilers in public assembly locations, shall inspect such boilers so regulated.; provided that Such inspection shall be conducted

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235	by a special inspector licensed pursuant to ss. 554.1011-
236	554.115. Upon filing of a report of satisfactory inspection with
237	the department, such boiler is exempt from inspection by the
238	department.
239	Section 4. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (6) and
240	subsection (8) of section 624.501, Florida Statutes, are amended
241	to read:
242	624.501 Filing, license, appointment, and miscellaneous
243	fees.—The department, commission, or office, as appropriate,
244	shall collect in advance, and persons so served shall pay to it
245	in advance, fees, licenses, and miscellaneous charges as
246	follows:
247	(6) Insurance representatives, property, marine, casualty,
248	and surety insurance.
249	(a) Agent's original appointment and biennial renewal or
250	continuation thereof, each insurer or agent making an
251	<pre>appointment:</pre>
252	Appointment fee\$42.00
253	State tax12.00
254	County tax6.00
255	Total\$60.00
256	(c) Nonresident agent's original appointment and biennial
257	renewal or continuation thereof, appointment fee, each insurer
258	or agent making an appointment\$60.00
259	(8) Health insurance agents.
260	(a) Agent's original appointment and biennial renewal or
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707	continuation thereof, each insurer or agent making an
262	<pre>appointment:</pre>
263	Appointment fee\$42.00
264	State tax12.00
265	County tax
266	Total\$60.00
267	(b) Nonresident agent's original appointment and biennial
268	renewal or continuation thereof, appointment fee, each insurer
269	or agent making an appointment\$60.00
270	Section 5. Subsection (18) of section 626.015, Florida
271	Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (19), and a new subsection
272	(18) is added to that section to read:
273	626.015 Definitions.—As used in this part:
274	(18) "Unaffiliated insurance agent" means a licensed
275	insurance agent, except a limited lines agent, who is self-
276	appointed and who practices as an independent consultant in the
277	business of analyzing or abstracting insurance policies,
278	providing insurance advice or counseling, or making specific
279	recommendations or comparisons of insurance products for a fee
280	established in advance by written contract signed by the
281	parties. An unaffiliated insurance agent may not be affiliated
282	with an insurer, insurer-appointed insurance agent, or insurance
283	agency contracted with or employing insurer-appointed insurance
284	agents.
285	Section 6. Subsection (4) is added to section 626.0428,
286	Florida Statutes, to read:

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626.0428 Agency personnel powers, duties, and limitations.—

- (4) (a) Each place of business established by an agent or agency, firm, corporation, or association must be in the active full-time charge of a licensed and appointed agent holding the required agent licenses to transact the lines of insurance being handled at the location.
- (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the licensed agent in charge of an insurance agency may also be the agent in charge of additional branch office locations of the agency if insurance activities requiring licensure as an insurance agent do not occur at any location when the agent is not physically present and unlicensed employees at the location do not engage in insurance activities requiring licensure as an insurance agent or customer representative.
- (c) An insurance agency and each branch place of business of an insurance agency shall designate an agent in charge and file the name and license number of the agent in charge and the physical address of the insurance agency location with the department at the department's designated website. The designation of the agent in charge may be changed at the option of the agency. A change of the designated agent in charge is effective upon notice to the department. Notice to the department must be provided within 30 days after such change.
- (d) An insurance agency location may not conduct the business of insurance unless an agent in charge is designated

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and employed by the agency at all times. If the agent in charge designated with the department leaves the agency's employment for any reason and the agency fails to designate another agent in charge within 30 days as provided in paragraph (c) and such failure continues for 90 days, the agency license shall automatically expire on the 91st day after the last date of employment of the last designated agent in charge.

- (e) For purposes of this subsection, an "agent in charge" is the licensed and appointed agent responsible for the supervision of all individuals within an insurance agency location, regardless of whether the agent in charge handles a specific transaction or deals with the general public in the solicitation or negotiation of insurance contracts or the collection or accounting of money.
- (f) An agent in charge of an insurance agency is accountable for the wrongful acts, misconduct, or violations of this code committed by the licensee or by any person under his or her supervision while acting on behalf of the agency.

  However, an agent in charge is not criminally liable for any act unless the agent in charge personally committed the act or knew or should have known of the act and of the facts constituting a violation of this code.
- Section 7. Subsection (7) of section 626.112, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 337 626.112 License and appointment required; agents, customer representatives, adjusters, insurance agencies, service

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representatives, managing general agents.-

- (7) (a) An Effective October 1, 2006, no individual, firm, partnership, corporation, association, or any other entity shall not act in its own name or under a trade name, directly or indirectly, as an insurance agency, unless it complies with s. 626.172 with respect to possessing an insurance agency license for each place of business at which it engages in an any activity that which may be performed only by a licensed insurance agent. However, an insurance agency that is owned and operated by a single licensed agent conducting business in his or her individual name and not employing or otherwise using the services of or appointing other licensees is exempt from the agency licensing requirements of this subsection.
- (b) A branch place of business that is established by a licensed agency is considered a branch agency and is not required to be licensed so long as it transacts business under the same name and federal tax identification number as the licensed agency, has designated a licensed agent in charge of the location as required by s. 626.0428, and has submitted the address and telephone number of the location to the department for inclusion in the licensing record of the licensed agency within 30 days after insurance transactions begin at the location Each agency engaged in business in this state before January 1, 2003, which is wholly owned by insurance agents currently licensed and appointed under this chapter, each incorporated agency whose voting shares are traded on a

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securities exchange, each agency designated and subject to supervision and inspection as a branch office under the rules of the National Association of Securities Dealers, and each agency whose primary function is offering insurance as a service or member benefit to members of a nonprofit corporation may file an application for registration in lieu of licensure in accordance with s. 626.172(3). Each agency engaged in business before October 1, 2006, shall file an application for licensure or registration on or before October 1, 2006.

- $\underline{\text{(c)}}$  1. If an agency is required to be licensed but fails to file an application for licensure in accordance with this section, the department shall impose on the agency an administrative penalty  $\frac{1}{2}$  in an amount of up to \$10,000.
- 2. If an agency is eligible for registration but fails to file an application for registration or an application for licensure in accordance with this section, the department shall impose on the agency an administrative penalty in an amount of up to \$5,000.
- (d) (b) Effective October 1, 2014, the department must automatically convert the registration of an approved a registered insurance agency to shall, as a condition precedent to continuing business, obtain an insurance agency license if the department finds that, with respect to any majority owner, partner, manager, director, officer, or other person who manages or controls the agency, any person has:
  - 1. Been found guilty of, or has pleaded guilty or nolo

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contendere to, a felony in this state or any other state
relating to the business of insurance or to an insurance agency,
without regard to whether a judgment of conviction has been
entered by the court having jurisdiction of the cases.

- 2. Employed any individual in a managerial capacity or in a capacity dealing with the public who is under an order of revocation or suspension issued by the department. An insurance agency may request, on forms prescribed by the department, verification of any person's license status. If a request is mailed within 5 working days after an employee is hired, and the employee's license is currently suspended or revoked, the agency shall not be required to obtain a license, if the unlicensed person's employment is immediately terminated.
- 3. Operated the agency or permitted the agency to be operated in violation of s. 626.747.
- 4. With such frequency as to have made the operation of the agency hazardous to the insurance-buying public or other persons:
- a. Solicited or handled controlled business. This subparagraph shall not prohibit the licensing of any lending or financing institution or creditor, with respect to insurance only, under credit life or disability insurance policies of borrowers from the institutions, which policies are subject to part IX of chapter 627.
- b. Misappropriated, converted, or unlawfully withheld moneys belonging to insurers, insureds, beneficiaries, or others

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417 and received in the conduct of business under the license. 418 c. Unlawfully rebated, attempted to unlawfully rebate, or 419 unlawfully divided or offered to divide commissions with 420 another. 421 d. Misrepresented any insurance policy or annuity 422 contract, or used deception with regard to any policy or 423 contract, done either in person or by any form of dissemination 424 of information or advertising. 425 e. Violated any provision of this code or any other law 426 applicable to the business of insurance in the course of dealing 427 under the license. 428 f. Violated any lawful order or rule of the department. 429 g. Failed or refused, upon demand, to pay over to any 430 insurer he or she represents or has represented any money coming 431 into his or her hands belonging to the insurer. 432 h. Violated the provision against twisting as defined in 433 s. 626.9541(1)(1). 434 i. In the conduct of business, engaged in unfair methods 435 of competition or in unfair or deceptive acts or practices, as 436 prohibited under part IX of this chapter. 437 j. Willfully overinsured any property insurance risk. k. Engaged in fraudulent or dishonest practices in the 438 439 conduct of business arising out of activities related to 440 insurance or the insurance agency. 1. Demonstrated lack of fitness or trustworthiness to 441 442 engage in the business of insurance arising out of activities

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443 related to insurance or the insurance agency. 444 m. Authorized or knowingly allowed individuals to transact 445 insurance who were not then licensed as required by this code. 446 5. Knowingly employed any person who within the preceding 447 3 years has had his or her relationship with an agency 448 terminated in accordance with paragraph (d). 449 Willfully circumvented the requirements or prohibitions 450 of this code. 451 Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section Section 8. 452 626.172, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 453 626.172 Application for insurance agency license.-454 An application for an insurance agency license must 455 shall be signed by the owner or owners of the agency. If the 456 agency is incorporated, the application must shall be signed by 457 the president and secretary of the corporation. An insurance 458 agency may permit a third party to complete, submit, and sign an 459 application on the insurance agency's behalf, but the insurance 460 agency is responsible for ensuring that the information on the 461 application is true and correct and is accountable for any 462 misstatements or misrepresentations. The application for an 463 insurance agency license must shall include: 464 The name of each majority owner, partner, officer, and 465 director of the insurance agency.

