Florida Senate

Rules and Manual

James E. "Jim" King, Jr.
President

2002-2004

As adopted
November 19, 2002

and subsequently amended
March 4, 2003

Updates to the Florida Senate Rules and Manual
2002-2004
March 26, 2003

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3	District 26: Mike Haridopolos (R), Melbourne* [3/25/2003]
4	* Elected Special General Election March 25, 2003, for a term expiring November 2006
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SENATE OFFICERS
2002-2004

President: Senator James E. "Jim" King, Jr.

President Pro Tempore: Senator Alex Diaz de la Portilla

Majority (Republican) Leader: Senator Dennis L. Jones, D.C.

Minority (Democratic) Leader: Senator Ron Klein

Minority (Democratic) Leader Pro Tempore: Senator Lesley "Les" Miller, Jr.

Secretary: Faye W. Blanton
Sergeant at Arms: Donald Severance

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND CALENDAR

Senator Tom Lee, Chair
Senator J. Alex Villalobos, Vice Chair
Senator Walter G. "Skip" Campbell, Jr.
Senator Lisa Carlton
Senator Charlie Clary
Senator Anna P. Cowin
Senator Alex Diaz de la Portilla
Senator Steven A. Geller
Senator Dennis L. Jones, D.C.
Senator Ron Klein
Senator Gwen Margolis
Senator Lesley "Les" Miller, Jr.
Senator Ken Pruitt

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE
2002 - 2004

(14 Democrats, 26 Republicans)

District 1:	**Anthony C. "Tony" Hill, Sr. (D), Jacksonville**
District 2:	**Durell Peaden, Jr. (R), Crestview**
District 3:	**Nancy Argenziano (R), Crystal River**
District 4:	**Charlie Clary (R), Destin**
District 5:	**Stephen R. Wise (R), Jacksonville**
District 6:	**Alfred "Al" Lawson, Jr. (D), Tallahassee**
District 7:	**Evelyn J. Lynn (R), Ormond Beach**
District 8:	**James E. "Jim" King, Jr. (R), Jacksonville**
District 9:	**Daniel Webster (R), Winter Garden**
District 10:	**Tom Lee (R), Brandon**
District 11:	**Mike Fasano (R), New Port Richey**
District 12:	**Victor D. Crist (R), Tampa**
District 13:	**Dennis L. Jones, D.C. (R), Seminole**
District 14:	**Rod Smith (D), Gainesville**
District 15:	**Paula Dockery (R), Lakeland**
District 16:	**Jim Sebesta (R), St. Petersburg**
District 17:	**JD Alexander (R), Winter Haven**
District 18:	**Lesley "Les" Miller, Jr. (D), Tampa**
District 19:	**Gary Siplin (D), Orlando**
District 20:	**Anna P. Cowin (R), Leesburg**
District 21:	**Michael S. "Mike" Bennett (R), Bradenton**
District 22:	**Lee Constantine (R), Altamonte Springs**
District 23:	**Lisa Carlton (R), Osprey**
District 24:	**Bill Posey (R), Rockledge**
District 25:	**Jeffrey H. "Jeff" Atwater (R), Palm Beach Gardens**
District 26:	**Mike Haridopolos (R), Melbourne***
District 27:	**Dave Aronberg (D), Greenacres**
District 28:	**Ken Pruitt (R), Port St. Lucie**
District 29:	**M. Mandy Dawson (D), Fort Lauderdale**
District 30:	**Ron Klein (D), Delray Beach**
District 31:	**Steven A. Geller (D), Hallendale Beach**
District 32:	**Walter G. "Skip" Campbell, Jr. (D), Tamarac**
District 33:	**Frederica S. Wilson (D), Miami**

District 34: **Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D), Pembroke Pines**
District 35: **Gwen Margolis (D), Miami Beach**
District 36: **Alex Diaz de la Portilla (R), Miami**
District 37: **Burt L. Saunders (R), Naples**
District 38: **J. Alex Villalobos (R), Miami**
District 39: **Larcenia J. Bullard (D), Miami**
District 40: **Rudy Garcia (R), Hialeah**

Entire membership elected General Election, November 5, 2002:
Districts with even numbers for a term of 4 years
Districts with odd numbers for a term of 2 years
*Elected Special General Election March 25, 2003, for a term ending November 2006

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RULES OF THE SENATE

RULE ONE

OFFICERS, SENATORS, EMPLOYEES, AND ETHICS

PART ONE—OFFICERS OF THE SENATE

1.1—Election of the President, President Pro Tempore, President Designate, President Pro Tempore Designate, Minority Leader, and Minority Leader Pro Tempore; designation of Majority Leader

A President and a President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall be elected for a term of two (2) years at the organization session preceding the regular session of each odd-numbered year. They shall take an oath to support the *Constitutions of the United States* and *of the State of Florida*, and for the true and faithful discharge of the duties of office. At a regular session the Majority Party may, by caucus called by the President, elect a President Designate and a President Pro Tempore Designate, and their names shall be certified to the Secretary of the Senate. The President may designate a Majority Leader whose name shall be certified to the Secretary of the Senate. The Minority Party may by caucus elect a Minority Leader and a Minority Leader Pro Tempore, and their names shall be certified to the Secretary of the Senate at the organization session. All elected officers are to hold office until their successors are chosen and qualified or until the expiration of their term, whichever shall first occur.

1.2—Calling the Senate to order

The President shall call the Senate to order at the hour provided by these Rules or at the hour established by the Senate at the last session. On the appearance of a quorum, the President shall cause the Senate to proceed with the Daily Order of Business. The President may recess the Senate for periods of time not to exceed thirty (30) minutes.

1.3—The President's control of Chamber, corridors, and rooms

The President shall preserve order and decorum and shall have general control of the Chamber, corridors, passages, and rooms of the Senate whether in the Capitol or elsewhere. If there is a disturbance, the President may order the area cleared.

1.4—The President's authority and signature; questions of order; travel

The President shall sign all acts, joint resolutions, resolutions, and memorials. No writ, warrant, subpoena, contract binding the Senate, authorization for payment, or other papers shall issue without the signature of the President. The President may delegate signing authority for the authorization of payments. The President shall approve vouchers. The President shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by any Senator. As necessary, the President is authorized to incur travel and per

diem expenses for the next session of the Legislature. The President of the Senate and the Chair of the Committee on Rules and Calendar shall have the power to assign duties and sign requisitions pertaining to legislative expenses incurred in transacting the business of the Senate as authorized. The President shall have responsibility for the property of the Senate and may delegate specific duties or authority pertaining thereto. The President may authorize counsel to initiate, defend, intervene in, or otherwise participate in any suit on behalf of the Senate, a committee of the Senate, a member of the Senate (whether in the legal capacity of Senator or taxpayer), a former member of the Senate, or an officer or employee of the Senate when such suit is determined by the President to be of significant interest to the Senate and when it is determined by the President that the interests of the Senate would not otherwise be adequately represented. Expenses incurred for legal services in such proceedings may be paid upon approval of the President.

1.5—Appointment of committees

(1) The President shall appoint all standing committees, standing subcommittees, select committees, and the Senate members of conference and joint select committees.

(2) Any member removed from a committee without his or her consent shall have the right to appeal such removal to the Committee on Rules and Calendar.

1.6—The President's vote

The President shall not be required to vote in legislative proceedings. In all yea and nay votes, the President's name shall be called last.

1.7—Vacating chair; duties of President Pro Tempore

(1) The President may name any Senator to perform the duties of the chair.

(2) If for any reason the President is absent and fails to name a Senator, the President Pro Tempore shall assume the duties of the chair.

(3) In the event the chair is vacated permanently, nothing herein shall preclude the Senate from designating a presiding officer.

(4) Should the President resign, he or she may, prior to resignation, designate a member of the Majority Party to assume the duties of the chair until a permanent successor is elected.

1.8—Election of the Secretary of the Senate

(1) The Senate shall elect a Secretary to serve at its pleasure. A staff of assistants shall be employed to regularly transact such business as required by law, by Rules of the Senate, or as assigned by the President. The Secretary shall take an oath to support the *Constitutions of the United States* and *of the State of Florida*, and for the true and faithful discharge of the duties of office.

(2) The Secretary shall be under the supervision of the President of the Senate, who may assign additional duties to the Secretary. The Secretary shall be the enrolling and engrossing clerk of the Senate and may designate an assistant enrolling and engrossing clerk.

1.9—Secretary's duties at organization session

In the absence of the President and the President Pro Tempore of the preceding session, the Secretary shall, at the organization session of the Legislature, call the Senate to order. Pending the election of a President or a President Pro Tempore, the Secretary shall preserve order and decorum, and decide all questions of order subject to appeal by any Senator. The duties prescribed by this section may be delegated by the Secretary to any Senator.

1.10—Duties generally; keeps Journal

The Secretary shall keep a correct daily Journal of the proceedings of the Senate, and this Journal shall be numbered serially from the first (1st) day of each session of the Legislature and shall be distributed by the Secretary for the information of the Legislature and the public. The Secretary shall superintend the engrossing, enrolling, and transmitting of bills, resolutions, and memorials. The Secretary shall not permit any records or papers belonging to the Senate to be removed from the custody of the Secretary other than in the regular course of business and with proper receipt. The Secretary shall keep a separate Journal of the proceedings of the executive sessions of the Senate.

1.11—Prepares daily calendar

(1) The Secretary shall prepare a daily calendar that shall set forth:
- (a) The order of business;
- (b) The committee report on each bill, i.e., whether favorable, favorable with committee amendments, or favorable with committee substitute;
- (c) The status of each bill, i.e., whether on second (2nd) or third (3rd) reading;
- (d) Notices of committee meetings; and
- (e) Notices of meetings required pursuant to Rule 1.44.

(2) The Secretary shall distribute the daily calendar for the information of the Legislature and the public.

1.12—Reads papers; calls roll

The Secretary shall have read to the Senate all papers ordered to be read; note responses of Senators when the roll is called to determine the presence of a quorum; call the roll and note the answers of Senators when a question is taken by yeas and nays; and assist, under the direction of the President, in taking the count when any vote of the Senate is taken by a show of hands or otherwise.

1.13—Attests to warrants and subpoenas; certifies passage

The Secretary shall attest to all writs, warrants, and subpoenas issued by order of the Senate and shall attest to the passage of all bills, resolutions, and memorials.

1.14—Prepares printed forms

The Secretary shall prepare the copy for all printed forms used by the Senate.

1.15—Examines legal form of bills for introduction

The Secretary shall examine bills on their tender for introduction, but prior to their receiving a number, he or she shall determine whether they meet the requirements of law and of these Rules. The Secretary shall direct the attention of the introducer to apparent defects, but the introducer shall be exclusively responsible for the constitutional and legal correctness of the bill.

1.16—Indexes bills

The Secretary shall maintain a numerical index of bills and resolutions and a cumulative index by introducers.

1.17—Transmits bills to House of Representatives

The Secretary shall transmit all bills, joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions, and appropriate memorials to the House of Representatives without delay; and each shall be accompanied by a message stating the title to the measure being transmitted and requesting the concurrence of the House.

1.18—Receives and delivers for reading messages from House; summaries of House amendments to Senate bills

(1) The Secretary shall receive all messages from the House of Representatives and shall be responsible for their security. The Secretary shall have them available for reading to the Senate during the appropriate order of business. All messages reflecting House amendments to Senate bills shall be promptly delivered to the appropriate committees for research and summary. Special notice of the summaries shall be given to each Senator.

(2) The Secretary shall advise the President when a House amendment to a Senate bill substantially changes or materially alters the bill as passed by the Senate. The President may refer such bill and House amendments to an appropriate committee or committees for hearing and further report to the Senate. Upon such reference by the President, committee or committees of reference shall meet on a date and at a time set by the President and shall make a report as defined in Rule 2.15. Favorable committee reports and accompanying measures shall be placed on the calendar.

PART TWO—SENATORS

1.20—Attendance and voting

Unless excused for just cause or necessarily prevented, every Senator shall be within the Senate Chamber during its sessions and shall vote on each question. No Senator shall be required or permitted to vote on any question immediately concerning his or her private rights as distinct from the public interest.

