By Senator Rouson

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to property insurance; amending s.

627.351, F.S.; revising limitations on the aggregate amount of certain emergency assessments levied by the board of governors of the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation; prohibiting the corporation from pledging more than a specified percent of its commercial lines account emergency assessment authority to secure the issuance of bonds or any other security; amending s. 631.57, F.S.; revising a limitation on a certain obligation of the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association for policies covering condominium associations or homeowners' associations; specifying future revisions of the limitation; requiring the Office of Insurance Regulation to levy specified additional emergency assessments against certain insurers for specified purposes; specifying requirements for levying such assessments; exempting an insurer from making a certain initial payment; providing applicability; amending s. 625.012, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; providing an effective date.

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

- Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section 627.351, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 627.351 Insurance risk apportionment plans.-
 - (6) CITIZENS PROPERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION. -
- (b) 1. All insurers authorized to write one or more subject lines of business in this state are subject to assessment by the corporation and, for the purposes of this subsection, are

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referred to collectively as "assessable insurers." Insurers writing one or more subject lines of business in this state pursuant to part VIII of chapter 626 are not assessable insurers; however, insureds who procure one or more subject lines of business in this state pursuant to part VIII of chapter 626 are subject to assessment by the corporation and are referred to collectively as "assessable insureds." An insurer's assessment liability begins on the first day of the calendar year following the year in which the insurer was issued a certificate of authority to transact insurance for subject lines of business in this state and terminates 1 year after the end of the first calendar year during which the insurer no longer holds a certificate of authority to transact insurance for subject lines of business in this state.

- 2.a. All revenues, assets, liabilities, losses, and expenses of the corporation shall be divided into three separate accounts as follows:
- (I) A personal lines account for personal residential policies issued by the corporation which provides comprehensive, multiperil coverage on risks that are not located in areas eligible for coverage by the Florida Windstorm Underwriting Association as those areas were defined on January 1, 2002, and for policies that do not provide coverage for the peril of wind on risks that are located in such areas;
- (II) A commercial lines account for commercial residential and commercial nonresidential policies issued by the corporation which provides coverage for basic property perils on risks that are not located in areas eligible for coverage by the Florida Windstorm Underwriting Association as those areas were defined

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on January 1, 2002, and for policies that do not provide coverage for the peril of wind on risks that are located in such areas; and

(III) A coastal account for personal residential policies and commercial residential and commercial nonresidential property policies issued by the corporation which provides coverage for the peril of wind on risks that are located in areas eligible for coverage by the Florida Windstorm Underwriting Association as those areas were defined on January 1, 2002. The corporation may offer policies that provide multiperil coverage and shall offer policies that provide coverage only for the peril of wind for risks located in areas eligible for coverage in the coastal account. Effective July 1, 2014, the corporation shall cease offering new commercial residential policies providing multiperil coverage and shall instead continue to offer commercial residential wind-only policies, and may offer commercial residential policies excluding wind. The corporation may, however, continue to renew a commercial residential multiperil policy on a building that is insured by the corporation on June 30, 2014, under a multiperil policy. In issuing multiperil coverage, the corporation may use its approved policy forms and rates for the personal lines account. An applicant or insured who is eligible to purchase a multiperil policy from the corporation may purchase a multiperil policy from an authorized insurer without prejudice to the applicant's or insured's eligibility to prospectively purchase a policy that provides coverage only for the peril of wind from the corporation. An applicant or insured who is eligible for a corporation policy that provides coverage only for the peril of

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wind may elect to purchase or retain such policy and also purchase or retain coverage excluding wind from an authorized insurer without prejudice to the applicant's or insured's eligibility to prospectively purchase a policy that provides multiperil coverage from the corporation. It is the goal of the Legislature that there be an overall average savings of 10 percent or more for a policyholder who currently has a wind-only policy with the corporation, and an ex-wind policy with a voluntary insurer or the corporation, and who obtains a multiperil policy from the corporation. It is the intent of the Legislature that the offer of multiperil coverage in the coastal account be made and implemented in a manner that does not adversely affect the tax-exempt status of the corporation or creditworthiness of or security for currently outstanding financing obligations or credit facilities of the coastal account, the personal lines account, or the commercial lines account. The coastal account must also include quota share primary insurance under subparagraph (c) 2. The area eligible for coverage under the coastal account also includes the area within Port Canaveral, which is bordered on the south by the City of Cape Canaveral, bordered on the west by the Banana River, and bordered on the north by Federal Government property.