- (b) The residence address of each person required to be listed in the application under paragraph (a).
  - (c) The name, principal business street address, and valid

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e-mail address of the insurance agency and the name, address, and e-mail address of the agency's registered agent or person or company authorized to accept service on behalf of the agency its principal business address.

- (d) The <u>physical address</u> location of each <u>branch</u> agency, including its name, e-mail address, and telephone number, and the date that the branch location began transacting insurance office and the name under which each agency office conducts or will conduct business.
- (e) The name of each agent to be in full-time charge of an agency office and specification of which office, including branch locations.
  - (f) The fingerprints of each of the following:
  - 1. A sole proprietor;
  - 2. Each partner;

- 3. Each owner of an unincorporated agency;
- 4. Each owner who directs or participates in the management or control of an incorporated agency whose shares are not traded on a securities exchange;
- 5. The president, senior vice presidents, treasurer, secretary, and directors of the agency; and
- 6. Any other person who directs or participates in the management or control of the agency, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract, by ownership of any agency bank accounts, or otherwise.

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Fingerprints must be taken by a law enforcement agency or other entity approved by the department and must be accompanied by the fingerprint processing fee specified in s. 624.501. Fingerprints must shall be processed in accordance with s. 624.34. However, fingerprints need not be filed for an any individual who is currently licensed and appointed under this chapter. This paragraph does not apply to corporations whose voting shares are traded on a securities exchange.

- (g) Such additional information as the department requires by rule to ascertain the trustworthiness and competence of persons required to be listed on the application and to ascertain that such persons meet the requirements of this code. However, the department may not require that credit or character reports be submitted for persons required to be listed on the application.
- (3) (h) Beginning October 1, 2005, The department must shall accept the uniform application for nonresident agency licensure. The department may adopt by rule revised versions of the uniform application.
- (3) The department shall issue a registration as an insurance agency to any agency that files a written application with the department and qualifies for registration. The application for registration shall require the agency to provide the same information required for an agency licensed under subsection (2), the agent identification number for each owner who is a licensed agent, proof that the agency qualifies for

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registration as provided in s. 626.112(7), and any other additional information that the department determines is necessary in order to demonstrate that the agency qualifies for registration. The application must be signed by the owner or owners of the agency. If the agency is incorporated, the application must be signed by the president and the secretary of the corporation. An agent who owns the agency need not file fingerprints with the department if the agent obtained a license under this chapter and the license is currently valid.

- (a) If an application for registration is denied, the agency must file an application for licensure no later than 30 days after the date of the denial of registration.
- (b) A registered insurance agency must file an application for licensure no later than 30 days after the date that any person who is not a licensed and appointed agent in this state acquires any ownership interest in the agency. If an agency fails to file an application for licensure in compliance with this paragraph, the department shall impose an administrative penalty in an amount of up to \$5,000 on the agency.
- (c) Sections 626.6115 and 626.6215 do not apply to agencies registered under this subsection.
- (4) The department <u>must</u> <u>shall</u> issue a license <del>or</del> registration to each agency upon approval of the application, and each agency <u>location must</u> <u>shall</u> display the license <del>or</del> registration prominently in a manner that makes it clearly visible to any customer or potential customer who enters the

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agency location.

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are received.

548 Section 9. Subsection (6) of section 626.311, Florida 549 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (7), and a new subsection 550 (6) is added to that section to read: 551 626.311 Scope of license. 552 An agent who appoints his or her license as an 553 unaffiliated insurance agent may not hold an appointment from an 554 insurer for any license he or she holds; transact, solicit, or 555 service an insurance contract on behalf of an insurer; interfere 556 with commissions received or to be received by an insurer-557 appointed insurance agent or an insurance agency contracted with 558 or employing insurer-appointed insurance agents; or receive 559 compensation or any other thing of value from an insurer, an 560 insurer-appointed insurance agent, or an insurance agency 561 contracted with or employing insurer-appointed insurance agents 562 for any transaction or referral occurring after the date of 563 appointment as an unaffiliated insurance agent. An unaffiliated 564 insurance agent may continue to receive commissions on sales

Section 10. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 626.321, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
626.321 Limited licenses.—

that occurred before the date of appointment as an unaffiliated

insurance agent if the receipt of such commissions is disclosed

when making recommendations or evaluating products for a client

that involve products of the entity from which the commissions

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(1) The department shall issue to a qualified applicant a license as agent authorized to transact a limited class of business in any of the following categories of limited lines insurance:

(d) Motor vehicle rental insurance.-

- 1. License covering only insurance of the risks set forth in this paragraph when offered, sold, or solicited with and incidental to the rental or lease of a motor vehicle and which applies only to the motor vehicle that is the subject of the lease or rental agreement and the occupants of the motor vehicle:
- a. Excess motor vehicle liability insurance providing coverage in excess of the standard liability limits provided by the lessor in the lessor's lease to a person renting or leasing a motor vehicle from the licensee's employer for liability arising in connection with the negligent operation of the leased or rented motor vehicle.
- b. Insurance covering the liability of the lessee to the lessor for damage to the leased or rented motor vehicle.
- c. Insurance covering the loss of or damage to baggage, personal effects, or travel documents of a person renting or leasing a motor vehicle.
- d. Insurance covering accidental personal injury or death of the lessee and any passenger who is riding or driving with the covered lessee in the leased or rented motor vehicle.
  - 2. Insurance under a motor vehicle rental insurance

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license may be issued only if the lease or rental agreement is for no more than 60 days, the lessee is not provided coverage for more than 60 consecutive days per lease period, and the lessee is given written notice that his or her personal insurance policy providing coverage on an owned motor vehicle may provide coverage of such risks and that the purchase of the insurance is not required in connection with the lease or rental of a motor vehicle. If the lease is extended beyond 60 days, the coverage may be extended one time only for a period not to exceed an additional 60 days. Insurance may be provided to the lessee as an additional insured on a policy issued to the licensee's employer.

- 3. The license may be issued only to the full-time salaried employee of a licensed general lines agent or to a business entity that offers motor vehicles for rent or lease if insurance sales activities authorized by the license are in connection with and incidental to the rental or lease of a motor vehicle.
- a. A license issued to a business entity that offers motor vehicles for rent or lease encompasses each office, branch office, employee, or place of business making use of the entity's business name in order to offer, solicit, and sell insurance pursuant to this paragraph.
- b. The application for licensure must list the name, address, and phone number for each office, branch office, or place of business that is to be covered by the license. The

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licensee shall notify the department of the name, address, and phone number of any new location that is to be covered by the license before the new office, branch office, or place of business engages in the sale of insurance pursuant to this paragraph. The licensee must notify the department within 30 days after closing or terminating an office, branch office, or place of business. Upon receipt of the notice, the department shall delete the office, branch office, or place of business from the license.

c. A licensed and appointed entity is directly responsible and accountable for all acts of the licensee's employees.

Section 11. Section 626.382, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

agencies.—The license of <u>an</u> any insurance agency shall be issued for a period of 3 years and shall continue in force until canceled, suspended, <u>or</u> revoked, or <u>until it is</u> otherwise terminated <u>or becomes expired by operation of law</u>. A license may be renewed by submitting a renewal request to the department on a form adopted by department rule.

Section 12. Section 626.601, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.601 Improper conduct; inquiry; fingerprinting.-

(1) The department or office may, upon its own motion or upon a written complaint signed by any interested person and filed with the department or office, inquire into any alleged

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651 improper conduct of any licensed, approved, or certified 652 licensee, insurance agency, agent, adjuster, service 653 representative, managing general agent, customer representative, title insurance agent, title insurance agency, mediator, neutral evaluator, navigator, continuing education course provider, instructor, school official, or monitor group under this code. 656 The department or office may thereafter initiate an investigation of any such individual or entity licensee if it has reasonable cause to believe that the individual or entity licensee has violated any provision of the insurance code. During the course of its investigation, the department or office shall contact the individual or entity <del>licensee</del> being 663 investigated unless it determines that contacting such 664 individual or entity person could jeopardize the successful completion of the investigation or cause injury to the public.