1.21—Excused absence

The President may excuse any Senator from attendance in the Senate and its committees for any stated period, and the excused absence shall be noted in the Journal.

1.22—Senate papers left with Secretary

A Senator necessarily absent from a session of the Senate or its committees and having in his or her possession papers relating to the business of the Senate shall leave such papers with the Secretary before leaving the Capitol.

1.23—Members deemed present unless excused

A Senator who answers roll call at the opening of a session or who enters after roll call and announces his or her presence to the Senate shall thereafter be considered present unless leave of absence is obtained from the President.

1.24—Contested seat

If a seat in the Senate is contested, notice stating the grounds of such contest shall be given by the contestant to the Senate prior to the day of the organization session of the Legislature; and the contest shall be determined by majority vote as soon as reasonably possible. The President shall appoint a Credentials Committee to be composed of not more than ten (10) members who shall consider the question and report their recommendations to the President, who shall inform the Senate.

1.25—Facilities for members

Each Senator shall be entitled to facilities and expenses that are necessary and expedient to the fulfillment of the duties of the office, the location and sufficiency of which shall be determined by the President.

1.26—Nonlegislative activities

No Senator shall accept appointments to nonlegislative committees, commissions, or task forces without prior approval of the President if travel and per diem expenses are to be taken from Senate funds.

1.27—Transition from office

A Senator who will not be a Senator at the next ensuing regular session of the Legislature shall be entitled to an amicable transition period not to exceed one (1) month in which to close out the affairs of his or her office.

The transition period shall begin at the expiration of a Senator's term. A former Senator shall not be entitled to salary during the transition period, but shall receive a pro rata portion of the monthly allowance for office rental and expenses during such period. A former Senator's staff shall be entitled to a pro rata salary during such period, provided said staff performs all transitional duties assigned by the former Senator. A former Senator shall apply for transitional funds provided pursuant to this Rule, the expenditure of which shall be from Senate funds and which shall be considered for a public purpose. In the event of a vacancy in office, and until that vacancy is filled, a transitional period with pro rata salary for staff may be approved by the President to close out the vacant Senate office affairs.

PART THREE—EMPLOYEES OF THE SENATE

1.28—Dismissal of employees; services of spouse

The President shall resolve disputes involving the competency or decorum of a Senate employee, and may terminate the services of an employee. At the President's discretion the matter may be referred to the Committee on Rules and Calendar for its recommendation. The pay of an employee so terminated shall stop on the termination date. A Senator's spouse or immediate relatives may serve in any authorized position, however, they shall not receive compensation for services performed.

1.29—Employees forbidden to lobby

No employee of the Senate shall directly or indirectly interest or concern himself or herself with the passage or consideration of any measure whatsoever. Violation of this Rule by an employee shall be grounds for summary dismissal. This Rule shall not preclude the performance of duties that may be properly delegated to a Senator's legislative assistant.

1.30—Duties and hours

Employees shall perform the duties assigned to them by the President and required of them by Rule and custom of the Senate. When the Senate is in session, employees shall remain on duty as required. When the Senate is not in session, permanent staff of the Senate shall observe the hours of employment set by the President. Part-time employees and Senators' district staff shall observe hours that are prescribed by their department heads.

1.31—Absence without permission

If employees are absent without prior permission except for just cause, their employment shall be terminated or their compensation forfeited for the period of absence as determined by the President.

1.32—Political activity

Senate employees shall be regulated concerning their political activity pursuant to section 110.233, *Florida Statutes*.

1.33—Secretary; supervision of employees

All employees not specifically assigned to a Senator, to a committee, or to a permanent office of the Senate shall be under the supervision of the Secretary.

PART FOUR—LEGISLATIVE CONDUCT AND ETHICS

1.35—Legislative conduct

Every Senator shall conduct himself or herself to justify the confidence placed in him or her by the people and, by personal example and admonition to colleagues, shall maintain the integrity and responsibility of his or her office.

1.36—Improper influence

A Senator shall not accept anything that will improperly influence his or her official act, decision, or vote.

1.361—Solicitation of campaign contributions

A Senator shall neither solicit nor accept any campaign contribution during the sixty-day (60) regular legislative session on the Senator's own behalf or on behalf of a political party or on behalf of a candidate for the Senate; however, a Senator may contribute to the Senator's own campaign.

1.37—Conflicting employment

A member of the Senate shall not allow his or her personal employment to impair his or her independence of judgment in the exercise of his or her official duties.

1.38—Undue influence

A member of the Senate shall not use his or her influence as a Senator in any matter that involves substantial conflict between his or her personal interest and his or her duties in the public interest.

1.39—Disclosure and disqualification

A Senator shall disclose any personal, private, or professional interest in a bill that would inure to that Senator's special private gain or the special gain of any principal to whom the Senator is obligated. Such disclosure shall be filed with the Secretary of the Senate for reporting in the Journal immediately following the record of the vote on the measure. Such disclosure may explain the logic of voting or of his or her disqualification.

1.40—Senate employees and conflicts

Senate employees shall be accountable to the intent of this Rule.

1.41—Advisory opinions

All questions relating to the interpretation and enforcement of these Rules concerning legislative conduct and ethics shall be referred to the Committee on Rules and Calendar or shall emanate therefrom. A member

of the Senate may submit a factual situation to the Committee on Rules and Calendar with a request for an advisory opinion establishing the standard of public duty. The Committee shall enter its opinion responding to each inquiry. All opinions shall, after hearing, be numbered, dated, and published in the Journal of the Senate. No opinion shall identify the requesting Senator without the Senator's consent.

1.42—Violations; hearings, penalties

(1) Any person may file a sworn complaint with the Chair of the Committee on Rules and Calendar, alleging a violation by a Senator of the Rules regulating conduct and ethics. The complaint shall state detailed facts, shall specify the actions of the named Senator which form the basis for the complaint, and shall identify the specific Rule(s) believed by the complainant to have been violated by the Senator. Upon a determination by the chair that there are sufficient grounds for review, the complaint shall be referred either to the committee or, at the option of the chair, to a special master, for a hearing. The committee or special master may adopt rules of procedure for conduct of the proceedings. The committee or special master shall give reasonable notice to the Senator who is alleged to have violated the Rules and shall grant the Senator an opportunity to be heard. A special master's report and recommendation is advisory only and shall be made to the chair as soon as practicable after the close of the hearing. The committee's report and recommendation shall be made as soon as practicable.

(2) Separately from any prosecutions or penalties otherwise provided by law, a Senator determined to have violated the requirements of the Rule regulating ethics and conduct may be censured, reprimanded, or expelled. Such determination and disciplinary action shall be taken by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate, on recommendation of the Committee on Rules and Calendar.

PART FIVE—PUBLIC MEETINGS AND RECORDS

1.43—Open meetings

(1) All meetings at which legislative business is discussed among any two (2) or more Senators shall be open to the public except:

(a) At the sole discretion of the President of the Senate, after consultation with appropriate law enforcement, public health, emergency management and/or security authorities, those portions of meetings of a select committee, committee, or subcommittee, concerning measures to address security, espionage, sabotage, attack and other acts of terrorism.

(b) Meetings between two (2) Senators to exchange information provided the purpose of the meeting between the two (2) Senators is not to agree upon final action that will be taken at a subsequent meeting. Discussions on the floor while the Senate is in session and discussions among Senators in a

committee room during committee meetings shall be deemed to be in compliance with this Rule.

(2) All meetings shall be subject to appropriate order and decorum at the discretion of the person conducting the meeting.

(3) For purposes of this Rule "legislative business" is defined as issues pending before, or upon which foreseeable action is reasonably expected to be taken by, the Senate, a Senate committee, or Senate subcommittee.

1.44—Notice required for certain meetings

(1) A written notice of the following meetings at which legislative business is to be discussed shall be filed with the Secretary of the Senate. While the Legislature is not in regular or special session and during the first fifty (50) days of a regular session, the notice shall be filed not later than four (4) hours before the scheduled time of the meeting. After the fiftieth (50th) day of a regular session and during a special session, the notice shall be filed not later than two (2) hours before the scheduled time of the meeting:

(a) Meetings of the President of the Senate (or a Senator designated to represent the President) with the Governor, or with the Speaker of the House of Representatives (or a representative designated to represent the Speaker);

(b) Meetings of a majority of the Senators who constitute the membership of any Senate committee or subcommittee;

(c) Steering meetings of the Chair of the Committee on Appropriations with the chair of the standing subcommittees of the Committee on Appropriations; and

(d) Meetings called by the President or the President's designee, of a majority of the chairs of the Senate's standing committees.

(2) Notices of meetings required by Rule 1.44(1) shall be filed by or at the direction of the person(s) at whose call the meeting is convened; shall state the date, time, and place of the meeting; shall contain a brief description of the general subject matter scheduled to be discussed. In the case of a meeting required to be noticed pursuant to this Rule, if the meeting is to take place at or after 10:00 p.m. then the notice must be delivered to the Secretary by 5:00 p.m. Notices of such meetings shall appear in the daily calendar.

(3) In the event the times required for notice under Rule 1.44(1) are not sufficient to permit publication in a daily or interim calendar, the Secretary shall post a copy of each such notice on a bulletin board provided for this purpose in the public corridor leading to the Senate Chamber. The Secretary of the Senate shall make a diligent effort to give actual notice to the representatives of the press of all noncalendared meeting notices posted.

(4) Political caucuses are exempt from the foregoing notice requirements. Political caucuses shall be open to the public in accordance with Rule 1.43 and noticed in accordance with this Rule when issues then pend-

ing before, or upon which foreseeable action is reasonably expected to be taken by, the Senate, a Senate committee, or a Senate subcommittee are discussed. Political caucuses held for the sole purpose of designating a President, a President Pro Tempore, a Minority Leader, or a Minority Leader Pro Tempore need not be open or noticed.

1.45—Violations of Rules on open meetings and notice

Intentional violations of Rules 1.43 and 1.44 constitute violations of the Rules regulating legislative ethics and conduct and shall be subject to the procedures and penalties prescribed in Rule 1.42.

1.441—Constitutional requirements concerning open meetings

(1) All legislative committee and subcommittee meetings and joint conference committee meetings shall be open and noticed to the public.

(2) All prearranged gatherings, between more than two (2) members of the Legislature, or between the Governor, the President of the Senate, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the purpose of which is to agree upon formal legislative action that will be taken at a subsequent time, or at which formal legislative action is taken, regarding pending legislation or amendments shall be reasonably open to the public.

(3) In cases of conflict between this Rule and any other Rule of the Senate the Rule providing greater notice or public access shall prevail.

1.443—Reapportionment information

All Senators shall have equal access to the Senate electronic redistricting system, census data, and all other information promulgated by, maintained by, or available to, any Senate standing committee or subcommittee appointed for the analysis of legislative and congressional redistricting plans.

1.444—Legislative records; maintenance, control, destruction, disposal, and disposition

(1) Public records, not exempted from public disclosure, may be inspected by any person desiring to do so at reasonable times, under reasonable conditions, and under supervision of the person who has custody of the records, or that person's designee.

(2) The following standing committee, standing subcommittee, and select committee public records, not exempted from disclosure, shall be retained by each staff director until biennially transferred to the Division of Library and Information Services of the Department of State via its Legislative Library Division: copies of bills, amendments, vote sheets, staff analyses, and fiscal notes; meeting files including agendas and appearance cards; files relating to assigned projects; final staff reports submitted to subcommittees or committees; final reports submitted by subcommittees or committees; correspondence sent or received; and audio recordings of committee meetings. At the time of transfer, the actual correspondence to be sent to the Department of State shall consist only of correspondence which relates to other committee public records required by this Rule to be

transferred. Records not transferred may be otherwise disposed of or destroyed.

(3) Except for records specifically required by law or Senate Rule to be filed or retained, district office records and constituents' records may be retained by the district office until those records become obsolete, at which point they may be otherwise disposed of or destroyed.