b. The three separate accounts must be maintained as long as financing obligations entered into by the Florida Windstorm Underwriting Association or Residential Property and Casualty Joint Underwriting Association are outstanding, in accordance with the terms of the corresponding financing documents. If the financing obligations are no longer outstanding, the corporation may use a single account for all revenues, assets, liabilities,

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losses, and expenses of the corporation. Consistent with this subparagraph and prudent investment policies that minimize the cost of carrying debt, the board shall exercise its best efforts to retire existing debt or obtain the approval of necessary parties to amend the terms of existing debt, so as to structure the most efficient plan for consolidating the three separate accounts into a single account.

- c. Creditors of the Residential Property and Casualty Joint Underwriting Association and the accounts specified in sub-sub-subparagraphs a.(I) and (II) may have a claim against, and recourse to, those accounts and no claim against, or recourse to, the account referred to in sub-sub-subparagraph a.(III). Creditors of the Florida Windstorm Underwriting Association have a claim against, and recourse to, the account referred to in sub-sub-subparagraph a.(III) and no claim against, or recourse to, the accounts referred to in sub-subparagraphs a.(I) and (II).
- d. Revenues, assets, liabilities, losses, and expenses not attributable to particular accounts shall be prorated among the accounts.
- e. The Legislature finds that the revenues of the corporation are revenues that are necessary to meet the requirements set forth in documents authorizing the issuance of bonds under this subsection.
- f. The income of the corporation may not inure to the benefit of any private person.
 - 3. With respect to a deficit in an account:
- a. After accounting for the Citizens policyholder surcharge imposed under sub-subparagraph i., if the remaining projected

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deficit incurred in the coastal account in a particular calendar year:

- (I) Is not greater than 2 percent of the aggregate statewide direct written premium for the subject lines of business for the prior calendar year, the entire deficit shall be recovered through regular assessments of assessable insurers under paragraph (q) and assessable insureds.
- (II) Exceeds 2 percent of the aggregate statewide direct written premium for the subject lines of business for the prior calendar year, the corporation shall levy regular assessments on assessable insurers under paragraph (q) and on assessable insureds in an amount equal to the greater of 2 percent of the projected deficit or 2 percent of the aggregate statewide direct written premium for the subject lines of business for the prior calendar year. Any remaining projected deficit shall be recovered through emergency assessments under sub-subparagraph d.
- b. Each assessable insurer's share of the amount being assessed under sub-subparagraph a. must be in the proportion that the assessable insurer's direct written premium for the subject lines of business for the year preceding the assessment bears to the aggregate statewide direct written premium for the subject lines of business for that year. The assessment percentage applicable to each assessable insured is the ratio of the amount being assessed under sub-subparagraph a. to the aggregate statewide direct written premium for the subject lines of business for the prior year. Assessments levied by the corporation on assessable insurers under sub-subparagraph a. must be paid as required by the corporation's plan of operation

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and paragraph (q). Assessments levied by the corporation on assessable insureds under sub-subparagraph a. shall be collected by the surplus lines agent at the time the surplus lines agent collects the surplus lines tax required by s. 626.932, and paid to the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office at the time the surplus lines agent pays the surplus lines tax to that office. Upon receipt of regular assessments from surplus lines agents, the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office shall transfer the assessments directly to the corporation as determined by the corporation.

- c. After accounting for the Citizens policyholder surcharge imposed under sub-subparagraph i., the remaining projected deficits in the personal lines account and in the commercial lines account in a particular calendar year shall be recovered through emergency assessments under sub-subparagraph d.
- d. Upon a determination by the board of governors that a projected deficit in an account exceeds the amount that is expected to be recovered through regular assessments under subsubparagraph a., plus the amount that is expected to be recovered through surcharges under sub-subparagraph i., the board, after verification by the office, shall levy emergency assessments for as many years as necessary to cover the deficits, to be collected by assessable insurers and the corporation and collected from assessable insureds upon issuance or renewal of policies for subject lines of business, excluding National Flood Insurance policies. The amount collected in a particular year must be a uniform percentage of that year's direct written premium for subject lines of business and all accounts of the corporation, excluding National Flood Insurance