- In the investigation by the department or office of the alleged misconduct, the individual or entity licensee shall, whenever so required by the department or office, cause the individual's or entity's his or her books and records to be open for inspection for the purpose of such investigation inquiries.
- The Complaints against any individual or entity licensee may be informally alleged and are not required to include need not be in any such language as is necessary to charge a crime on an indictment or information.
- The expense for any hearings or investigations conducted under this law, as well as the fees and mileage of

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witnesses, may be paid out of the appropriate fund.

- (5) If the department or office, after investigation, has reason to believe that an individual a licensee may have been found guilty of or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or a crime related to the business of insurance in this or any other state or jurisdiction, the department or office may require the individual licensee to file with the department or office a complete set of his or her fingerprints, which shall be accompanied by the fingerprint processing fee set forth in s. 624.501. The fingerprints shall be taken by an authorized law enforcement agency or other department-approved entity.
- (6) The complaint and any information obtained pursuant to the investigation by the department or office are confidential and are exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07, unless the department or office files a formal administrative complaint, emergency order, or consent order against the individual or entity licensee. Nothing in This subsection does not shall be construed to prevent the department or office from disclosing the complaint or such information as it deems necessary to conduct the investigation, to update the complainant as to the status and outcome of the complaint, or to share such information with any law enforcement agency or other regulatory body.

Section 13. <u>Section 626.747</u>, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 14. Subsection (1) of section 626.8411, Florida

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703 Statutes, is amended to read:

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626.8411 Application of Florida Insurance Code provisions to title insurance agents or agencies.—

- (1) The following provisions of part II applicable to general lines agents or agencies also apply to title insurance agents or agencies:
- (a) Section 626.734, relating to liability of certain agents.
- (b) Section  $\underline{626.0428(4)(a)}$  and (b)  $\underline{626.747}$ , relating to branch agencies.
- (c) Section 626.749, relating to place of business in residence.
  - (d) Section 626.753, relating to sharing of commissions.
- (e) Section 626.754, relating to rights of agent following termination of appointment.
- Section 15. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) and subsection (3) of section 626.8805, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 626.8805 Certificate of authority to act as administrator.—
- (2) The administrator shall file with the office an application for a certificate of authority upon a form to be adopted by the commission and furnished by the office, which application shall include or have attached the following information and documents:
- (c) The names, addresses, official positions, and professional qualifications of the individuals <u>employed or</u>

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retained by the administrator and who are responsible for the conduct of the affairs of the administrator, including all members of the board of directors, board of trustees, executive committee, or other governing board or committee, and the principal officers in the case of a corporation  $or_{\tau}$  the partners or members in the case of a partnership or association, and any other person who exercises control or influence over the affairs of the administrator.

(3) The applicant shall make available for inspection by the office copies of all contracts relating to services provided by the administrator to with insurers or other persons using utilizing the services of the administrator.

Section 16. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 626.8817, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

626.8817 Responsibilities of insurance company with respect to administration of coverage insured.—

- (1) If an insurer uses the services of an administrator, the insurer is responsible for determining the benefits, premium rates, underwriting criteria, and claims payment procedures applicable to the coverage and for securing reinsurance, if any. The rules pertaining to these matters shall be provided, in writing, by the insurer or its designee to the administrator. The responsibilities of the administrator as to any of these matters shall be set forth in a the written agreement binding upon between the administrator and the insurer.
  - (3) In cases in which an administrator administers

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benefits for more than 100 certificateholders on behalf of an insurer, the insurer shall, at least semiannually, conduct a review of the operations of the administrator. At least one such review must be an onsite audit of the operations of the administrator. The insurer may contract with a qualified third party to conduct such review.

Section 17. Subsections (1) and (4) of section 626.882, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.882 Agreement between administrator and insurer; required provisions; maintenance of records.—

- (1)  $\underline{A}$  No person may <u>not</u> act as an administrator without a written agreement, as required under s. 626.8817, that specifies the rights, duties, and obligations of the between such person as administrator and  $\underline{an}$  insurer.
- (4) If a policy is issued to a trustee or trustees, a copy of the trust agreement and any amendments to that agreement shall be furnished to the insurer or its designee by the administrator and shall be retained as part of the official records of both the administrator and the insurer for the duration of the policy and for 5 years thereafter.

Section 18. Subsections (3), (4), and (5) of section 626.883, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

626.883 Administrator as intermediary; collections held in fiduciary capacity; establishment of account; disbursement; payments on behalf of insurer.—

(3) If charges or premiums deposited in a fiduciary

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account have been collected on behalf of or for more than one insurer, the administrator shall keep records clearly recording the deposits in and withdrawals from such account on behalf of or for each insurer. The administrator shall, upon request of an insurer or its designee, furnish such insurer or designee with copies of records pertaining to deposits and withdrawals on behalf of or for such insurer.

- (4) The administrator may not pay any claim by withdrawals from a fiduciary account. Withdrawals from such account shall be made as provided in the written agreement required under ss.

  626.8817 and 626.882 between the administrator and the insurer for any of the following:
  - (a) Remittance to an insurer entitled to such remittance.
- (b) Deposit in an account maintained in the name of such insurer.
- (c) Transfer to and deposit in a claims-paying account, with claims to be paid as provided by such insurer.
- (d) Payment to a group policyholder for remittance to the insurer entitled to such remittance.
- (e) Payment to the administrator of the commission, fees, or charges of the administrator.
- (f) Remittance of return premium to the person or persons entitled to such return premium.
- (5) All claims paid by the administrator from funds collected on behalf of the insurer shall be paid only on drafts of, and as authorized by, such insurer or its designee.

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Section 19. Subsection (3) of section 626.884, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.884 Maintenance of records by administrator; access; confidentiality.—

- (3) The insurer shall retain the right of continuing access to books and records maintained by the administrator sufficient to permit the insurer to fulfill all of its contractual obligations to insured persons, subject to any restrictions in the written agreement pertaining to between the insurer and the administrator on the proprietary rights of the parties in such books and records.
- Section 20. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 626.89, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 626.89 Annual financial statement and filing fee; notice of change of ownership.—
- (1) Each authorized administrator shall file with the office a full and true statement of its financial condition, transactions, and affairs. The statement shall be filed annually on or before April March 1 or within such extension of time therefor as the office for good cause may have granted and shall be for the preceding calendar year or for the preceding fiscal year if the administrator's accounting is on a fiscal-year basis. The statement shall be in such form and contain such matters as the commission prescribes and shall be verified by at least two officers of such administrator. An administrator whose sole stockholder is an association representing health care

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providers which is not an affiliate of an insurer, an administrator of a pooled governmental self-insurance program, or an administrator that is a university may submit the preceding fiscal year's statement within 2 months after its fiscal year end.

- audited financial statement performed by an independent certified public accountant. The audited financial statement shall be filed with the office on or before July June 1 for the preceding calendar or fiscal year ending December 31. An administrator whose sole stockholder is an association representing health care providers which is not an affiliate of an insurer, an administrator of a pooled governmental self-insurance program, or an administrator that is a university may submit the preceding fiscal year's audited financial statement within 5 months after the end of its fiscal year. An audited financial statement prepared on a consolidated basis must include a columnar consolidating or combining worksheet that must be filed with the statement and must comply with the following:
- (a) Amounts shown on the consolidated audited financial statement must be shown on the worksheet;
  - (b) Amounts for each entity must be stated separately; and
- (c) Explanations of consolidating and eliminating entries must be included.
  - Section 21. Section 626.931, Florida Statutes, is amended

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859 to read:

- 626.931 Agent affidavit and Insurer reporting requirements.—
- (1) Each surplus lines agent shall on or before the 45th day following each calendar quarter file with the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office an affidavit, on forms as prescribed and furnished by the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office, stating that all surplus lines insurance transacted by him or her during such calendar quarter has been submitted to the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office as required.
- (2) The affidavit of the surplus lines agent shall include efforts made to place coverages with authorized insurers and the results thereof.
- (1)(3) Each foreign insurer accepting premiums shall, on or before the end of the month following each calendar quarter, file with the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office a verified report of all surplus lines insurance transacted by such insurer for insurance risks located in this state during such calendar quarter.
- (2) (4) Each alien insurer accepting premiums shall, on or before June 30 of each year, file with the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office a verified report of all surplus lines insurance transacted by such insurer for insurance risks located in this state during the preceding calendar year.
- $\underline{(3)}$  (5) The department may waive the filing requirements described in subsections (1)  $\underline{(3)}$  and (2)  $\underline{(4)}$ .