(4) Public records, not exempted from public disclosure, created or received by the President, President Pro Tempore, or Secretary of the Senate shall be retained by that officer as specifically required by law or Senate Rule until transferred to the Division of Library and Information Services of the Department of State via its Legislative Library Division. Records not transferred may be otherwise disposed of or destroyed.

(5) The Secretary shall, with the approval of the President, establish a reasonable fee for copies of public legislative records not exempted from public disclosure. Such fees shall be based upon the actual cost of duplication of the record and shall include the material and supplies used to duplicate the record but not the labor cost or overhead cost associated with such duplication. If the nature or volume of records requested to be inspected or copied is such as to require extensive use of information technology resources or extensive clerical or supervisory assistance by employees of the Senate, a special service charge in addition to the actual cost of duplication may be imposed. Such special service charge shall be reasonable and based on the cost incurred for the extensive use of information technology resources or the labor cost of employees providing the service that is actually incurred by the Senate or attributable to the Senate for the clerical and supervisory assistance required. However, when obtained from the Office of the Secretary, a standing committee, standing subcommittee, or select committee, there shall be no charge for a single copy of a bill other than a general appropriations bill, or for a single copy of any other public record required by law or Senate Rule to be created.

(6) Once the retention period for a public record, not exempted from public disclosure, has expired, the public record may be otherwise disposed of or destroyed. A public record need not be retained if it is published or retained by another legislative office. Only one (1) copy of a public record need be retained, additional copies of that record may be destroyed at any time. In the case of mass mailings, only one (1) representative copy of the mailing, or an abstract, need be retained.

(7) For the purpose of this Rule, a member's district office shall include the offices each member retains for the transaction of official legislative business in his or her respective district and the offices located in the Senate Office Building or the Capitol in Tallahassee assigned to each member.

(8) The following public records are exempt from inspection and copying:

(a) Records, or information contained therein, held by the legislative branch of government which, if held by an agency as

defined in section 119.011, *Florida Statutes*, or any other unit of government, would be confidential or exempt from the provisions of section 119.07(1), *Florida Statutes*, or otherwise exempt from public disclosure, and records or information of the same type held by the Legislature.

(b) A formal complaint about a member or officer of the Legislature or about a lobbyist and the records relating to the complaint, until the complaint is dismissed, a determination as to probable cause has been made, a determination that there are sufficient grounds for review has been made and no probable cause panel is to be appointed, or the respondent has requested in writing that the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives make public the complaint or other records relating to the complaint, whichever occurs first.

(c) A legislatively produced draft, and a legislative request for a draft, of a bill, resolution, memorial, or legislative rule, and an amendment thereto, which is not provided to any person other than the member or members who requested the draft, an employee of the Legislature, a contract employee or consultant retained by the Legislature, or an officer of the Legislature.

(d) A draft of a bill analysis or fiscal note until the bill analysis or fiscal note is provided to a person other than an employee of the Legislature, a contract employee or consultant retained by the Legislature, or an officer of the Legislature.

(e) A draft, and a request for a draft, of a reapportionment plan or redistricting plan and an amendment thereto. Any supporting documents associated with such plan or amendment until a bill implementing the plan, or the amendment, is filed.

(f) Records prepared for or used in executive sessions of the Senate until ten (10) years after the date on which the executive session was held.

(g) Portions of records of former legislative investigating committees whose records are sealed or confidential as of June 30, 1993, which may reveal the identity of any witness, any person who was a subject of the inquiry, or any person referred to in testimony, documents, or evidence retained in the committees' records; however, this exemption does not apply to a member of the committee, its staff, or any public official who was not a subject of the inquiry.

(h) Requests by members for an advisory opinion concerning the application of the rules of either house pertaining to ethics, unless the member requesting the opinion authorizes in writing the release of such information. All advisory opinions shall be open to inspection except that the identity of the member shall not be disclosed in the opinion unless

the member requesting the opinion authorizes in writing the release of such information.

(i) Portions of correspondence held by the legislative branch which, if disclosed, would reveal: information otherwise exempt from disclosure by law; an individual's medical treatment, history, or condition; the identity or location of an individual if there is a substantial likelihood that releasing such information would jeopardize the health or safety of that individual; or information regarding physical abuse, child abuse, spouse abuse, or abuse of the elderly.

(9) Any Senate record created prior to July 1, 1993, which was so designated by the President on June 30, 1993, shall remain exempt from inspection and copying after July 1, 1993. Records held by joint committees, commissions or offices of the Legislature, that were jointly determined by the presiding officers of both houses to remain exempt from inspection and copying after July 1, 1993, remain exempt.

(10) For purposes of this Rule, "public record" means all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, tapes, photographs, films, sound recordings, or other material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received pursuant to law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business by the legislative branch.

(11) All records, research, information, remarks, and staff work products, made or received during or in preparation for a closed meeting of a select committee, committee, or subcommittee, shall be confidential and exempt from inspection and copying for a period of 30 days after the closed meeting, at which time they will automatically become legislative public records open to inspection and copying, unless the confidentiality and the prohibition against inspection and copying has, within the 30-day period, been extended by the President of the Senate. Unless the above-listed confidential and exempt items have been earlier released by operation of this Rule, they shall automatically become available for public inspection and copying five years after the date of the closed meeting, unless this confidentiality and exemption is further extended by the President of the Senate for subsequent five-year periods.

RULE TWO

COMMITTEES, OFFICERS, MEMBERS, VOTING, MOTIONS, DECORUM, AND DEBATE

PART ONE—COMMITTEES—ORGANIZATION, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1—Standing committees; standing subcommittees

(1) Permanent standing committees and standing subcommittees, when created and designated by Rule of the Senate, shall exist and function both during and between sessions. The President shall appoint the membership of the standing committees and standing subcommittees, provided that each standing committee shall consist of not fewer than five (5) members.

(a) Agriculture
(b) Appropriations
  1. Subcommittee on Article V Implementation and Judiciary
  2. Subcommittee on Criminal Justice
  3. Subcommittee on Education
  4. Subcommittee on General Government
  5. Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
  6. Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
(c) Banking and Insurance
(d) Children and Families
(e) Commerce, Economic Opportunities, and Consumer Services
(f) Communication and Public Utilities
(g) Comprehensive Planning
(h) Criminal Justice
(i) Education
(j) Ethics and Elections
(k) Finance and Taxation
(l) Governmental Oversight and Productivity
(m) Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care
(n) Home Defense, Public Security, and Ports
(o) Judiciary
(p) Military and Veterans' Affairs, Base Protection, and Spaceports
(q) Natural Resources
(r) Regulated Industries
(s) Rules and Calendar
(t) Transportation

(2) Each standing committee or the chair thereof may appoint a select subcommittee to study or investigate a specific matter falling within the jurisdiction of the standing committee or to consider a bill referred to it. The President of the Senate shall be promptly notified of

the appointment of select subcommittees, their assignment, the time allowed for the assignment, and shall be notified on completion of the assignment. Select subcommittees shall be regulated by the Senate Rules regulating standing subcommittees, except that select subcommittees shall exist only for the time necessary to complete their assignments and report to their standing committees, and not to exceed thirty (30) days. The advisory reports by select subcommittees whether favorable or unfavorable shall be reviewed by the standing committee and accepted, amended, or rejected by majority vote of those committee members present.

2.2—Powers and responsibilities of committees

(1) Permanent standing committees and standing subcommittees are authorized:

(a) To maintain a continuous review of the work of the state agencies concerned with their subject areas and the performance of the functions of government within each subject area;

(b) To invite public officials, employees, and private individuals to appear before the committees or subcommittees to submit information;

(c) To request reports from departments performing functions reasonably related to the committees' jurisdictions; and

(d) To complete the interim projects assigned by the President.

(2) In order to carry out its duties, each standing committee or standing subcommittee has the reasonable right and authority to inspect and investigate the books, records, papers, documents, data, operation, and physical plant of any public agency in this state.

(3) In order to carry out the committee's duties, the chair of each standing committee, standing subcommittee, and select committee may request the President to issue subpoenas, subpoenas duces tecum, and other necessary process to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of any books, letters, or other documentary evidence required by such committee. The President may issue said process at the request of the committee chair. Any member of a standing committee, standing subcommittee, or select committee may administer all oaths and affirmations, in the manner prescribed by law, to witnesses who appear before such committees to testify in any matter requiring evidence.

2.3—Committee reports

(1) Before a regular session of the Legislature convenes, each standing committee shall prepare a report of its findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation on its authorized interim projects, and file same with the President of the Senate and the Secretary of the Senate.

(2) Before a regular session of the Legislature convenes, each standing subcommittee shall prepare a report of its findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation on its authorized interim projects, and submit same to the chair of the standing committee for consideration by such committee.

(3) Within thirty (30) days following sine die adjournment of a regular session, each standing committee shall provide information on the public business assigned to it since the regular session of the preceding year.

2.4—Committee staffing

A committee shall be staffed with personnel, subject to guidelines and criteria authorized by the President. The staff shall be also subject to the pay and classification code of the Senate. The President may authorize joint utilization of personnel with the House of Representatives and may authorize the Senate to share in the cost.

2.5—Committee utilization of federal funds

No committee shall make application for or utilize federal funds, personnel, services, or facilities unless approval is obtained from the Committee on Rules and Calendar.

2.6—Notice of committee meetings

(1) Notice of meetings of standing committees, standing subcommittees, and select committees shall be published in the daily calendar. No committee shall consider any bill during the first fifty (50) days of any regular session until proper notice is published in the calendar for the two (2) legislative days preceding and the day of such committee meeting.

(2) Thereafter, meetings of standing committees, standing subcommittees, and select committees scheduled in accordance with Rule 2.9 may be held following an announcement by the chair of the committee or subcommittee or, in his or her absence, the vice-chair while the Senate is in session and the posting of a notice on a bulletin board in the public corridor leading to the Senate Chamber for at least four (4) hours in advance of the meeting.

(3) The chair of a committee or subcommittee, or in his or her absence, the vice-chair, shall provide the Secretary's office with written information concerning meetings that shall include the date, time, and place of the meeting together with the name of the introducer, short title, and number of each bill to be considered.

(4) At least seven (7) days prior to the meeting of a standing committee or standing subcommittee, while the Legislature is not in session, a notice of the meeting, stating the date, time, and place of the meeting together with the name of the introducer, short title, and number of each bill to be considered, shall be filed with the Secretary of the Senate. The Secretary shall give notice to the membership and the public.

2.7—Bills recommitted

(1) A bill reported by a standing committee without proper notice shall be recommitted to the committee reporting the same on the point of order being made within two (2) days after such report is printed in the Journal. The committee to which the bill is thus committed shall proceed to reconsider it and shall report on it as if originally referred.

(2) A bill reported by a standing subcommittee to its standing committee without proper notice shall be recommitted to the subcommittee reporting same on the point of order made during the standing committee meeting at which the bill was reported by the subcommittee. The subcommittee to which the bill is thus committed shall proceed to reconsider it and shall report on it as if originally referred.

2.8—Notice of meeting; publication

For publication in the daily calendar, notice of standing committee or standing subcommittee meetings shall be delivered to the Secretary's office in writing by 4:30 p.m. on the day preceding its intended publication. If such day is a Friday, delivery shall be by 2:30 p.m. Meeting notices shall appear in the daily calendar.

2.9—Committee meetings; committee meetings after fiftieth (50th) day

(1) Each standing committee and standing subcommittee shall consider the public business assigned to it as expeditiously as possible and proper. To facilitate this, the President shall group the standing committees and subcommittees to provide each with an opportunity to meet without conflicting with the meetings of other committees.

(2) The Committee on Rules and Calendar shall, with approval of the President, provide a schedule of days, hours, and places for the meeting of committees for the regular session and during the interim, and deliver a copy of same to each Senator. However, no committee shall meet before 7:00 a.m. nor meet or continue to meet after 7:00 p.m. This scheduling shall not limit the powers of the chair of a standing committee or subcommittee as provided in these Rules.

(3) Unless approved by the Committee on Rules and Calendar, no committee shall meet after the fiftieth (50th) day of any regular session except the Committee on Rules and Calendar.