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Program policy premiums, as annually determined by the board and verified by the office. The office shall verify the arithmetic calculations involved in the board's determination within 30 days after receipt of the information on which the determination was based. The office shall notify assessable insurers and the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office of the date on which assessable insurers shall begin to collect and assessable insureds shall begin to pay such assessment. The date must be at least 90 days after the date the corporation levies emergency assessments pursuant to this sub-subparagraph. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the corporation and each assessable insurer that writes subject lines of business shall collect emergency assessments from its policyholders without such obligation being affected by any credit, limitation, exemption, or deferment. Emergency assessments levied by the corporation on assessable insureds shall be collected by the surplus lines agent at the time the surplus lines agent collects the surplus lines tax required by s. 626.932 and paid to the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office at the time the surplus lines agent pays the surplus lines tax to that office. The emergency assessments collected shall be transferred directly to the corporation on a periodic basis as determined by the corporation and held by the corporation solely in the applicable account. The aggregate amount of emergency assessments levied for an account in any calendar year may be less than but may not exceed the greater of 10 percent of the amount needed to cover the deficit, plus interest, fees, commissions, required reserves, and other costs associated with financing the original deficit for the personal lines or the coastal accounts, or 10 percent of the aggregate

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statewide direct written premium for subject lines of business and all accounts of the corporation for the prior year, plus interest, fees, commissions, required reserves, and other costs associated with financing the deficit for the personal lines or the coastal accounts. The aggregate amount of emergency assessments levied for the commercial account in any calendar year may be less than but may not exceed the greater of 9 percent of the amount needed to cover the deficit, plus interest, fees, commissions, required reserves, and other costs associated with financing the original deficit, or 9 percent of the aggregate statewide direct written premium for subject lines of business and all accounts of the corporation for the prior year, plus interest, fees, commissions, required reserves, and other costs associated with financing the deficit. The corporation may not pledge more than 9 percent of the commercial lines account emergency assessment authority set forth in this sub-subparagraph to secure the issuance of bonds or any other security.

e. The corporation may pledge the proceeds of assessments, projected recoveries from the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund, other insurance and reinsurance recoverables, policyholder surcharges and other surcharges, and other funds available to the corporation as the source of revenue for and to secure bonds issued under paragraph (q), bonds or other indebtedness issued under subparagraph (c)3., or lines of credit or other financing mechanisms issued or created under this subsection, or to retire any other debt incurred as a result of deficits or events giving rise to deficits, or in any other way that the board determines will efficiently recover such deficits. The purpose of the lines

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of credit or other financing mechanisms is to provide additional resources to assist the corporation in covering claims and expenses attributable to a catastrophe. As used in this subsection, the term "assessments" includes regular assessments under sub-subparagraph a. or subparagraph (q)1. and emergency assessments under sub-subparagraph d. Emergency assessments collected under sub-subparagraph d. are not part of an insurer's rates, are not premium, and are not subject to premium tax, fees, or commissions; however, failure to pay the emergency assessment shall be treated as failure to pay premium. The emergency assessments shall continue as long as any bonds issued or other indebtedness incurred with respect to a deficit for which the assessment was imposed remain outstanding, unless adequate provision has been made for the payment of such bonds or other indebtedness pursuant to the documents governing such bonds or indebtedness.

f. As used in this subsection for purposes of any deficit incurred on or after January 25, 2007, the term "subject lines of business" means insurance written by assessable insurers or procured by assessable insureds for all property and casualty lines of business in this state, but not including workers' compensation or medical malpractice. As used in this subsubparagraph, the term "property and casualty lines of business" includes all lines of business identified on Form 2, Exhibit of Premiums and Losses, in the annual statement required of authorized insurers under s. 624.424 and any rule adopted under this section, except for those lines identified as accident and health insurance and except for policies written under the National Flood Insurance Program or the Federal Crop Insurance

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Program. For purposes of this sub-subparagraph, the term "workers' compensation" includes both workers' compensation insurance and excess workers' compensation insurance.