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(4) (6) Each insurer's report and supporting information shall be in a computer-readable format as determined by the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office or shall be submitted on forms prescribed by the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office and shall show for each applicable agent:

- (a) A listing of all policies, certificates, cover notes, or other forms of confirmation of insurance coverage or any substitutions thereof or endorsements thereto and the identifying number; and
- (b) Any additional information required by the department or Florida Surplus Lines Service Office.
- Section 22. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 626.932, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.932 Surplus lines tax.-

(2) (a) The surplus lines agent shall make payable to the department the tax related to each calendar quarter's business as reported to the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office, and remit the tax to the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office on or before the 45th day following each calendar quarter at the same time as provided for the filing of the quarterly affidavit, under s. 626.931. The Florida Surplus Lines Service Office shall forward to the department the taxes and any interest collected pursuant to paragraph (b), within 10 days after of receipt.

Section 23. Subsection (1) of section 626.935, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.935 Suspension, revocation, or refusal of surplus

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lines agent's license.-

- (1) The department shall deny an application for, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew the appointment of a surplus lines agent and all other licenses and appointments held by the licensee under this  $code_{\tau}$  on any of the following grounds:
- (a) Removal of the licensee's office from the licensee's state of residence.
- (b) Removal of the accounts and records of his or her surplus lines business from this state or the licensee's state of residence during the period when such accounts and records are required to be maintained under s. 626.930.
- (c) Closure of the licensee's office for more than 30 consecutive days.
- (d) Failure to make and file his or her affidavit or reports when due as required by s. 626.931.
- $\underline{\text{(d)}}$  (e) Failure to pay the tax or service fee on surplus lines premiums, as provided in the Surplus Lines Law.
- (e) (f) Suspension, revocation, or refusal to renew or continue the license or appointment as a general lines agent, service representative, or managing general agent.
- $\underline{\text{(f)}}_{\text{(g)}}$  Lack of qualifications as for an original surplus lines agent's license.
  - (g) (h) Violation of this Surplus Lines Law.
- (h) (i) For Any other applicable cause for which the license of a general lines agent could be suspended, revoked, or refused under s. 626.611 or s. 626.621.

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Section 24. Subsection (1) of section 626.936, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.936 Failure to file reports or pay tax or service fee; administrative penalty.—

- (1) A Any licensed surplus lines agent who neglects to file a report or an affidavit in the form and within the time required or provided for in the Surplus Lines Law may be fined up to \$50 per day for each day the neglect continues, beginning the day after the report or affidavit was due until the date the report or affidavit is received. All sums collected under this section shall be deposited into the Insurance Regulatory Trust Fund.
- Section 25. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 627.062, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 627.062 Rate standards.-

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- (2) As to all such classes of insurance:
- (b) Upon receiving a rate filing, the office shall review the filing to determine whether if a rate is excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory. In making that determination, the office shall, in accordance with generally accepted and reasonable actuarial techniques, consider the following factors:
- 1. Past and prospective loss experience within and without this state.
  - 2. Past and prospective expenses.
  - 3. The degree of competition among insurers for the risk

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963 insured.

- 4. Investment income reasonably expected by the insurer, consistent with the insurer's investment practices, from investable premiums anticipated in the filing, plus any other expected income from currently invested assets representing the amount expected on unearned premium reserves and loss reserves. The commission may adopt rules using reasonable techniques of actuarial science and economics to specify the manner in which insurers calculate investment income attributable to classes of insurance written in this state and the manner in which investment income is used to calculate insurance rates. Such manner must contemplate allowances for an underwriting profit factor and full consideration of investment income that which produce a reasonable rate of return; however, investment income from invested surplus may not be considered.
- 5. The reasonableness of the judgment reflected in the filing.
- 6. Dividends, savings, or unabsorbed premium deposits allowed or returned to Florida policyholders, members, or subscribers.
  - 7. The adequacy of loss reserves.
- 8. The cost of reinsurance. The office may not disapprove a rate as excessive solely due to the <u>insurer's</u> <del>insurer</del> having obtained catastrophic reinsurance to cover the insurer's estimated 250-year probable maximum loss or any lower level of loss.

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989 Trend factors, including trends in actual losses per insured unit for the insurer making the filing.

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- Conflagration and catastrophe hazards, if applicable.
- Projected hurricane losses, if applicable, which must be estimated using models or methods a model or method found to be acceptable or reliable by the Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology, and as further provided in s. 627.0628.
- 12. A reasonable margin for underwriting profit and contingencies.
  - The cost of medical services, if applicable.
- Other relevant factors that affect the frequency or severity of claims or expenses.
- Section 26. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section 627.0628, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 627.0628 Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology; public records exemption; public meetings exemption.-
  - (3) ADOPTION AND EFFECT OF STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES.-
- With respect to a rate filing under s. 627.062, an insurer shall employ and may not modify or adjust actuarial methods, principles, standards, models, or output ranges found by the commission to be accurate or reliable in determining hurricane loss factors for use in a rate filing under s. 627.062. An insurer shall employ and may not modify or adjust models found by the commission to be accurate or reliable in

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determining probable maximum loss levels pursuant to paragraph (b) with respect to a rate filing under s. 627.062 made more than 180 <del>60</del> days after the commission has made such findings. This paragraph does not prohibit an insurer from averaging the model results or output ranges or using acceptable models or methods for the purposes of a rate filing under s. 627.062. Section 27. Subsection (8) of section 627.0651, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 627.0651 Making and use of rates for motor vehicle insurance.-Rates are not unfairly discriminatory if averaged broadly among members of a group; nor are rates unfairly discriminatory even though they are lower than rates for nonmembers of the group. However, such rates are unfairly discriminatory if they are not actuarially measurable and credible and sufficiently related to actual or expected loss and expense experience of the group so as to ensure assure that nonmembers of the group are not unfairly discriminated against. New programs or changes to existing programs that result in at least <del>Use of</del> a single United States Postal Service zip code as a rating territory shall be deemed submitted pursuant to paragraph

Section 28. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section 627.072, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (3), (4), and (5), respectively, and a new subsection (2) is added to that section to read:

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(1) (a) unfairly discriminatory.

1041 627.072 Making and use of rates.—

(2) A retrospective rating plan may contain a provision that allows negotiation between the employer and the insurer to determine the retrospective rating factors used to calculate the premium for employers that have exposure in more than one state, an estimated annual standard premium in this state of \$175,000, and an estimated annual countrywide standard premium of \$1 million or more for workers' compensation.

Section 29. Subsection (2) of section 627.281, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.281 Appeal from rating organization; workers' compensation and employer's liability insurance filings.—

(2) If such appeal is based upon the failure of the rating organization to make a filing on behalf of such member or subscriber which is based on a system of expense provisions which differs, in accordance with the right granted in s. 627.072(3) 627.072(2), from the system of expense provisions included in a filing made by the rating organization, the office shall, if it grants the appeal, order the rating organization to make the requested filing for use by the appellant. In deciding such appeal, the office shall apply the applicable standards set forth in ss. 627.062 and 627.072.

Section 30. Paragraph (h) of subsection (5) of section 627.311, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.311 Joint underwriters and joint reinsurers; public records and public meetings exemptions.—

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1067 (5)

- (h) Any premium or assessments collected by the plan in excess of the amount necessary to fund projected ultimate incurred losses and expenses of the plan and not paid to insureds of the plan in conjunction with loss prevention or dividend programs shall be retained by the plan for future use. Any state funds received by the plan in excess of the amount necessary to fund deficits in subplan D or any tier shall be returned to the state. Any dividend or premium refund that cannot be paid to a former insured of the plan because the former insured cannot be reasonably located shall be retained by the plan for future use.
- Section 31. Subsection (9) of section 627.3518, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 627.3518 Citizens Property Insurance Corporation policyholder eligibility clearinghouse program.—The purpose of this section is to provide a framework for the corporation to implement a clearinghouse program by January 1, 2014.
- (9) The 45-day notice of nonrenewal requirement set forth in s.  $\underline{627.4133(2)}$  (b) 4.  $\underline{627.4133(2)}$  (b) 4.b. applies when a policy is nonrenewed by the corporation because the risk has received an offer of coverage pursuant to this section which renders the risk ineligible for coverage by the corporation.
- Section 32. Section 627.3519, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 627.3519 Annual report of aggregate net probable maximum