2.10—When, where committees meet

Each committee or subcommittee, standing or select, shall meet in the place and within the time assigned for its use by the Committee on Rules and Calendar and notice of such assignment shall be posted by the Secretary of the Senate on a bulletin board provided for this purpose in the public corridor leading into the Senate Chamber. The committee chair may arrange with the Committee on Rules and Calendar for evening or other special meetings. No committee except the Committee on Rules and Calendar shall meet while the Senate is in session without the consent of the majority of the Senate present.

2.11—Attendance by sponsor of bill

The introducer of a bill shall attend the meeting of the committee before which such bill is noticed as provided in these Rules. Such introducer may discharge this duty by sending another legislator, his or her legislative assistant or committee staff member, or any other representative having

written permission to speak for the bill. Unless a majority of the committee members present shall decide otherwise, bills shall be considered when reached on the committee agenda notwithstanding the absence of the sponsor or anyone authorized by these Rules to appear on his or her behalf.

2.12—Order of business

(1) Bills shall be considered in the order appearing in the notice required by these Rules, except that the chair may, in his or her sole discretion, consider a bill out of its order to accommodate the presence of a Senator or Representative who is the prime introducer thereof.

(2) A bill shall be considered out of its order on the committee agenda on unanimous consent of those committee members present obtained in the following manner: Prior to consideration of the motion, the Senator moving for unanimous consent of those committee members present shall orally give the committee not less than fifteen (15) minutes' notice of the Senator's intention to move and shall specify the number of the bill. On the entertainment of the motion, the moving Senator shall be allowed one (1) minute to explain his or her purpose, and unanimous consent of those committee members present shall be given or refused without further debate.

2.13—Open meetings

All committee meetings shall be open to the public, subject always to the powers and authority of the chair to maintain order and decorum. If any matter is reported on the basis of a poll of the committee, such matters shall be referred to such committee on a point of order made prior to final passage thereof.

2.14—Time for consideration of bills

(1) A bill that has been introduced and referred to committee can be removed only on motion of the sponsor and by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Senators present in session. However, any bill that has been in committee fifteen (15) legislative days or more without an extension of time having been granted may be removed from committee on motion of the sponsor. Such motion, when made, shall carry over for a period of five (5) legislative days to give the committee of reference time to meet. Failure of the committee to meet and consider such bill within said time will permit the sponsor of the bill to remove it from committee on a point of order, providing no bill may be thus withdrawn from the Committee on Appropriations during the first thirty (30) days of a regular session.

(2) Except by unanimous consent of those Senators present in session, no bill shall be considered by the Senate after the fiftieth (50th) day of a regular session if the bill or a companion measure has not been first reported favorably by at least one (1) Senate committee.

2.15—Standing committee duties in deliberation

(1) It shall be the duty of standing committees to report all matters referred to them either:

(a) Favorably,
(b) Favorably with committee amendment(s),
(c) Favorably with committee substitute as defined in these Rules, or
(d) Unfavorably.

The vote of the members of a standing committee or subcommittee on final passage of any measure shall be recorded. Upon the request of any two (2) members of a committee or subcommittee the vote on any other matter, properly before the committee, shall be recorded. After such report has been received by the Secretary, no matter so reported shall be recommitted to a committee except by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Senators present in session.

(2) Such reports shall also reflect:
(a) The time and place of the meeting at which the action was taken, and
(b) The vote of each member of the committee on the motion to report each bill or resolution.

A bill filed for introduction by a committee shall be accompanied by such report. The Secretary shall enter in the Journal the action of the committee, but shall not include that portion of the report relating to the time and place of the meeting or the vote of each member on the motion to report a measure. Reports of committees shall be preserved pursuant to law.

(3) In reporting a Senate measure, a standing committee may draft a new measure embracing the same general subject matter, to be returned to the Senate with the recommendation that the substitute be considered in lieu of the original measure (or measures). Proposed substitutes shall be filed with the committee administrative assistant no less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to any committee meeting at which a recommendation of the substitute is adopted unless the substitute is merely a combination of the noticed bill(s) and amendments offered in compliance with Rule 2.39. Copies of substitutes shall be furnished to committee members' offices immediately upon filing with the committee administrative assistant, and made reasonably available by the committee administrative assistant before the meeting, upon request, to the members of the committee and to the public. The substitute measure must be accompanied by the original measure (or measures) referred to the committee and returned to the Secretary in the same manner as a favorable report. No other standing committee of reference shall consider the original measure (or measures) but shall direct its attention to the substitute measure. A committee receiving a committee substitute from a prior committee of reference may also report a committee substitute and shall not be precluded from doing so with the substance of the bill (or bills) as originally introduced. When the original measure is reached on the calendar, the substitute shall be read a first (1st) time by title, the original proposition shall be automatically tabled, and the substitute considered in lieu of without motion. The substitute

shall carry the identifying number (or numbers) of the original and shall be returned to the Secretary in the same number of copies required for first (1st) introduction of a similar measure. The name of the introducer of the original measure (or measures) shall be shown by the committee administrative assistant on the committee substitute unless the said introducer requests that it be omitted. A committee substitute may be co-sponsored by a Senator whose signature is affixed to the original. A Senate committee may not recommend a Senate committee substitute for a House bill.

(4) All standing committee reports shall be signed by the chair or, in his or her absence, the vice-chair and shall be filed with the Secretary's office as soon as practicable, but not later than 4:30 p.m. on the next legislative day except a committee drafting and recommending a committee substitute shall file such committee report no later than 4:30 p.m. of the second (2nd) legislative day. These reports must be accompanied by the original bill. Each report by a committee must set forth the identifying number of the measure; if amendments are proposed by the committee, the words "with amendments" shall follow the identifying number. Committee amendments shall be printed in full on proper forms, numbered serially, and attached to the measure. All measures reported unfavorably shall be laid on the table.

2.16—Standing subcommittee reports

(1) It shall be the duty of standing subcommittees to report all measures referred to them directly to the full standing committee, which shall promptly certify a copy to the Secretary of the Senate. The standing subcommittee shall report all measures either:

(a) Favorably,
(b) Favorably with committee amendment(s),
(c) Favorably with committee substitute as defined in these Rules, or
(d) Unfavorably.

(2) Such reports shall also reflect:

(a) The time and place of the meeting at which the action was taken, and
(b) The vote of each member of the subcommittee on the motion to report each bill or resolution.

(3) In reporting a bill to the full standing committee, a standing subcommittee may draft a new measure, embracing the same general subject matter, to be returned to the full standing committee with the recommendation that the substitute be considered in lieu of the original measure. The substitute measure must be accompanied by the original measure referred to the standing subcommittee and returned to the full standing committee in the same manner as a favorable report.

(4) All standing subcommittee reports shall be signed by the chair or, in the chair's absence, the vice-chair and shall be made on forms prescribed by the Secretary of the Senate. Each report by a standing subcom-

mittee must set forth the identifying number of the measure; if amendments are proposed by the standing subcommittee, the words "with amendments" shall follow the identifying number. Standing subcommittee amendments shall be printed in full on proper forms, numbered serially, and attached to the measure.

(5) All bills reported unfavorably shall be laid on the table when the standing committee considers the standing subcommittee's report. On motion by any member of the committee, adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those standing committee members present, the same may be taken from the table. When a bill is thus removed from the table by a standing committee, it shall receive a hearing de novo and witnesses shall be permitted to testify.

(6) When a bill with a favorable report by a standing subcommittee is considered by the standing committee, no additional testimony shall be permitted except by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those standing committee members present before final action is taken; however, debate by members of the standing committee shall be allowed. This Rule shall also apply to reports on budgetary matters by the standing subcommittees of the Committee on Appropriations for inclusion in the general appropriations bill.

2.17—Quorum of committee

A committee or standing subcommittee is actually assembled only when a quorum constituting a majority of the members of that committee is present in person. No committee business of any type shall be conducted in the absence of a quorum. Any bill or resolution reported in violation of this Rule shall be recommitted by the President when it is called to the President's attention by a Senator.

2.18—Prefiled bills

(1) On receipt from the Secretary of each prefiled bill and if the President has not previously designated a standing subcommittee of reference, the chair of a committee shall either refer to a standing subcommittee, refer to a select committee as otherwise provided in these Rules, or place on the agenda for a meeting of the standing committee. In any event, the chair shall concurrently notify the Secretary of the Senate of his or her action on forms provided for such report. The chair of the standing subcommittee, select committee, or of the standing committee thus possessing jurisdiction of a prefiled bill shall, with the concurrence of the President, determine the time and place for the hearing during which such bill is to be considered and notify the Secretary as required by these Rules.

(2) Committees having jurisdiction of prefiled bills shall expedite the business of such committee and shall file reports as soon as practicable after each hearing, except that the Committee on Appropriations shall not be required to file such report of a prefiled bill defined in these Rules.

(3) A prefiled bill introduced solely by a Senator who will not be a Senator at the next regular session of the Legislature shall be reported unfavorably without notice or hearing.

2.19—Conference committee in deliberation

(1) All meetings of Senate conferees with House conferees at which the business of the conference committee is discussed shall be open to the public subject to proper order and decorum. A meeting of the Senate and House conferees is a meeting of the two groups, therefore, the rules governing each respective house apply. Meetings between a majority of the members of a conference committee may be held following a notice being filed with the Secretary of the Senate by or at the direction of the person calling the meeting, at least two (2) hours in advance of the meeting, and after the fiftieth (50th) day of a regular session and during a special session, not less than one (1) hour in advance of the meeting. The notice shall indicate the names of the conferees and scheduled participants, the date, the time, and the location of the meeting.

(2) Conference committees shall consider and report only on the differences existing between the Senate and the House, and no substance foreign to the bills before the conferees shall be included in the report or considered by the Senate.

(3) A conference committee may only report by recommending the adoption of a series of amendments to the House or Senate bill that was the subject of the conference, or it may offer an amendment deleting everything after the enacting clause of any such bill referred to the committee. Such amendments shall accompany the conference committee report, which shall be attached to the original measure submitted to conference. In any event the conference committee may recommend, as part of its report, the adoption or rejection of any or all of the amendments theretofore adopted by either House. Conference reports must be approved and signed by a majority of the managers on the part of each House. All final actions taken in conference committee shall be by motion.

(4) Each report shall contain a statement sufficiently explicit to inform the Senate of the effect of the report on the measure to which it relates.

(5) When any bill or joint resolution is referred by the President to a conference committee, a notice of the following meetings to discuss matters relating to the conference, stating the names of the conferees and scheduled participants, and the date, time, and place for the meeting, shall be filed with the Secretary of the Senate by or at the direction of the person(s) at whose call the meeting is convened, not less than two (2) hours preceding the time for the meeting, and after the fiftieth (50th) day of a regular session and during a special session, not less than one (1) hour preceding the time for the meeting:

(a) Meetings between the President (or a Senator designated to represent the President), the Governor, and the Speaker of

the House (or a Representative designated to represent the Speaker);

(b) Meetings between a majority of the members of any subcommittee of the conference committee;

(c) Meetings between the President or any Senator(s) designated to represent the President and a conferee from the House of Representatives, or any meeting between a conferee from the Senate with the Speaker of the House of Representatives or any Representative(s) designated to represent the Speaker; and

(d) Meetings of a majority of the Senate conferees; and when the bill or joint resolution that is the subject of the conference committee deals primarily with the general appropriations act or revenue matters, any meeting of three (3) or more conferees on the part of the Senate.

(6) Notice of meetings, as scheduled, between the chair of the Senate's conferees with the chair of the House's conferees, or between respective Senate and House subcommittee chair with each other, shall be posted on a bulletin board provided for this purpose in the public corridor leading to the Senate Chamber. In the case of the appropriations conference, said notice shall also be posted on a bulletin board outside the door of the office of the Committee on Appropriations.

(7) All meetings for which notice is required pursuant to this Rule shall be held in the Capitol, the Senate Office Building, the Knott Building, or the House Office Building, but shall not be held in the Chamber of either house while it is in session.