- g. The Florida Surplus Lines Service Office shall determine annually the aggregate statewide written premium in subject lines of business procured by assessable insureds and report that information to the corporation in a form and at a time the corporation specifies to ensure that the corporation can meet the requirements of this subsection and the corporation's financing obligations.
- h. The Florida Surplus Lines Service Office shall verify the proper application by surplus lines agents of assessment percentages for regular assessments and emergency assessments levied under this subparagraph on assessable insureds and assist the corporation in ensuring the accurate, timely collection and payment of assessments by surplus lines agents as required by the corporation.
- i. Upon determination by the board of governors that an account has a projected deficit, the board shall levy a Citizens policyholder surcharge against all policyholders of the corporation.
- (I) The surcharge shall be levied as a uniform percentage of the premium for the policy of up to 15 percent of such premium, which funds shall be used to offset the deficit.
- (II) The surcharge is payable upon cancellation or termination of the policy, upon renewal of the policy, or upon issuance of a new policy by the corporation within the first 12 months after the date of the levy or the period of time necessary to fully collect the surcharge amount.

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(III) The corporation may not levy any regular assessments under paragraph (q) pursuant to sub-subparagraph a. or sub-subparagraph b. with respect to a particular year's deficit until the corporation has first levied the full amount of the surcharge authorized by this sub-subparagraph.

- (IV) The surcharge is not considered premium and is not subject to commissions, fees, or premium taxes. However, failure to pay the surcharge shall be treated as failure to pay premium.
- j. If the amount of any assessments or surcharges collected from corporation policyholders, assessable insurers or their policyholders, or assessable insureds exceeds the amount of the deficits, such excess amounts shall be remitted to and retained by the corporation in a reserve to be used by the corporation, as determined by the board of governors and approved by the office, to pay claims or reduce any past, present, or future plan-year deficits or to reduce outstanding debt.
- Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and paragraph (e) of subsection (3) of section 631.57, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 - 631.57 Powers and duties of the association.-
 - (1) The association shall:
- (a)1. Be obligated to the extent of the covered claims existing:
- a. Prior to adjudication of insolvency and arising within30 days after the determination of insolvency;
- b. Before the policy expiration date if less than 30 days after the determination; or
- c. Before the insured replaces the policy or causes its cancellation, if she or he does so within 30 days of the

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determination.

- 2. The obligation under subparagraph 1. includes only the amount of each covered claim which is in excess of \$100 and is less than \$300,000, except that policies providing coverage for homeowner's insurance shall provide for an additional \$200,000 for the portion of a covered claim which relates only to the damage to the structure and contents.
- 3.a. Notwithstanding subparagraph 2., the obligation under subparagraph 1. for policies covering condominium associations or homeowners' associations, which associations have a responsibility to provide insurance coverage on residential units within the association, shall include that amount of each covered property insurance claim which is less than \$100,000 multiplied by the number of condominium units or other residential units multiplied by:
 - (I) Before July 1, 2017, \$100,000.
- (II) Beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2018, \$150,000.
- (III) Beginning July 1, 2018, and ending June 30, 2019, \$200,000.
- (IV) Beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2020, \$250,000.
 - (V) Beginning July 1, 2020, \$300,000.÷

However, as to homeowners' associations, this sub-subparagraph applies only to claims for damage or loss to residential units and structures attached to residential units.

b. Notwithstanding sub-subparagraph a., the association has no obligation to pay covered claims that are to be paid from the

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proceeds of bonds issued under s. 631.695. However, the association shall assign and pledge the first available moneys from all or part of the assessments to be made under paragraph (3)(a) to or on behalf of the issuer of such bonds for the benefit of the holders of such bonds. The association shall administer any such covered claims and present valid covered claims for payment in accordance with the provisions of the assistance program in connection with which such bonds have been issued.

4. In no event shall the association be obligated to a policyholder or claimant in an amount in excess of the obligation of the insolvent insurer under the policy from which the claim arises.

(3)

(e)1. In addition to assessments authorized in paragraph (a), and to the extent necessary to secure the funds for the account specified in s. 631.55(2)(b) for the direct payment of covered claims of insurers rendered insolvent by the effects of a hurricane and to pay the reasonable costs to administer such claims, or to retire indebtedness, including, without limitation, the principal, redemption premium, if any, and interest on, and related costs of issuance of, bonds issued under s. 631.695 and the funding of any reserves and other payments required under the bond resolution or trust indenture pursuant to which such bonds have been issued, the office, upon certification of the board of directors, shall levy emergency assessments upon insurers holding a certificate of authority. The emergency assessments levied against any insurer may not exceed in any one calendar year more than 2 percent of that

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insurer's net written premiums in this state for the kinds of insurance within the account specified in s. 631.55(2)(b).