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losses, financing options, and potential assessments.—No later
than February 1 of each year, the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe
Fund and Citizens Property Insurance Corporation Financial
Services Commission shall provide to the Legislature and the
Financial Services Commission a report of their respective the
aggregate net probable maximum losses, financing options, and
potential assessments of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund
and Citizens Property Insurance Corporation. The report of the
fund and the corporation must include their the respective 50-
year, 100-year, and 250-year probable maximum losses of the fund
and the corporation; analysis of all reasonable financing
strategies for each such probable maximum loss, including the
amount and term of debt instruments; specification of the
percentage assessments that would be needed to support each of
the financing strategies; and calculations of the aggregate
assessment burden on Florida property and casualty policyholders
for each of the probable maximum losses. The commission shall
require the fund and the corporation to provide the commission
with such data and analysis as the commission considers
necessary to prepare the report.
Section 33. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
627.4133, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
627.4133 Notice of cancellation, nonrenewal, or renewal
premium.—
(2) With respect to any personal lines or commercial
residential property insurance policy, including, but not

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limited to, any homeowner's, mobile home owner's, farmowner's, condominium association, condominium unit owner's, apartment building, or other policy covering a residential structure or its contents:

- (b) The insurer shall give the first-named insured written notice of nonrenewal, cancellation, or termination at least 120 100 days before the effective date of the nonrenewal, cancellation, or termination. However, the insurer shall give at least 100 days' written notice, or written notice by June 1, whichever is earlier, for any nonrenewal, cancellation, or termination that would be effective between June 1 and November 30. The notice must include the reason or reasons for the nonrenewal, cancellation, or termination, except that:
- 1. The insurer shall give the first-named insured written notice of nonrenewal, cancellation, or termination at least 120 days prior to the effective date of the nonrenewal, cancellation, or termination for a first-named insured whose residential structure has been insured by that insurer or an affiliated insurer for at least a 5-year period immediately prior to the date of the written notice.
- 1.2. If cancellation is for nonpayment of premium, at least 10 days' written notice of cancellation accompanied by the reason therefor must be given. As used in this subparagraph, the term "nonpayment of premium" means failure of the named insured to discharge when due her or his obligations for in connection with the payment of premiums on a policy or any installment of

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such premium, whether the premium is payable directly to the insurer or its agent or indirectly under any premium finance plan or extension of credit, or failure to maintain membership in an organization if such membership is a condition precedent to insurance coverage. The term also means the failure of a financial institution to honor an insurance applicant's check after delivery to a licensed agent for payment of a premium, even if the agent has previously delivered or transferred the premium to the insurer. If a dishonored check represents the initial premium payment, the contract and all contractual obligations are void ab initio unless the nonpayment is cured within the earlier of 5 days after actual notice by certified mail is received by the applicant or 15 days after notice is sent to the applicant by certified mail or registered mail., and If the contract is void, any premium received by the insurer from a third party must be refunded to that party in full.

- 2.3. If such cancellation or termination occurs during the first 90 days the insurance is in force and the insurance is canceled or terminated for reasons other than nonpayment of premium, at least 20 days' written notice of cancellation or termination accompanied by the reason therefor must be given unless there has been a material misstatement or misrepresentation or failure to comply with the underwriting requirements established by the insurer.
- 3. After the policy has been in effect for 90 days, the policy may not be canceled by the insurer unless there has been

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a material misstatement, a nonpayment of premium, a failure to comply with underwriting requirements established by the insurer within 90 days after the date of effectuation of coverage, or a substantial change in the risk covered by the policy or unless the cancellation is for all insureds under such policies for a class of insureds. An insurer that uses a credit report or information available as a public record to determine whether there is a misrepresentation or omission in the application for insurance related to the applicant's credit history must make such determination within 90 days after the policy has been in effect. After such 90-day period, an insurer may not cancel or rescind the policy or deny coverage for a claim based on a misstatement or omission in the application regarding credit history that the insurer could reasonably have discovered by a review of credit history or public record. This subparagraph does not apply to individually rated risks having a policy term of less than 90 days.

- 4. The requirement for providing written notice by June 1 of any nonrenewal that would be effective between June 1 and November 30 does not apply to the following situations, but the insurer remains subject to the requirement to provide such notice at least 100 days before the effective date of nonrenewal:
- a. A policy that is nonrenewed due to a revision in the coverage for sinkhole losses and catastrophic ground cover collapse pursuant to s. 627.706.

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4.b. A policy that is nonrenewed by Citizens Property
Insurance Corporation, pursuant to s. 627.351(6), for a policy
that has been assumed by an authorized insurer offering
replacement coverage to the policyholder is exempt from the
notice requirements of paragraph (a) and this paragraph. In such
cases, the corporation must give the named insured written
notice of nonrenewal at least 45 days before the effective date
of the nonrenewal.

- After the policy has been in effect for 90 days, the policy may not be canceled by the insurer unless there has been a material misstatement, a nonpayment of premium, a failure to comply with underwriting requirements established by the insurer within 90 days after the date of effectuation of coverage, or a substantial change in the risk covered by the policy or if the cancellation is for all insureds under such policies for a given class of insureds. This paragraph does not apply to individually rated risks having a policy term of less than 90 days.
- 5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an insurer may cancel or nonrenew a property insurance policy after at least 45 days' notice if the office finds that the early cancellation of some or all of the insurer's policies is necessary to protect the best interests of the public or policyholders and the office approves the insurer's plan for early cancellation or nonrenewal of some or all of its policies. The office may base such finding upon the financial condition of

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the insurer, lack of adequate reinsurance coverage for hurricane risk, or other relevant factors. The office may condition its finding on the consent of the insurer to be placed under administrative supervision pursuant to s. 624.81 or to the appointment of a receiver under chapter 631.

- 6. A policy covering both a home and  $\underline{a}$  motor vehicle may be nonrenewed for any reason applicable to  $\underline{either}$  the property or motor vehicle insurance after providing 90 days' notice.
- Section 34. Subsection (1) of section 627.4137, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 627.4137 Disclosure of certain information required.-
- (1) Each insurer that provides which does or may provide liability insurance coverage to pay all or a portion of a any claim that which might be made shall provide, within 30 days after of the written request of the claimant, a statement, under oath, of a corporate officer or the insurer's claims manager, or superintendent, or licensed company adjuster setting forth the following information with regard to each known policy of insurance, including excess or umbrella insurance:
  - (a) The name of the insurer.

- (b) The name of each insured.
- (c) The limits of the liability coverage.
- (d) A statement of any policy or coverage defense that the which such insurer reasonably believes is available to the such insurer at the time of filing such statement.
  - (e) A copy of the policy.

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In addition, the insured, or her or his insurance agent, upon written request of the claimant or the claimant's attorney, shall disclose the name and coverage of each known insurer to the claimant and shall forward such request for information as required by this subsection to all affected insurers. The insurer shall then supply the information required in this subsection to the claimant within 30 days after of receipt of such request.

Section 35. Subsection (1) of section 627.421, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.421 Delivery of policy.-

(1) Subject to the insurer's requirement as to payment of premium, every policy shall be mailed, delivered, or electronically transmitted to the insured or to the person entitled thereto not later than 60 days after the effectuation of coverage. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an insurer may allow a policyholder of personal lines insurance to affirmatively elect delivery of the policy documents, including, but not limited to, policies, endorsements, notices, or documents, by electronic means in lieu of delivery by mail. Electronic transmission of a policy for commercial risks, including, but not limited to, workers' compensation and employers' liability, commercial automobile liability, commercial automobile physical damage, commercial lines residential property, commercial nonresidential property, farm

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owners' insurance, and the types of commercial lines risks set forth in s. 627.062(3)(d), constitutes shall constitute delivery to the insured or to the person entitled to delivery unless the insured or the person entitled to delivery communicates to the insurer in writing or electronically that he or she does not agree to delivery by electronic means. Electronic transmission shall include a notice to the insured or to the person entitled to delivery of a policy of his or her right to receive the policy via United States mail rather than via electronic transmission. A paper copy of the policy shall be provided to the insured or to the person entitled to delivery at his or her request.

Section 36. Subsection (2) of section 627.43141, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.43141 Notice of change in policy terms.—

(2) A renewal policy may contain a change in policy terms. If a renewal policy contains does contain such change, the insurer must give the named insured written notice of the change, which may must be enclosed along with the written notice of renewal premium required by ss. 627.4133 and 627.728 or be sent in a separate notice that complies with the nonrenewal mailing time requirement for that particular line of business. The insurer must also provide a sample copy of the notice to the insured's insurance agent before or at the same time that notice is given to the insured. Such notice shall be entitled "Notice of Change in Policy Terms."