(8) When any bill or joint resolution is referred to a conference committee and the conferees on the part of the Senate report an inability to agree, no action of the Senate taken prior to such reference to a conference committee shall preclude further action on the measure as the Senate may determine.

(9) After Senate conferees have been appointed for seven (7) calendar days and have failed to make a report, it is a motion of the highest privilege to move to discharge said conferees and to appoint new conferees, or to instruct said conferees, and this motion shall have precedence over all other questions except motions to adjourn and questions of privilege. Further, during the last six (6) calendar days allowed under the *State Constitution* for any regular session, it shall be a privileged motion to move to discharge, appoint, or instruct Senate conferees after the Senate conferees have been appointed thirty-six (36) hours without having made a report.

PART TWO—COMMITTEES—OFFICERS

2.20—Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

A chair and a vice-chair of each standing committee shall be appointed by the President preceding the regular session held each odd-numbered

year and shall continue in office at the pleasure of the President. The President shall also appoint a chair for each standing subcommittee and select committee authorized by these Rules and may designate a vice-chair, both of whom shall continue in office at the pleasure of the President.

2.21—Calling committee to order

The chair or, in the chair's absence, the vice-chair, shall call the committee to order at the hour provided by these Rules. On the appearance of a quorum the committee shall proceed with the order of business. Any member of the committee may question the existence of a quorum. No committee business of any type shall be conducted in the absence of a quorum.

2.22—Chair's control

The chair or vice-chair shall preserve order and decorum and shall have general control of the committee room. If there is a disturbance or disorderly conduct in the committee room, the chair or vice-chair may require participants in the disturbance to clear the room.

2.23—Chair's authority; appeals

The chair shall sign all notices, vouchers, subpoenas or reports required or permitted by these Rules. The chair shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by any Senator, and the appeal shall be certified by the chair to the Senate for a decision by the President during the daily session of the Senate next following such certification. The ruling shall be entered in the Journal, shall constitute binding precedent on all committees of the Senate, and shall be subject to appeal as any other question. The chair may, or on the vote of a majority of the committee members present shall, certify a question of parliamentary procedure to the President as contemplated by the Rule without a formal appeal. Such a certified question shall be disposed of by the President as if it had been on appeal. The perfection of an appeal or the certification of a question pursuant to this Rule shall not constitute an automatic stay to further legislative action on the measure under consideration.

2.24—Chair, Vice-Chair; vote

The chair and vice-chair shall vote on all matters before such committee. The name of the chair shall be called last.

2.25—Temporary alternate to Chair

The chair may name any member of the committee to perform the duties of the chair if such substitution shall not extend beyond such meeting. In the chair's absence and/or omission to make such appointment, the vice-chair shall act during his or her absence.

2.26—Vice-Chair's duties

On the death, incapacitation, or resignation of the chair, the vice-chair shall perform the duties of the office until the President shall appoint a successor. In the absence of the chair, the vice-chair shall act as chair.

PART THREE—COMMITTEES—MEMBERS

2.27—Members' attendance, voting, proxy

(1) Every member of a committee shall be in attendance during each of its meetings, unless excused or necessarily prevented, and shall vote on each question except that no member of a committee shall be required or permitted to vote on any question immediately concerning that member's private rights as distinct from the public interest.

(2) The chair may excuse any Senator for just cause from attendance at meetings of his or her committee for any stated period, and this excused absence shall be noted on the committee's records.

(3) Failure to attend two (2) consecutive regular meetings, unless excused from attendance in the Senate on those days as provided in these Rules or by the chair of the committee, shall constitute automatic withdrawal from the committee.

(4) No member of any committee shall be allowed to vote by proxy. A majority of all the committee members present shall agree by their votes on the disposition of any bill or other matter considered by the committee.

PART FOUR—COMMITTEES—VOTING

2.28—Taking the vote

(1) The chair shall declare all votes and shall cause same to be entered on the records of the committee, but if any member questions a vote, then by a show of hands by two (2) members the chair shall count the yeas and nays. When the committee shall be equally divided, the question shall be lost.

(2) A Senator may request to:
  (a) Change his or her vote, or
  (b) Vote

before the results of a roll call are announced. After the results have been announced, a Senator with unanimous consent of those committee members present may change his or her vote or vote. If the vote alters the final action of the committee, no change of vote or vote shall be valid until the measure has been recalled to the committee for further consideration. On request of a member prior to consideration of other business, the chair shall order a verification of a vote.

2.29—Pairing prohibited

No pairing shall be permitted by the committee.

2.30—Casting vote for another

No Senator shall cast a vote for another Senator, nor shall any person not a Senator cast a vote for a Senator. In addition to such penalties as may be prescribed by law, any Senator who shall vote or attempt to vote for another Senator may be punished as the Senate may deem proper. Also, any person not a Senator who shall vote in the place of a Senator shall be excluded from the committee for the remainder of the session.

2.31—Explanation of vote

No Senator shall be permitted to defer or explain his or her vote during a roll call, but may submit his or her explanation in writing and file it with the chair. This explanation shall be kept as part of the committee record and a copy filed with the Secretary of the Senate.

PART FIVE—COMMITTEES—MOTIONS AND PRECEDENCE

2.32—Motions; how made, withdrawn

Every motion may be made orally. On request of the chair, a Senator shall submit his or her motion in writing. After a motion has been stated or read by the chair, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the committee without a second, and shall be disposed of by vote of the committee members present. The mover may withdraw a motion, except a motion to reconsider, at any time before the same has been amended, or before a vote shall have commenced.

2.33—Motions; precedence

(1) When a question is under debate, the chair shall receive no motion except:

(a) To rise
(b) To take a recess
(c) To reconsider
(d) To limit debate
(e) To temporarily postpone
(f) To postpone to a day certain
(g) To commit to a select subcommittee
(h) To amend

which shall have precedence in the descending order given.

(2) The chair shall propound all questions in the order in which they are moved unless the subsequent motion be previous in nature.

(3) When a motion is under consideration, but prior to the commencement of the vote, a substitute motion shall be in order. Only one (1) substitute shall be considered and the substitute shall be in the same order of precedence.

2.34—Division of question

A Senator may call for a division of a question when the sense will admit of it. A motion to strike out and insert shall be deemed indivisible;

a motion to strike out, being lost, shall neither preclude amendment nor a motion to strike out and insert.

2.35—Reconsideration generally

When a question has been decided by a committee, any Senator voting with the prevailing side may move for reconsideration of the question. Also when a question has been decided by voice vote, any member, during the meeting at which the vote was taken, may so move. Such motion may be made pending a motion to rise or if the time of adjournment has arrived. Consideration of a motion to reconsider shall be a special and continuing order of business for the succeeding committee meeting, and, unless considered during such meeting, shall be considered abandoned. If the committee shall refuse to consider or, upon consideration, shall confirm its first decision, no further motion to reconsider shall be in order except upon unanimous consent of those committee members present. During the last fourteen (14) days of a regular session, a motion to reconsider shall be made and considered during the meeting at which the original vote was taken.

2.36—Reconsideration; vote required

The affirmative votes of a majority of the committee members present shall be required to adopt a motion to reconsider.

2.37—Reconsideration; debate allowed

Debate shall be allowed on a motion to reconsider only when the question is debatable. When debate on a motion to reconsider is in order, no Senator shall speak thereon more than once nor longer than five (5) minutes.

2.38—Reconsideration; collateral matters

A motion to reconsider a collateral matter must be disposed of during the course of the consideration of the main subject to which it is related, and such motion shall be out of order after the committee has passed to other business.

PART SIX—COMMITTEES—AMENDMENTS

2.39—Amendments and proposed committee substitutes; form, notice, manner of consideration

(1) No amendment or proposed committee substitute to any measure on any committee agenda, which was prepared prior to the committee meeting at which it is offered, shall be considered by that committee unless the amendment or proposed committee substitute was filed with the committee administrative assistant at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the noticed meeting time. For the purpose of this rule, office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Copies of such amendment or proposed committee substitute shall be made reasonably available by the committee administrative assistant before the meeting to the members of the committee and to the public.

(a) Subsequent to distribution of all timely filed amendments and proposed committee substitutes, additional amendments may be filed to any measure to which an amendment was timely filed. Such amendments may be filed with the committee administrative assistant until two (2) hours prior to the noticed meeting time.

(b) After the first fifty (50) days of any regular session, an amendment or proposed committee substitute to any measure prepared prior to a committee meeting at which it is offered shall be filed with the committee administrative assistant at least two (2) hours prior to the noticed meeting time.

(c) The consideration of any amendment or proposed committee substitute not timely filed in accordance with this rule, including any filed during a committee meeting in which it is to be offered, requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those committee members present. These time requirements do not apply to a committee's recommendation during a meeting to make a committee substitute which is merely a combination of the noticed bill(s) and amendments.

(2) Amendments shall be filed on forms prescribed by the Secretary but shall be considered only after sponsors, who are members of the committee, gain recognition from the chair to move their adoption. An amendment shall be deemed pending only after its sponsor has been recognized by the chair and has moved its adoption. Amendments that have been filed but have not been formally moved for adoption shall not be deemed to be pending. No proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment.

2.40—Sequence of amendments to amendments

(1) An amendment to a pending amendment may be received, but until it is disposed of, no other motion to amend will be in order, except a substitute amendment or an amendment to the substitute. Such amendments are to be disposed of in the following order:

(a) Amendments to the amendment are acted on before the substitute is taken up.

(b) Amendments to the substitute are next voted on.

(c) The substitute then is voted on.

(2) The adoption of a substitute amendment in lieu of an original amendment shall be treated and considered as an amendment to the bill itself.

2.41—Deleting everything after enacting clause

A proposal to delete everything after the enacting clause, or the resolving clause of a bill or resolution, and insert new matter of the same general subject as stated in the original title shall be deemed proper and germane and shall be treated as an amendment.

2.42—Amendment by section

The adoption of an amendment to a section shall not preclude further amendment of that section. If a bill or resolution is being considered section by section or item by item, only amendments to the section or item under consideration shall be in order. The chair, in recognizing Senators for the purpose of moving the adoption of amendments, shall endeavor to cause all amendments to section 1 to be considered first, then all those in section 2, and so on. After all sections have been considered separately, the whole bill shall be open for amendment.

2.43—Senate amendments to House bills

A House bill may be amended in the same manner as a Senate bill.

2.44—Amendments by another committee

Amendments recommended by all committees of reference shall accompany a bill when filed with the Secretary. No committee shall physically remove an amendment by another committee but may recommend an amendment to an amendment, or a substitute for an amendment, by another committee. Amendments adopted by a committee to be incorporated in a committee substitute need not be filed.

PART SEVEN—COMMITTEES—DECORUM AND DEBATE

2.45—Decorum and debate

When a Senator desires to speak or deliver a matter to the committee, the Senator shall address himself or herself to "Mr. or Madam Chair" and, on being recognized, may address the committee and shall confine himself or herself to the question under debate, avoiding personality. A Senator shall not address or refer to another Senator by his or her first name. A Senator shall use the appellation of Senator or such appellation and the surname of the Senator referred to or addressed.

2.46—Chair's power to recognize

When two (2) or more Senators speak at once, the chair shall name the Senator who is to be first recognized.

2.47—Interruptions; when allowed

(1) No Senator shall be interrupted by another without the consent of the Senator who has the floor, except by:

- (a) Rising to a question of privilege;
- (b) Rising to a point of order requiring an immediate ruling;
- (c) Rising to appeal a decision of the chair concerning a point of order (if the appeal is made immediately following the decision);
- (d) Rising to make a parliamentary inquiry requiring an immediate reply; or
- (e) Rising to question the existence of a quorum.

(2) The chair shall strictly enforce this Rule.

2.48—Speaking rights

(1) When a member is speaking and another member interrupts to request recognition, the chair may permit the person rising to state why he or she desires the floor. If the question the member desires to raise is entitled to precedence, the member originally speaking shall relinquish the floor until the question having precedence is disposed of. The member is then entitled to resume the floor.

(2) The member making a debatable motion or the primary introducer of a bill, whether or not a member of the committee, shall have five (5) minutes in order to close debate.