- 2.a. In addition to the emergency assessment authorized in subparagraph 1., to retire indebtedness, including, without limitation, the principal, redemption premium, if any, and interest on, and related costs of issuance of bonds issued under s. 631.695 and the funding of any reserves and other payments required under the bond resolution or trust indenture pursuant to which such bonds have been issued, the office, upon certification of the board of directors, shall levy additional emergency assessments against insurers subject to assessment under this part in an amount not to exceed a dollar amount equal to or less than 1 percent of the aggregate statewide direct written premium for subject lines of business eligible for assessment under the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation's commercial lines account assessment authority set forth in s. 627.351(6)(b)3.d.
- b. Assessments levied under this subparagraph must be levied only against the lines of business subject to assessment under this part and must be levied only utilizing the monthly installment method set forth in subparagraph (f) 2. An insurer is not required to make an initial payment as set forth in subsubparagraph (f) 1.b. and c.
- c. This subparagraph applies to emergency assessments
 levied on or after July 1, 2022, or 30 days after all Citizens
 Property Insurance Corporation Personal Lines Account/Commercial
 Lines Account Senior Secured Bonds Series 2012A-1, 2012 Series
 A-2, and 2012 Series A-3 are defeased, whichever occurs earlier.
 - 3.2. Emergency assessments authorized under this paragraph

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shall be levied by the office upon insurers in accordance with paragraph (f), upon certification as to the need for such assessments by the board of directors. If the board participates in the issuance of bonds in accordance with s. 631.695, emergency assessments shall be levied in each year that bonds issued under s. 631.695 and secured by such emergency assessments are outstanding in amounts up to such 2-percent limit as required in order to provide for the full and timely payment of the principal of, redemption premium, if any, and interest on, and related costs of issuance of, such bonds. The emergency assessments are assigned and pledged to the municipality, county, or legal entity issuing bonds under s. 631.695 for the benefit of the holders of such bonds in order to provide for the payment of the principal of, redemption premium, if any, and interest on such bonds, the cost of issuance of such bonds, and the funding of any reserves and other payments required under the bond resolution or trust indenture pursuant to which such bonds have been issued, without further action by the association, the office, or any other party. If bonds are issued under s. 631.695 and the association determines to secure such bonds by a pledge of revenues received from the emergency assessments, such bonds, upon such pledge of revenues, shall be secured by and payable from the proceeds of such emergency assessments, and the proceeds of emergency assessments levied under this paragraph shall be remitted directly to and administered by the trustee or custodian appointed for such bonds.

4.3. Emergency assessments used to defease bonds issued under this part may be payable in a single payment or, at the

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option of the association, may be payable in 12 monthly installments with the first installment being due and payable at the end of the month after an emergency assessment is levied and subsequent installments being due by the end of each succeeding month.

- 5.4. If emergency assessments are imposed, the report required by s. 631.695(7) must include an analysis of the revenues generated from the emergency assessments imposed under this paragraph.
- $\underline{6.5.}$ If emergency assessments are imposed, the references in sub-subparagraph (1)(a)3.b. and s. 631.695(2) and (7) to assessments levied under paragraph (a) must include emergency assessments imposed under this paragraph.
- 7.6. If the board of directors participates in the issuance of bonds in accordance with s. 631.695, an annual assessment under this paragraph shall continue while the bonds issued with respect to which the assessment was imposed are outstanding, including any bonds the proceeds of which were used to refund bonds issued pursuant to s. 631.695, unless adequate provision has been made for the payment of the bonds in the documents authorizing the issuance of such bonds.
- Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (15) of section 625.012, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 625.012 "Assets" defined.—In any determination of the financial condition of an insurer, there shall be allowed as "assets" only such assets as are owned by the insurer and which consist of:
 - (15)
 - (b) Assessments levied as monthly installments pursuant to

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s. 631.57(3)(e)4. which s. 631.57(3)(e)3. that are paid after

policy surcharges are collected so that the recognition of

assets is based on actual premium written offset by the

obligation to the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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