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Section 37. Section 627.4553, Florida Statutes, is created

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1302 to read: 627.4553 Recommendations to surrender.—If an insurance 1303 1304 agent recommends the surrender of an annuity or life insurance 1305 policy containing a cash value and is not recommending that the 1306 proceeds from the surrender be used to fund or purchase another 1307 annuity or life insurance policy, before execution of the 1308 surrender, the insurance agent, or the insurance company if no 1309 agent is involved, shall provide, on a form adopted by rule by the department, information concerning the annuity or policy to 1310 1311 be surrendered, including the amount of any surrender charge, 1312 the loss of any minimum interest rate guarantees, the amount of 1313 any tax consequences resulting from the surrender, the amount of 1314 any forfeited death benefit, and the value of any other 1315 investment performance guarantees being forfeited as a result of 1316 the surrender. This section also applies to a person performing 1317 insurance agent activities pursuant to an exemption from 1318 licensure under this part. 1319 Section 38. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 627.7015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 1320 1321 627.7015 Alternative procedure for resolution of disputed

(4) The department shall adopt by rule a property insurance mediation program to be administered by the department or its designee. The department may also adopt special rules which are applicable in cases of an emergency within the state.

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property insurance claims.-

The rules shall be modeled after practices and procedures set forth in mediation rules of procedure adopted by the Supreme Court. The rules shall provide for:

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- (b) Qualifications, denial of application, suspension, revocation of approval, and other penalties for of mediators as provided in s. 627.745 and in the Florida Rules of Certified and Court Appointed Mediators, and for such other individuals as are qualified by education, training, or experience as the department determines to be appropriate.
- Section 39. Section 627.70151, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
- 627.70151 Appraisal; conflicts of interest.—An insurer that offers residential coverage, as defined in s. 627.4025, or a policyholder that uses an appraisal clause in the property insurance contract to establish a process of estimating or evaluating the amount of the loss through the use of an impartial umpire may challenge the umpire's impartiality and disqualify the proposed umpire only if:
- (1) A familial relationship within the third degree exists between the umpire and any party or a representative of any party;
- (2) The umpire has previously represented any party or a representative of any party in a professional capacity in the same or a substantially related matter;
- 1351 (3) The umpire has represented another person in a professional capacity on the same or a substantially related

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matter, which includes the claim, same property, or an adjacent
property and that other person's interests are materially
adverse to the interests of any party; or
(4) The umpire has worked as an employer or employee of
any party within the preceding 5 years.
Section 40. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section
627.706, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
627.706 Sinkhole insurance; catastrophic ground cover
collapse; definitions
(2) As used in ss. 627.706-627.7074, and as used in
connection with any policy providing coverage for a catastrophic
ground cover collapse or for sinkhole losses, the term:
(c) "Neutral evaluator" means a professional engineer or a
professional geologist who has completed a course of study in
alternative dispute resolution designed or approved by the
department for use in the neutral evaluation process $_{\underline{\prime}}$ and who is
determined by the department to be fair and impartial, and who
is not otherwise ineligible for certification as provided in s.
<u>627.7074</u> .
Section 41. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 627.7074,
Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
627.7074 Alternative procedure for resolution of disputed
sinkhole insurance claims.—
(1) The department shall:
(a) Certify and maintain a list of persons who are neutral

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

evaluators.

(b) Adopt rules for certifying, denying certification of, suspending certification of, and revoking certification as a neutral evaluator in keeping with qualifications specified in this section and ss. 627.706 and 627.745(4).

- (c) (b) Prepare a consumer information pamphlet for distribution by insurers to policyholders which clearly describes the neutral evaluation process and includes information necessary for the policyholder to request a neutral evaluation.
- (3) Following the receipt of the report provided under s. 627.7073 or the denial of a claim for a sinkhole loss, the insurer shall notify the policyholder of his or her right to participate in the neutral evaluation program under this section, if there is coverage available under the policy and the claim was submitted within the timeframe provided in s. 627.706(5). Neutral evaluation supersedes the alternative dispute resolution process under s. 627.7015 but does not invalidate the appraisal clause of the insurance policy. The insurer shall provide to the policyholder the consumer information pamphlet prepared by the department pursuant to subsection (1) electronically or by United States mail.
- Section 42. Subsection (8) of section 627.711, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 627.711 Notice of premium discounts for hurricane loss mitigation; uniform mitigation verification inspection form.—
  - (8) At its expense, the insurer may require that a uniform

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mitigation verification form provided by a policyholder, a policyholder's agent, or an authorized mitigation inspector or inspection company be independently verified by an inspector, an inspection company, or an independent third-party quality assurance provider which possesses a quality assurance program before accepting the uniform mitigation verification form as valid. A uniform mitigation verification form provided by a policyholder, a policyholder's agent, or an authorized mitigation inspector or inspection company to Citizens Property Insurance Corporation is not subject to such additional verification and the property is not subject to reinspection by the corporation, absent material changes to the structure for the term stated on the form, if the form signed by a qualified inspector was submitted to, reviewed, and verified by a quality assurance program approved by the corporation before submission of the form to the corporation.

Section 43. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 627.736, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.736 Required personal injury protection benefits; exclusions; priority; claims.—

- (5) CHARGES FOR TREATMENT OF INJURED PERSONS.-
- (a) A physician, hospital, clinic, or other person or institution lawfully rendering treatment to an injured person for a bodily injury covered by personal injury protection insurance may charge the insurer and injured party only a reasonable amount pursuant to this section for the services and

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supplies rendered, and the insurer providing such coverage may pay for such charges directly to such person or institution lawfully rendering such treatment if the insured receiving such treatment or his or her guardian has countersigned the properly completed invoice, bill, or claim form approved by the office upon which such charges are to be paid for as having actually been rendered, to the best knowledge of the insured or his or her guardian. However, such a charge may not exceed the amount the person or institution customarily charges for like services or supplies. In determining whether a charge for a particular service, treatment, or otherwise is reasonable, consideration may be given to evidence of usual and customary charges and payments accepted by the provider involved in the dispute, reimbursement levels in the community and various federal and state medical fee schedules applicable to motor vehicle and other insurance coverages, and other information relevant to the reasonableness of the reimbursement for the service, treatment, or supply.

- 1. The insurer may limit reimbursement to 80 percent of the following schedule of maximum charges:
- a. For emergency transport and treatment by providers licensed under chapter 401, 200 percent of Medicare.
- b. For emergency services and care provided by a hospital licensed under chapter 395, 75 percent of the hospital's usual and customary charges.
  - c. For emergency services and care as defined by s.

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395.002 provided in a facility licensed under chapter 395 rendered by a physician or dentist, and related hospital inpatient services rendered by a physician or dentist, the usual and customary charges in the community.

- d. For hospital inpatient services, other than emergency services and care, 200 percent of the Medicare Part A prospective payment applicable to the specific hospital providing the inpatient services.
- e. For hospital outpatient services, other than emergency services and care, 200 percent of the Medicare Part A Ambulatory Payment Classification for the specific hospital providing the outpatient services.
- f. For all other medical services, supplies, and care, 200 percent of the allowable amount under:
- (I) The participating physicians fee schedule of Medicare Part B, except as provided in sub-sub-subparagraphs (II) and (III).
- (II) Medicare Part B, in the case of services, supplies, and care provided by ambulatory surgical centers and clinical laboratories.
- (III) The Durable Medical Equipment Prosthetics/Orthotics and Supplies fee schedule of Medicare Part B, in the case of durable medical equipment.
- However, if such services, supplies, or care is not reimbursable under Medicare Part B, as provided in this sub-subparagraph, the

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insurer may limit reimbursement to 80 percent of the maximum reimbursable allowance under workers' compensation, as determined under s. 440.13 and rules adopted thereunder which are in effect at the time such services, supplies, or care is provided. Services, supplies, or care that is not reimbursable under Medicare or workers' compensation is not required to be reimbursed by the insurer.

- 2. For purposes of subparagraph 1., the applicable fee schedule or payment limitation under Medicare is the fee schedule or payment limitation in effect on March 1 of the year in which the services, supplies, or care is rendered and for the area in which such services, supplies, or care is rendered, and the applicable fee schedule or payment limitation applies <a href="mainto:from">from</a>
  <a href="March 1 until the last day of February throughout the remainder">from</a>
  <a href="mainto:from the following that year">from the following that year</a>, notwithstanding any subsequent change made to the fee schedule or payment limitation, except that it may not be less than the allowable amount under the applicable schedule of Medicare Part B for 2007 for medical services, supplies, and care subject to Medicare Part B.
- 3. Subparagraph 1. does not allow the insurer to apply any limitation on the number of treatments or other utilization limits that apply under Medicare or workers' compensation. An insurer that applies the allowable payment limitations of subparagraph 1. must reimburse a provider who lawfully provided care or treatment under the scope of his or her license, regardless of whether such provider is entitled to reimbursement

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under Medicare due to restrictions or limitations on the types or discipline of health care providers who may be reimbursed for particular procedures or procedure codes. However, subparagraph 1. does not prohibit an insurer from using the Medicare coding policies and payment methodologies of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, including applicable modifiers, to determine the appropriate amount of reimbursement for medical services, supplies, or care if the coding policy or payment methodology does not constitute a utilization limit.