2.49—Time for debate

No Senator shall speak longer than ten (10) minutes without yielding the floor, except by consent of a majority of those committee members present.

2.50—Limitation on debate

When a measure is under debate by the committee, a Senator may move to limit debate, and the motion shall be decided without debate. The introducer of the measure shall have five (5) minutes to discuss the motion, and the introducer may divide such time with, or waive it in favor of, some other member. If the question is decided in the affirmative by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those committee members present, the debate shall be limited accordingly. The time allotted by such limitation shall be apportioned by the chair.

2.51—Priority of business

All questions relating to the priority of business shall be acted on and shall be decided without debate.

2.52—Questioning right to vote

A point of order questioning the right of a member to vote on account of interest may be raised after the vote has been recorded and before the result is announced.

2.53—Appeals

The proper method of taking exception to a ruling of the chair is by appeal. An appeal from a decision of the chair must be made promptly before debate has concluded or other business has intervened. A point of order on any other question is not in order while an appeal is pending, but a point of order relating to the appeal may be raised; if the determination of the appeal is dependent on this point, it may be decided by the chair. This second (2nd) decision is also subject to appeal.

2.54—Appeals debatable

An appeal from a decision of the chair on a point of order is debatable even though the question from which it arose was not debatable.

RULE THREE

BILLS, RESOLUTIONS, AND MEMORIALS

3.1—Form of bills

(1) All bills shall contain a proper title, as defined in Article III, Section 6 of the *State Constitution*, and the enacting clause, "Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:." The title of each bill shall be prefaced by the words, "A bill to be entitled An act." Standard rules of capitalization shall apply.

(2) The original must be backed in a folder-jacket signed by the sponsor(s). On these jackets shall be inscribed the name and district number of the introducer and any co-introducers or the introducing committee and its chair, enough of the title for identification.

(3) Bills that propose to amend existing provisions of the *Florida Statutes* (as described in section 11.242, *Florida Statutes*) or the *Laws of Florida* shall contain the full text of the section, subsection, or paragraph to be amended. Joint resolutions that propose to amend the *State Constitution* shall contain the full text of the section to be amended.

(4) In general bills and joint resolutions that propose to create or amend existing provisions of the *Florida Statutes*, *Laws of Florida*, or the *State Constitution*, new words shall be inserted underlined, and words to be deleted shall be lined through with hyphens, except that the text of the General Appropriations Act shall not be underlined.

(5) When the change in language is so general that the use of these procedures would hinder, rather than assist, the understanding of the amendment, it shall not be necessary to use the coded indicators of words added or deleted but, in lieu thereof, a notation similar to the following shall be inserted immediately preceding the text of the provision being amended: "Substantial rewording of section. See s. [number], F.S., for present text." When such notation is used, the notation as well as the substantially reworded text shall be underlined.

(6) The words to be deleted and the above-described indicators of such words and of new material are for information and guidance and shall not be considered to constitute a part of the bill under consideration.

(7) Section catchlines of existing text shall not be typed with underlining.

3.2—Bills for introduction

A bill may not be introduced until properly filed with the Secretary of the Senate.

3.3—Form of local bills

As required by Article III, Section 10 of the *State Constitution*, all local bills must either embody provision for ratifying referenda (stated in the title as well as in the text of the bill) or be accompanied by an affidavit of proper advertisement. Forms of affidavit may be obtained from the

Secretary of the Senate. All local bills that require publication shall, when introduced, have proof of publication securely attached to the original copy of the bill and the words "Proof of Publication Attached" clearly typed or stamped on the Senate side of the bill jacket or cover, or the same shall be rejected by the Secretary.

3.4—Form of joint resolutions

All joint resolutions shall contain a proper title, as defined in Article III, Section 6 of the *State Constitution*. Standard rules of capitalization shall apply. They shall contain the resolving clause, "Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:." Each joint resolution shall be prefaced by the words: "A joint resolution."

3.5—Form of memorials

All memorials shall contain a proper title, as defined in Article III, Section 6 of the *State Constitution*. Standard rules of capitalization shall apply. They shall contain the resolving clause, "Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:."

3.6—Form of resolutions; Senate and concurrent

(1) All Senate resolutions and all concurrent resolutions shall contain a proper title, as defined in Article III, Section 6 of the *State Constitution*. Standard rules of capitalization shall apply. Senate resolutions shall read, "Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:." Concurrent resolutions shall read, "Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida, the House of Representatives Concurring:."

(2) Only the Secretary of the Senate shall prepare copies of Senate resolutions that are to be furnished any person after the resolution's adoption.

3.7—Introduction during session

(1) To facilitate processing and committee referencing, all bills shall be filed for introduction with the Secretary of the Senate no later than 12:00 noon of the first (1st) day of the regular session.

(2) Between regular sessions of the Legislature, bills may be prefiled by delivery to the Secretary of the Senate.

3.8—Prefiled bills

(1) A prefiled bill complying with these Rules shall, in anticipation of the next regular session, be serially numbered in accordance with the permanent system required by these Rules. A bill received by the Secretary within three (3) weeks next preceding the convening of a regular session shall be numbered but otherwise withheld from the operation of this Rule. Such a bill shall be treated as if it had been delivered for introduction on the first (1st) day of the succeeding regular session.

(2) The Secretary shall deliver each such numbered bill to the President for reference to a committee or committees pursuant to these Rules. The Secretary shall promptly forward each referenced bill to the

first (1st) or only committee of reference. A copy of each prefiled bill shall be provided each Senator. The Secretary shall mail regularly to each Senator a calendar of all prefiled bills, including the referencing data for each bill, and of all committee hearings, including the bills noticed for hearing by each.

(3) After having been considered by a committee and a report made to the Secretary at least seven (7) days preceding a regular session, each bill shall be introduced and read on the first (1st) day thereof, pursuant to the *State Constitution*, *Laws of Florida*, and these Rules. The Journal shall reflect the committee reference and the report of the committee. All requirements for the referencing of bills to and the consideration of bills by Senate committees shall be deemed to have been met and discharged if the jurisdictional requirements of this Rule have been complied with as to each of such bills.

(4) If a committee fails to deliver its report of a prefiled bill prior to seven (7) days next preceding the convening of a regular session or, if a prefiled bill has received a reference to more than one (1) committee and fewer than all considered such bill, the committee or committees failing to so report and the committee or committees having failed to discharge their jurisdiction of a bill shall conduct hearings and file reports during the regular session as if such bill had not been prefiled.

(5) Notwithstanding these Rules, a Senator may, during the day of introduction of prefiled bills, but no later than under the Order of Business of "Motions Relating to Committee Reference" on the second (2nd) legislative day on which the Senate meets, move for reference to a different committee or for removal from a committee. This motion may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Senators present.

3.9—Printed copies of bills

When introduced, bills, not local in application, and joint resolutions (including committee bills and committee substitute bills) shall be printed by the Secretary for the information of the Senate and the public. The absence of a printed copy shall not delay the progress of a measure at any stage of the legislative process. Sufficient copies of the general appropriations bill proposed to be introduced by the Committee on Appropriations shall be made available to the members and, upon request, to the public, at the office of the Secretary of the Senate and at the committee's office, no less than two (2) hours prior to the time the Committee on Appropriations meets to consider the proposed committee bill.

3.10—Identification of bills

Bills and other measures requiring legislative action shall be introduced in the order they are received at the desk of the Secretary. They shall be serially numbered with even numbers as introduced, without differentiation in number as to type. The Secretary shall mark the original copy of each measure to ensure its identification, and each page thereof, as the item introduced in order to prevent unauthorized or improper substitutions. This identification may be made by any device to accomplish the

purpose of this Rule. Such device shall be in the custody of the Secretary, and its use by any person not authorized by this Rule is prohibited.

3.11—Companion measures

When a Senate bill is reached on the calendar of the Senate for consideration, either on second (2nd) or third (3rd) reading, and there is also pending on the calendar of the Senate a companion measure already passed by the House, it shall be in order to move that the House companion measure be substituted and considered in lieu of the Senate measure. Such motion may be adopted by a majority vote of those Senators present, provided the House measure is on the same reading; otherwise, the motion shall be to waive the Rules by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Senators present and read such House measure. A companion measure shall be substantially the same and identical as to specific intent and purpose as the measure for which it is being substituted. At the moment the Senate passes the House companion measure, the original Senate measure shall be regarded as automatically tabled. Recommitment of a Senate bill shall automatically carry with it any House companion measure then on the calendar.

3.12—Introducers of bills

Bills shall be introduced by a Senator or group of Senators whose signature or signatures are affixed to the original, or by any committee with the name of the committee and the signature of the Chair of the committee affixed to the original. A bill introduced by a committee may be co-sponsored by any Senator whose signature is affixed to the original. The general appropriations bill shall be introduced by the Committee on Appropriations.

3.13—Fiscal notes

(1) Upon being favorably reported by a standing committee, all general bills or joint resolutions affecting revenues, expenditures, or fiscal liabilities of state or local governments shall be accompanied by a fiscal note. Fiscal notes shall reflect the estimated increase or decrease in revenues or expenditures. The estimated economic impact, which calculates the present and future fiscal implications of the bill or joint resolution, must be considered. The fiscal note shall not express opinion relative to the merits of the measure, but may identify technical or mechanical defects.

(2) Fiscal notes on those bills affecting any state retirement system shall be prepared after consultation with an actuary who is a member of the Society of Actuaries and the cooperation of appropriate state agencies for necessary data shall be solicited.

(3) Fiscal notes shall be regarded as memoranda of factual information and shall be made available to members of the Senate.

(4) If a bill or joint resolution is reported favorably by a committee without a fiscal note or economic impact statement, as defined in this Rule, a Senator may at any time raise a point of order, and the President shall order return of the bill or joint resolution to the committee. A fiscal note

prepared for a Senate bill or joint resolution shall be presumed as prepared also for its House companion for the purposes of point of order.

RULE FOUR

ORDER OF BUSINESS AND CALENDAR

4.1—Sessions of the Senate

The Senate shall meet pursuant to a schedule adopted by the Committee on Rules and Calendar and approved by the President. This schedule shall set forth hours to convene and adjourn. The Senate shall not meet before 7:00 a.m. nor meet or continue to meet after 7:00 p.m.

4.2—Quorum

A majority of the Senate shall constitute a quorum, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day and compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner and under such penalties as it may prescribe. A Senator at any time may question the existence of a quorum.

4.3—Daily Order of Business

(1) The Daily Order of Business shall be as follows:
- (a) Roll Call
- (b) Prayer
- (c) Reports of Committees
- (d) Motions Relating to Committee Reference
- (e) Messages from the Governor and Other Executive Communications
- (f) Messages from the House of Representatives
- (g) Matters on Reconsideration
- (h) Consideration of Bills on Third (3rd) Reading
- (i) Special Order as determined by the Committee on Rules and Calendar
- (j) Consideration of Bills on Second (2nd) Reading
- (k) Correction and approval of Journal

(2) The Secretary of the Senate shall prepare and distribute, on each legislative day, a calendar corresponding to the Daily Order of Business; and within each order of business, matters shall be considered in the order in which they appear on such daily calendar. Local bills may be omitted from the formal calendar and may be distributed to Senators by the Secretary separately.

(3) Certain messages from the House of Representatives may be withheld from the Daily Order of Business pursuant to Rule 1.18 or on order of the President.

(4) On the first (1st) legislative day of each week the Daily Order of Business shall include, after prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

(5) First (1st) reading of bills shall be accomplished by publication of the title thereof in the Journal pursuant to Article III, Section 7 of the *State Constitution*.