- 4. If an insurer limits payment as authorized by subparagraph 1., the person providing such services, supplies, or care may not bill or attempt to collect from the insured any amount in excess of such limits, except for amounts that are not covered by the insured's personal injury protection coverage due to the coinsurance amount or maximum policy limits.
- 5. Effective July 1, 2012, An insurer may limit payment as authorized by this paragraph only if the insurance policy includes a notice at the time of issuance or renewal that the insurer may limit payment pursuant to the schedule of charges specified in this paragraph. A policy form approved by the office satisfies this requirement. If a provider submits a charge for an amount less than the amount allowed under subparagraph 1., the insurer may pay the amount of the charge submitted.
- Section 44. Subsection (1) and paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (2) of section 627.744, Florida Statutes, are amended

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1535 to read:

- 627.744 Required preinsurance inspection of private passenger motor vehicles.—
- (1) A private passenger motor vehicle insurance policy providing physical damage coverage, including collision or comprehensive coverage, may not be issued in this state unless the insurer has inspected the motor vehicle in accordance with this section. Physical damage coverage on a motor vehicle may not be suspended during the term of the policy due to the applicant's failure to provide required documents. However, payment of a claim may be conditioned upon the insurer's receipt of the required documents, and physical damage loss occurring after the effective date of coverage is not payable until the documents are provided to the insurer.
  - (2) This section does not apply:
- (a) To a policy for a policyholder who has been insured for 2 years or longer, without interruption, under a private passenger motor vehicle policy that which provides physical damage coverage for any vehicle, if the agent of the insurer verifies the previous coverage.
- (b) To a new, unused motor vehicle purchased <u>or leased</u> from a licensed motor vehicle dealer or leasing company  $\tau$  if the insurer is provided with:
- 1. A bill of sale, or buyer's order, or lease agreement that which contains a full description of the motor vehicle; including all options and accessories; or

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2. A copy of the title <u>or registration that</u> which establishes transfer of ownership from the dealer or leasing company to the customer and a copy of the window sticker <del>or the</del> dealer invoice showing the itemized options and equipment and the total retail price of the vehicle.

- For the purposes of this paragraph, the physical damage coverage on the motor vehicle may not be suspended during the term of the policy due to the applicant's failure to provide the required documents. However, payment of a claim is conditioned upon the receipt by the insurer of the required documents, and no physical damage loss occurring after the effective date of the coverage is payable until the documents are provided to the insurer.
- Section 45. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 627.745, Florida Statutes, is amended, present subsections (4) and (5) of that section are renumbered as subsections (5) and (6), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:
  - 627.745 Mediation of claims.

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- (b) To qualify for approval as a mediator, <u>an individual aperson</u> must meet <u>one of</u> the following qualifications:
- 1. Possess <u>an active certification as a Florida Supreme</u>

  <u>Court certified circuit court mediator. A circuit court mediator</u>

  whose certification is in a lapsed, suspended, or decertified

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status is not eligible to participate in the program a masters or doctorate degree in psychology, counseling, business, accounting, or economics, be a member of The Florida Bar, be licensed as a certified public accountant, or demonstrate that the applicant for approval has been actively engaged as a qualified mediator for at least 4 years prior to July 1, 1990.

- 2. Be an approved department mediator as of July 1, 2014, and have conducted at least one mediation on behalf of the department within 4 years immediately preceding that the date the application for approval is filed with the department, have completed a minimum of a 40-hour training program approved by the department and successfully passed a final examination included in the training program and approved by the department. The training program shall include and address all of the following:
  - a. Mediation theory.

- b. Mediation process and techniques.
  - c. Standards of conduct for mediators.
- d. Conflict management and intervention skills.
- 1606 e. Insurance nomenclature.
  - (4) The department shall deny an application, or suspend or revoke its approval of a mediator or certification of a neutral evaluator to serve in such capacity, if the department finds that any of the following grounds exist:
  - (a) Lack of one or more of the qualifications for approval or certification specified in this section.

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1613	(b) Material misstatement, misrepresentation, or fraud i	L n
1614	obtaining, or attempting to obtain, the approval or	
1615	certification.	

- (c) Demonstrated lack of fitness or trustworthiness to act as a mediator or neutral evaluator.
- (d) Fraudulent or dishonest practices in the conduct of mediation or neutral evaluation or in the conduct of business in the financial services industry.
- (e) Violation of any provision of this code or of a lawful order or rule of the department, violation of the Florida Rules of Certified and Court Appointed Mediators, or aiding, instructing, or encouraging another party in committing such a violation.

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- The department may adopt rules to administer this subsection.
- Section 46. Subsection (8) of section 627.782, Florida

  1629 Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 627.782 Adoption of rates.—
  - (8) Each title insurance agency and insurer licensed to do business in this state and each insurer's direct or retail business in this state shall maintain and submit information, including revenue, loss, and expense data, as the office determines necessary to assist in the analysis of title insurance premium rates, title search costs, and the condition of the title insurance industry in this state. This information must be transmitted to the office annually by May March 31 of

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the year after the reporting year. The commission shall adopt rules regarding the collection and analysis of the data from the title insurance industry.

Section 47. Subsection (4) of section 627.841, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 627.841 Delinquency, collection, cancellation, and <u>payment</u> check return charge charges; attorney attorney's fees.—
- (4) In the event that a payment is made to a premium finance company by debit, credit, electronic funds transfer, check, or draft and such payment the instrument is returned, declined, or cannot be processed due to because of insufficient funds to pay it, the premium finance company may, if the premium finance agreement so provides, impose a return payment charge of \$15.
- Section 48. Subsections (1), (3), (10), and (12) of section 628.461, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 628.461 Acquisition of controlling stock.-
  - (1) A person may not, individually or in conjunction with any affiliated person of such person, acquire directly or indirectly, conclude a tender offer or exchange offer for, enter into any agreement to exchange securities for, or otherwise finally acquire 10 5 percent or more of the outstanding voting securities of a domestic stock insurer or of a controlling company, unless:
  - (a) The person or affiliated person has filed with the office and sent to the insurer and controlling company a letter

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of notification regarding the transaction or proposed transaction within no later than 5 days after any form of tender offer or exchange offer is proposed, or within no later than 5 days after the acquisition of the securities if no tender offer or exchange offer is involved. The notification must be provided on forms prescribed by the commission containing information determined necessary to understand the transaction and identify all purchasers and owners involved;

- (b) The person or affiliated person has filed with the office a statement as specified in subsection (3). The statement must be completed and filed within 30 days after:
  - 1. Any definitive acquisition agreement is entered;
- Any form of tender offer or exchange offer is proposed;
- 3. The acquisition of the securities, if no definitive acquisition agreement, tender offer, or exchange offer is involved; and
- (c) The office has approved the tender or exchange offer, or acquisition if no tender offer or exchange offer is involved, and approval is in effect.

In lieu of a filing as required under this subsection, a party acquiring less than 10 percent of the outstanding voting securities of an insurer may file a disclaimer of affiliation and control. The disclaimer shall fully disclose all material relationships and basis for affiliation between the person and

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the insurer as well as the basis for disclaiming the affiliation and control. After a disclaimer has been filed, the insurer shall be relieved of any duty to register or report under this section which may arise out of the insurer's relationship with the person unless and until the office disallows the disclaimer. The office shall disallow a disclaimer only after furnishing all parties in interest with notice and opportunity to be heard and after making specific findings of fact to support the disallowance. A filing as required under this subsection must be made as to any acquisition that equals or exceeds 10 percent of the outstanding voting securities.

- subsection (1) and furnished to the insurer and controlling company shall contain the following information and any additional information as the office deems necessary to determine the character, experience, ability, and other qualifications of the person or affiliated person of such person for the protection of the policyholders and shareholders of the insurer and the public:
- (a) The identity of, and the background information specified in subsection (4) on, each natural person by whom, or on whose behalf, the acquisition is to be made; and, if the acquisition is to be made by, or on behalf of, a corporation, association, or trust, as to the corporation, association, or trust and as to any person who controls either directly or indirectly the corporation, association, or trust, the identity

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of, and the background information specified in subsection (4) on, each director, officer, trustee, or other natural person performing duties similar to those of a director, officer, or trustee for the corporation, association, or trust;

- (b) The source and amount of the funds or other consideration used, or to be used, in making the acquisition;
- made to liquidate such insurer, to sell any of its assets or merge or consolidate it with any person, or to make any other major change in its business or corporate structure or management; and any plans or proposals which such persons may have made to liquidate any controlling company of such insurer, to sell any of its assets or merge or consolidate it with any person, or to make any other major change in its business or corporate structure or management;
- (d) The number of shares or other securities which the person or affiliated person of such person proposes to acquire, the terms of the proposed acquisition, and the manner in which the securities are to be acquired; and
- (e) Information as to any contract, arrangement, or understanding with any party with respect to any of the securities of the insurer or controlling company, including, but not limited to, information relating to the transfer of any of the securities, option arrangements, puts or calls, or the giving or withholding of proxies, which information names the party with whom the contract, arrangement, or understanding has

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been entered into and gives the details thereof;

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- (f) Effective January 1, 2015, an agreement by the person required to file the statement that the person will provide the annual report specified in s. 628.801(2) if control exists; and
- (g) Effective January 1, 2015, an acknowledgement by the person required to file the statement that the person and all subsidiaries within the person's control in the insurance holding company system will provide, as necessary, information to the office upon request to evaluate enterprise risk to the insurer.
- Upon notification to the office by the domestic stock insurer or a controlling company that any person or any affiliated person of such person has acquired 10 5 percent or more of the outstanding voting securities of the domestic stock insurer or controlling company without complying with the provisions of this section, the office shall order that the person and any affiliated person of such person cease acquisition of any further securities of the domestic stock insurer or controlling company; however, the person or any affiliated person of such person may request a proceeding, which proceeding shall be convened within 7 days after the rendering of the order for the sole purpose of determining whether the person, individually or in connection with any affiliated person of such person, has acquired 10 5 percent or more of the outstanding voting securities of a domestic stock insurer or controlling company. Upon the failure of the person or

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affiliated person to request a hearing within 7 days, or upon a determination at a hearing convened pursuant to this subsection that the person or affiliated person has acquired voting securities of a domestic stock insurer or controlling company in violation of this section, the office may order the person and affiliated person to divest themselves of any voting securities so acquired.

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(12) (a) A presumption of control may be rebutted by filing a disclaimer of control. Any person may file a disclaimer of control with the office. The disclaimer must fully disclose all material relationships and bases for affiliation between the person and the insurer as well as the basis for disclaiming the affiliation. After a disclaimer is filed, the insurer is relieved of any duty to register or report under this section, which may arise out of the insurer's relationship with the person, unless the office disallows the disclaimer. An affiliated person of a party acquiring less than 20 percent of the outstanding voting securities of an insurer that has filed a Schedule 13G with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Rules 13d-1(b) or 13d-1(c) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, with respect to the securities of the party acquiring voting securities of an insurer shall automatically, without further action of the department, be deemed to have filed a disclaimer of affiliation and control pursuant to this paragraph. For the purpose of this section, the term "affiliated person" of another person means:

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1,20	i. The speake of sach center person,
1796	2. The parents of such other person and their lineal
1797	descendants and the parents of such other person's spouse and
1798	their lineal descendants;
1799	3. Any person who directly or indirectly owns or controls,
1800	or holds with power to vote, 5 percent or more of the
1801	outstanding voting securities of such other person;
1802	4. Any person 5 percent or more of the outstanding voting
1803	securities of which are directly or indirectly owned or
1804	controlled, or held with power to vote, by such other person;
1805	5. Any person or group of persons who directly or
1806	indirectly control, are controlled by, or are under common
1807	control with such other person;
1808	6. Any officer, director, partner, copartner, or employee
1809	of such other person;
1810	7. If such other person is an investment company, any
1811	investment adviser of such company or any member of an advisory
1812	board of such company;
1813	8. If such other person is an unincorporated investment
1814	company not having a board of directors, the depositor of such
1815	company; or
1816	9. Any person who has entered into an agreement, written
1817	or unwritten, to act in concert with such other person in
1818	acquiring or limiting the disposition of securities of a
1819	domestic stock insurer or controlling company.
1820	(b) Any controlling person of a domestic insurer who seeks

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1821	to divest the person's controlling interest in the domestic
1822	insurer in any manner shall file with the office, with a copy to
1823	the insurer, confidential notice, not subject to public
1824	inspection as provided under s. 624.4212, of the person's
1825	proposed divestiture at least 30 days before the cessation of
1826	control. The office shall determine those instances in which the
1827	party seeking to divest or to acquire a controlling interest in
1828	an insurer must file for and obtain approval of the transaction.
1829	The information remains confidential until the conclusion of the
1830	transaction unless the office, in its discretion, determines
1831	that confidential treatment interferes with enforcement of this
1832	section. If the statement required under subsection (1) is
1833	otherwise filed, this paragraph does not apply. For the purposes
1834	of this section, the term "controlling company" means any
1835	corporation, trust, or association owning, directly or
1836	indirectly, 25 percent or more of the voting securities of one
1837	or more domestic stock insurance companies.
1838	Section 49. Subsections (6) and (7) of section 634.406,
1839	Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
1840	634.406 Financial requirements.—
1841	(6) An association $\underline{\text{that}}$ $\underline{\text{which}}$ holds a license under this
1842	part and which does not hold any other license under this
1843	chapter may allow its premiums for service warranties written
1844	under this part to exceed the ratio to net assets limitations of
1845	this section if the association meets all of the following:

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(a) Maintains net assets of at least \$750,000.

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(b)	Us	ses	<del>Utilizes</del>	<del>)</del> a	CO	ntractual	liabili	tу	insurance	policy
approved	bу	the	office	tha	at:	<del>which</del>				

- 1. Reimburses the service warranty association for 100 percent of its claims liability and is issued by an insurer that maintains a policyholder surplus of at least \$100 million; or
- 2. Complies with the requirements of subsection (3) and is issued by an insurer that maintains a policyholder surplus of at least \$200 million.
- (c) The insurer issuing the contractual liability
  insurance policy:
- 1. Maintains a policyholder surplus of at least \$100 million.
- 1.2. Is rated "A" or higher by A.M. Best Company or an equivalent rating by another national rating service acceptable to the office.
  - 3. Is in no way affiliated with the warranty association.
- 2.4. In conjunction with the warranty association's filing of the quarterly and annual reports, provides, on a form prescribed by the commission, a statement certifying the gross written premiums in force reported by the warranty association and a statement that all of the warranty association's gross written premium in force is covered under the contractual liability policy, regardless of whether or not it has been reported.
- (7) A contractual liability policy must insure 100 percent of an association's claims exposure under all of the

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association's service warranty contracts, wherever written, unless all of the following are satisfied:

- (a) The contractual liability policy contains a clause that specifically names the service warranty contract holders as sole beneficiaries of the contractual liability policy and claims are paid directly to the person making a claim under the contract;
- (b) The contractual liability policy meets all other requirements of this part, including subsection (3) of this section, which are not inconsistent with this subsection;
- (c) The association has been in existence for at least 5 years or the association is a wholly owned subsidiary of a corporation that has been in existence and has been licensed as a service warranty association in the state for at least 5 years, and:
- 1. Is listed and traded on a recognized stock exchange; is listed in NASDAQ (National Association of Security Dealers Automated Quotation system) and publicly traded in the over-the-counter securities market; is required to file either of Form 10-K, Form 100, or Form 20-G with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission; or has American Depository Receipts listed on a recognized stock exchange and publicly traded or is the wholly owned subsidiary of a corporation that is listed and traded on a recognized stock exchange; is listed in NASDAQ (National Association of Security Dealers Automated Quotation system) and publicly traded in the over-the-counter securities

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1899 market; is required to file Form 10-K, Form 100, or Form 20-G 1900 with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission; or 1901 has American Depository Receipts listed on a recognized stock 1902 exchange and is publicly traded; 1903 2. Maintains outstanding debt obligations, if any, rated 1904 in the top four rating categories by a recognized rating 1905 service; 1906 3. Has and maintains at all times a minimum net worth of 1907 not less than \$10 million as evidenced by audited financial 1908 statements prepared by an independent certified public 1909 accountant in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and submitted to the office annually; and 1910 1911 4. Is authorized to do business in this state; and 1912 (d) The insurer issuing the contractual liability policy: 1913 1. Maintains and has maintained for the preceding 5 years, policyholder surplus of at least \$100 million and is rated "A" 1914 or higher by A.M. Best Company or has an equivalent rating by 1915 1916 another rating company acceptable to the office; 1917 2. Holds a certificate of authority to do business in this state and is approved to write this type of coverage; and 1918 1919 Acknowledges to the office quarterly that it insures 1920 all of the association's claims exposure under contracts delivered in this state. 1921 1922 1923 If all the preceding conditions are satisfied, then the scope of 1924 coverage under a contractual liability policy shall not be

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1925	required to exceed an association's claims exposure under
1926	service warranty contracts delivered in this state.
1927	Section 50. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.

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