4.4—Committee of the Whole

By a majority vote of those Senators present, the Senate may resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole and, when thus constituted, may consider any question whether formally introduced in the Senate or not. The Senate may, however, restrict the subject matter to be considered by the Committee of the Whole, or its jurisdiction, by resolving itself into a Committee of the Whole for a specific and limited purpose. The President shall preside and maintain order and decorum. The Rules of the Senate applicable to standing committees shall govern when applicable. The Committee of the Whole may consider and report, by majority vote of those committee members present, on any bill or question not formally introduced in the Senate and any bill on which all standing committees of reference have rendered a favorable report. A bill on which committee action has been taken by the committee or committees of reference or on which an unfavorable committee report has been filed may be considered only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those committee members present. Such vote shall also be required to favorably report any such bill to the Senate. A bill thus originating in a Committee of the Whole shall, when introduced as contemplated by the *State Constitution*, receive no further reference to committee. A favorable report by a Committee of the Whole on a bill having theretofore received an unfavorable report by a standing committee of reference shall not have the effect of withdrawing such bill from the table. Consideration by the Senate of such a bill shall be preceded by the adoption of the appropriate motion during a session of the Senate. Bills considered by a Committee of the Whole shall be read once, debated, amended, and acted on as a standing committee function. The body of a bill formally introduced shall not be interlined or defaced, but all amendments denoting the page and line shall be entered on a separate paper by the Secretary of the Committee of the Whole. The same shall be agreed to by the Committee, and the report filed as otherwise provided in these Rules for committee reports. After report, the bill or other matter may be again debated and shall be subject to be again amended by the Senate. The quorum for a Committee of the Whole shall be the same as for the Senate, and when the Committee of the Whole shall rise, the roll shall be called to ascertain the presence of a quorum of the Senate.

4.5—Conference committee report

(1) The report of a committee of conference appointed pursuant to Rule 1.5 shall be read to the Senate on two (2) consecutive legislative days, and on the completion of the second (2nd) reading the vote shall be on the adoption or rejection thereof and final passage of the measure as recommended. During the last five (5) days of a regular session the report shall be read only once. Copies of conference committee reports shall be available to the membership twelve (12) hours prior to the time such report is scheduled to be taken up on the Senate floor.

(2) The report must be acted on as a whole, being adopted or rejected, and each report shall include a statement sufficiently explicit to inform the Senate of the effect of the report on the measure to which it relates.

(3) Except when the Senate is voting on a proposition, reports of committees of conference shall always be in order.

4.6—Reference generally; final days for introduction of bills and resolutions

(1) All bills, including those that are strictly local in nature and those prefiled in accordance with these Rules, shall be referred by the President to appropriate committees or standing subcommittees.

(2) Bills received by the President during a regular session and within three (3) weeks next preceding the convening of a regular session shall be referred within seven (7) days. Upon failure of the President to reference such bills within this limitation, they shall be referred to committees as may be recommended by the sponsor. In the event of extended absence of the President or the President's disability or incapacity, the President Pro Tempore shall assume the duty of referring bills.

(3) If the President has not previously designated a standing subcommittee of reference, the chair of the standing committee shall promptly determine whether such measure shall initially be considered by the full committee, a standing subcommittee, or a select subcommittee appointed by the chair. The chair, in referring a bill to a subcommittee, shall specify the number of days available for consideration. If subreference is to a standing subcommittee, the chair of the standing committee shall promptly report this reference and the time allowed for consideration to the Secretary of the Senate on forms provided for the purpose.

(4) The reference of a bill that appears to be local in nature shall be to the Committee on Rules and Calendar to determine whether such measure is local in nature for reference purposes and whether it responds to the legal requirements of a local bill.

(5) A bill is local in nature for referencing purposes if it does not substantially alter a law of general application throughout the state and it either affects no more than one (1) county or relates to a special district that is located wholly within no more than two (2) counties.

(6) When the Committee on Rules and Calendar, through staff analysis, has determined that the bill is not local in nature for referencing purposes, the committee shall report such determination to the President of the Senate, who shall refer such bill to an appropriate standing committee for hearing. Such report shall be made within fifteen (15) legislative days from date of reference to the Committee on Rules and Calendar. When the Committee on Rules and Calendar, through staff analysis, has determined that a bill is local in nature for referencing purposes and that it responds to the legal requirements of a local bill, the bill shall be reported and referred to the calendar on local bills.

(7) All Senate bills filed for introduction after 12:00 noon on the first (1st) day of the regular session (except for the general appropriations bill, local bills, Senate resolutions, and joint resolutions) shall be referenced, but shall be withheld from the committee or committees of reference until after adjournment sine die of such session.

(8) A motion to waive this Rule shall be referred to the Committee on Rules and Calendar for a hearing and its advisory recommendation as to the existence of an emergency reasonably compelling consideration of a bill notwithstanding this Rule and a recommendation shall be reported back to the Senate. The Secretary shall number them to provide identity and control until a permanent number can be affixed. These bills shall be known as prefiled bills and considered in accordance with these Rules.

4.7—Reference to more than one committee; effect

In case of multiple reference of a bill, it shall be considered by each committee separately in the order in which the multiple reference is made. However, if any committee to which the bill is referred makes an unfavorable report on said bill, that report shall be filed with the Senate and no further consideration given by other committees except by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Senators present. If a committee reports a bill favorably with committee substitute, other committee consideration shall be directed to the substitute and not to the original.

4.8—Reference of bills affecting appropriations, revenue, retirement, or county or municipal spending

All bills authorizing or substantially affecting appropriations shall be reviewed by the Committee on Appropriations or a standing subcommittee of that committee. All bills authorizing or substantially affecting tax revenue shall be reviewed by the Committee on Finance and Taxation. All bills substantially affecting a state-funded or state-administered retirement system shall be reviewed by the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity. All bills which are affected by the provisions of Article VII, Section 18 of the *State Constitution* shall be reviewed by the Committee on Comprehensive Planning. A bill that is amended to substantially affect appropriations or tax revenue, a state retirement program, or expenditures or revenues as set forth in Article VII, Section 18 of the *State Constitution* shall, before being placed before the Senate for final passage, be reviewed along with all amendments by the Committee on Appropriations or a standing subcommittee of that committee, by the Committee on Finance and Taxation, by the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity, or by the Committee on Comprehensive Planning, as appropriate for review and recommendation to the Senate, which review during the last ten (10) days of a regular session shall be accomplished within twenty-four (24) hours.

4.9—Reference of resolutions

All resolutions shall be referred by the President to a standing committee, except resolutions on Senate organization, resolutions of condolence and commemoration that are of a statewide nonpolitical significance, or concurrent resolutions recalling a bill from the Governor's office. These may be considered on motion and adopted at time of introduction without reference, except that resolutions of condolence or commemoration that are of a statewide nonpolitical significance, may be shown as introduced, read, and adopted by publication in full in the Journal.

4.10—Reference to different committee or removal

(1) When the President has referred a bill, the Chair of the Committee on Rules and Calendar may move for reference to a different committee or for removal from any committee after the sponsor of the bill has filed a card with the Rules Chair signed by the chair of the affected committee and the Chair of the Committee on Rules and Calendar. This motion may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Senators present.

(2) The Chair of the Committee on Appropriations may move to withdraw a bill from that committee provided the bill has been reported favorably by a standing subcommittee and a card requesting such withdrawal has been filed with the committee by the sponsor and approved by the chair. This motion may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Senators present, and shall have the effect of the bill having been reported favorably by the Committee on Appropriations as recommended by the subcommittee.

4.11—Papers of miscellaneous nature

Papers of a miscellaneous nature addressed to the Senate may, at the discretion of the President, be read, noted in the Journal, or filed with an appropriate committee. When there is a demand to read a paper other than one on which the Senate is called to give a final vote and the same is objected to by any Senator, it shall be determined by a majority vote of those Senators present.

4.12—Reading of bills and joint resolutions

Each bill or joint resolution shall receive three (3) separate readings on three (3) separate days previous to a vote on final passage unless decided otherwise by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Senators present as provided in Article III, Section 7 of the *State Constitution*.

4.13—Reading of concurrent resolutions and memorials

Each concurrent resolution or memorial shall receive two (2) separate readings on two (2) separate days previous to a voice vote on adoption, unless decided otherwise by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Senators present. If the reading on the second (2nd) day is dispensed with by this waiver, the concurrent resolution or memorial may be read the second (2nd) time by title only.

4.14—Reading of Senate resolutions

On introduction each Senate resolution shall be read by title only and shall be read an additional time in full before the question is put on adoption by voice vote, except that resolutions of condolence or commemoration that are of a statewide nonpolitical significance may be shown as introduced, read, and adopted by publication in full in the Journal.

4.15—Referral or postponement on third (3rd) reading

On the third (3rd) reading of a bill or joint resolution, it shall not be referred or committed (except to the Committee on Appropriations) or

amended (except a corrective or title amendment) except by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Senators present, nor shall the vote on passage be postponed to a day certain without the consent of a majority of those Senators present.

4.16—Consideration out of regular order

A bill shall be considered out of regular order on the calendar on unanimous consent of those Senators present obtained in the following manner: Prior to the consideration of the motion, the Senator moving for unanimous consent of those Senators present shall orally give the membership not less than fifteen (15) minutes' notice of his or her intention to move and shall specify the number of the bill or joint resolution and its position on the calendar. On entertainment of the motion, the moving Senator shall be allowed one (1) minute to explain his or her purpose, and unanimous consent of those Senators present shall be given or refused without further debate.

4.17—Special Order Calendar; Consent Calendar

(1) Commencing on the first (1st) day of a regular session of the Legislature permitted under the *State Constitution* and during any extension directed by the membership of the Legislature as permitted under the *State Constitution*, the Chair of the Committee on Rules and Calendar, the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Rules and Calendar, the Majority Leader, the Minority Leader, and two (2) other members of the committee designated by the chair shall on each day submit a Special Order Calendar determining the priority for consideration of bills. Except for the first (1st) day, each Special Order Calendar shall be for the second (2nd) succeeding legislative day on which the Senate meets, and this calendar may include bills that had been scheduled for Special Order on the previous legislative day. No other bills shall be considered until this Special Order Calendar has been completed by the Senate, except that any bill appearing on this calendar may be stricken by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Senators present or any bill appearing on the general calendar of bills on second (2nd) or third (3rd) reading may be added to the end of the Special Order Calendar by the same vote. All bills set as Special Order for consideration at the same hour shall take precedence in the order in which they were given preference.

(2) A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Senators present shall be required to establish a Special Order except as provided in this Rule. Notice of time and place for the establishment of the Special Order shall be published in the daily calendar; provided, during the last ten (10) days of each regular session notice of time and place may be given by announcement from the floor.

(3) The Committee on Rules and Calendar, with the approval of the President, may submit a Consent Bill Calendar to be held in conjunction with the Special Order Calendar. When such a day is designated, all bills appearing on the Consent Calendar shall be considered in their order of appearance. However, if an objection by any member shall cause such bill

to be temporarily postponed, it retains its order on the regular calendar. A Senator may designate only a bill that he or she sponsors or a House bill for the Consent Calendar. A committee chair may designate a committee bill sponsored by his or her committee. All Consent Calendar bills must have appeared on the printed Senate calendar.

4.18—Calendar of local bills

Local bills shall be disposed of according to the calendar of bills of a local nature and shall be considered only at such time as determined by the Committee on Rules and Calendar or its designees and approved by the President.

4.19—Order after second (2nd) reading

The order of disposition of a bill that has been read the second (2nd) time shall be its reference to the engrossing clerk to be engrossed after all questions relative to it while on second (2nd) reading have been disposed of, and the same shall be immediately engrossed and placed on the calendar of bills on third (3rd) reading to be considered on some succeeding legislative day. No bill shall be committed to the engrossing clerk or placed on the calendar of bills on third (3rd) reading unless all motions relative to it and placed, by the President, before the Senate have been disposed of. Amendments filed with the Secretary, the adoption of which have not been formally moved, shall not be construed to be pending so as to deter such advancement. A bill shall be available for its third (3rd) reading when it has been read a second (2nd) time on a previous day and no motion left pending. Bills calendared for second (2nd) or third (3rd) reading shall not be considered on such reading until reached on the calendar and appropriately read to the Senate pursuant to order of the President.

4.20—Enrolling

The Secretary of the Senate shall be responsible for the enrolling of all bills. After enrollment, all bills shall be signed by the President and the Secretary and the enrolling report shall be published in the Journal.

4.21—Veto messages

As required by Article III, Section 8 of the *State Constitution*, if the originating house votes to re-enact a vetoed measure, whether in a regular or special session, and the other house does not consider or fails to re-enact the vetoed measure, no further consideration by either house at any subsequent session may be taken. If a vetoed measure is presented at a special session and the originating house does not consider it, the measure will be available for consideration at any intervening special session and until the end of the next regular session. All veto messages shall be referred to the Committee on Rules and Calendar.

4.81—Claim bills

(1) Claim bills are of two (2) types: excess judgment claims filed pursuant to section 768.28(5), *Florida Statutes*, and equitable claims filed without an underlying excess judgment.

(2) All claim bills shall be filed with the Secretary of the Senate on or before August 1 in order to be considered by the Senate during the next regular session, except that members elected to the Senate during a general election may have sixty (60) days from the date of that election to file a claim bill(s). Senators currently serving who are re-elected during a general election are not subject to the immediately preceding provision relating to sixty (60) days. A motion to introduce a claim bill notwithstanding the claim bill filing deadline, shall be referred to the Committee on Rules and Calendar for a hearing and a determination as to the existence of an emergency reasonably compelling consideration of a claim bill notwithstanding the claim bill filing deadline. A House claim bill which does not have a Senate companion claim bill timely filed under this Rule shall not be considered by the Senate. Any motion to consider a House claim bill which does not have a timely filed Senate companion bill shall be referred to the Committee on Rules and Calendar for a hearing and a determination as to the existence of an emergency reasonably compelling consideration of a claim bill notwithstanding the claim bill filing deadline. The determination by the Committee on Rules and Calendar shall be reported back to the Senate. Upon a determination by the committee that an emergency does exist, the motion may be considered by the Senate and must be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Senators present.

(3) All claim bills shall be referred by the President to one (1) or more committees for review. If the President determines that a de novo hearing is necessary to determine liability, proximate cause, and damages, a Special Master shall conduct such hearing pursuant to reasonable notice. Discovery procedures shall be governed by the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure and the Florida Evidence Code, as applicable. The Special Master shall administer an oath to all witnesses, accept relevant documentary and tangible evidence properly offered, tape record the proceedings, and prepare a final report containing findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations no later than December 1. The report shall be signed by the Special Master who shall be available, in person, to explain his or her report to the committees and to the Senate.

(4) On receipt of the Special Master's report and recommendations, if any, the Secretary shall, under the President's initial reference, deliver each claim bill with the report attached, to the committee or committees of reference.

(5) Stipulations entered into by the parties are not binding on the Special Master, the Senate, or its committees.

(6) The hearing and consideration of a claim bill shall be held in abeyance until all available administrative and judicial remedies have been exhausted; except that the hearing and consideration of a claim that is still within the judicial or administrative systems may proceed where the parties have executed a written settlement agreement.

RULE FIVE

VOTING

5.1—Taking the yeas and nays

The President shall declare all votes, but, if five (5) Senators immediately question a vote by a show of hands, the President shall take the vote by yeas and nays or electronic roll call. When taking yeas and nays on any question, the electronic roll call system may be used and shall have the force and effect of a roll call taken as provided in these Rules. Also this system may be used to determine the presence of a quorum. When the Senate is ready to vote on a question requiring roll call and the vote is by electronic roll call, the President shall state: "The Secretary will unlock the machine and Senators prepare to vote." When sufficient time has elapsed for each Senator to vote, the President shall say: "Have all voted?" And, after a short pause, shall state: "The Secretary shall now lock the machine and record the vote." When the vote is completely recorded, the President shall announce the result to the Senate; and the Secretary shall enter in the Journal the result. When the Senate is equally divided, the question shall be lost.

5.2—Change of vote

(1) After the result of the vote has been announced by the President, a Senator with unanimous consent of those Senators present may change his or her vote or vote on the measure except that no such change of vote or vote shall be valid where such vote would alter the final passage of the measure until the measure shall first have been recalled to the Senate for further consideration. Records of such requests shall be available at the Secretary's desk through the session. If no objections are raised before the close of the business that day, requests will be accepted.

(2) The original roll call shall not be altered, but late votes and change of votes shall be recorded under the original roll call in the Journal. On request of a Senator before considering other business, the President shall order a verification of a vote.

5.3—Casting vote for another

No Senator shall cast a vote for another Senator unless the Senator is present in the chamber area and requests the casting of said vote, nor shall a person not a Senator cast a vote for a Senator. In addition to such penalties as may be prescribed by law, a Senator who shall without such authorization vote or attempt to vote for another Senator may be punished as the Senate may deem proper. Also, a person not a Senator who shall vote wrongfully in the place of a Senator shall be excluded from the Chamber for the remainder of the session.

5.4—Pairing

(1) Pairing, a type of absentee voting by which a Senator who is excused from attendance agrees with a Senator who would have voted opposite the excused Senator, shall be permitted.

(2) The Senator in attendance shall not vote in the electronic roll call.

(3) The pair vote form shall:
- (a) State the bill to which the pair applies,
- (b) Indicate how both Senators would have voted,
- (c) Be filed with the Secretary prior to the vote, and
- (d) Be recorded in the Journal.

5.5—Explanation of vote

No Senator shall be permitted to explain his or her vote during a roll call but may submit his or her explanation in writing and file it with the Secretary. This explanation shall be entered in the Journal.

5.6—Election by ballot

In all cases of ballot, a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to an election. If, however, no one is elected on the first three (3) ballots, the names after the top two (2) in number of votes received on the third (3rd) tally shall be dropped, and the Senate shall ballot on the two (2) names remaining.

RULE SIX

MOTIONS AND PRECEDENCE

6.1—Motions; how made, withdrawn

Every motion may be made orally. On request of the President, a Senator shall submit his or her motion in writing. After a motion has been stated or read by the President, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the Senate and, without a second, shall be disposed of by vote of the Senate. The mover may withdraw a motion, except a motion to reconsider, as hereinafter provided, at any time before the same has been amended or before the vote shall have commenced.

6.2—Motions; precedence

(1) When a question is under debate, the President shall receive no motion except:
- (a) To adjourn
  - 1. Instanter
  - 2. At a time certain
- (b) Questions of privilege
- (c) To take a recess
- (d) To proceed to the consideration of executive business
- (e) To reconsider
- (f) To limit debate
- (g) To temporarily postpone
- (h) To postpone to a day certain
- (i) To commit to the Committee of the Whole
- (j) To commit to a standing committee
- (k) To commit to a select committee

(l) To amend
(m) To postpone indefinitely

which shall have precedence in the descending order given. A motion to discharge Senate conferees and to appoint or instruct said conferees as set forth in Rule 2.19 is a motion of the highest privilege and this motion shall have precedence over all other questions except motions to adjourn and questions of privilege.

(2) The President shall propound all questions in the order in which they are moved unless the subsequent motion be previous in nature.

(3) When a motion is under consideration, but prior to the commencement of the vote, a substitute motion shall be in order. Only one (1) substitute shall be entertained and the substitute shall be in the same order of precedence.

6.3—Division of question

A Senator may call for a division of a question when the sense will admit of it. A motion to strike out and insert shall be deemed indivisible; a motion to strike out, being lost, shall neither preclude amendment nor a motion to strike out and insert.

6.4—Reconsideration generally

(1) When a main question (the vote on passage of a measure, including a vote on a veto message, confirmation of executive appointments, removal or suspension from office) has been decided by the Senate, a Senator voting with the prevailing side may move for reconsideration of the question on the same or the next legislative day on which the Senate meets.

(a) If the question has been decided by voice vote, any Senator may so move.
(b) When a majority of those Senators present vote in the affirmative on any question but the proposition be lost because it is one in which the concurrence of more than a majority of those Senators present is necessary for adoption or passage, any Senator may move for reconsideration.

(2) Such motion may be made pending a motion to adjourn or if it is time to adjourn.

(a) Consideration of a motion to reconsider shall be a special and continuing order of business for the Senate when it next meets on a legislative day succeeding that on which the motion was made and, unless considered on said day, shall be considered abandoned. If the Senate shall refuse to reconsider or, on reconsideration, shall confirm its first decision, no further motion to reconsider shall be in order except on unanimous consent of those Senators present.
(b) During the last five (5) days of a regular session, a motion to reconsider shall be made and considered on the same day.

6.5—Reconsideration; vote required

A majority of the affirmative votes of those Senators present shall be required to adopt a motion to reconsider.

6.6—Reconsideration; debate

Debate shall be allowed on a motion to reconsider only when the question which it is proposed to reconsider is debatable. When the question is debatable no Senator shall speak thereon more than once nor longer than five (5) minutes.

6.7—Reconsideration; collateral matters and procedural motions

A motion to reconsider a collateral matter must be disposed of during the course of the consideration of the main subject to which it is related, and such motion shall be out of order after the Senate has passed to other business. Reconsideration of a procedural motion shall be considered on the same day on which it is made.

6.8—Reconsideration; Secretary to hold for period

The Secretary shall hold all bills for the period after passage during which reconsideration may be moved. The adoption of any motion to waive the Rules by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Senators present and immediately certify any bill or joint resolution to the House shall be construed as releasing the measure from the Secretary's possession for the period of reconsideration and shall, thereafter, preclude reconsideration. During the last five (5) calendar days allowed under the *State Constitution* for a regular session and during any extensions thereof, or during any special session, the bills shall be immediately transmitted to the House. Messages relating to Senate action on House amendments or to conference committee reports shall be transmitted forthwith.

6.9—Motion to indefinitely postpone

The adoption of a motion to indefinitely postpone a measure shall dispose of it for the duration of the legislative session and all extensions thereof. A motion to postpone consideration to a time beyond the last day allowed under the *State Constitution* for the current legislative session shall be construed as a motion to indefinitely postpone. Motions to indefinitely postpone shall not be applicable to collateral matters.

RULE SEVEN

AMENDMENTS

7.1—General form; notice; manner of consideration

(1) No amendment to a bill on any Senate calendar which was prepared prior to the time a session of the Senate has convened shall be considered by the Senate unless the amendment was filed with the Secretary of the Senate no later than 5:00 p.m. the day prior to the day that session was called to order. Copies of such amendments shall be made reasonably available by the Secretary of the Senate before the session, upon request,

to the members and to the public. The consideration of all amendments not timely filed in accordance with this rule, requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Senators present.

(2) Amendments shall be filed with the Secretary on forms prescribed by the Secretary but shall be considered only after sponsors gain recognition from the President to move their adoption, except that the chair of the committee (or, in the chair's absence, the vice-chair or any member thereof) reporting the measure under consideration shall have preference for the presentation of committee amendments. An amendment shall be deemed pending only after its sponsor has been recognized by the President and has moved its adoption. Amendments that have been filed with the Secretary of the Senate but have not been formally moved for adoption shall not be deemed to be pending.

(3) No proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment. The following bills are out of order and shall not be admitted or considered under color of amendment to a bill on the calendar and under consideration by the Senate:

(a) Bills which have received an unfavorable committee report.
(b) Bills which have been withdrawn from further consideration by the sponsor.
(c) Bills the substance of which have not been reported favorably by all committees of reference.

Amendments covered by this Rule shall be substantially the same and identical as to specific intent and purpose as the measure residing in the committee or committees of reference.

7.2—Adoption

(1) On second (2nd) reading, amendments may be adopted by a majority vote of those Senators present.

(2) On third (3rd) reading, amendments and amendments to amendments shall be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Senators present. Amendments to the title or corrective amendments may be decided, without debate, by a majority vote of those Senators present on third (3rd) reading.

7.3—Sequence of amendments to amendments

(1) An amendment to a pending amendment may be received, but until it is disposed of, no other motion to amend will be in order, except a substitute amendment or an amendment to the substitute. Such amendments are to be disposed of in the following order:

(a) Amendments to the amendment are acted on before the substitute is taken up. Only one (1) amendment to the amendment is in order.
(b) Amendments to the substitute are next voted on.
(c) The substitute then is voted on.

(2) The adoption of a substitute amendment in lieu of an original amendment shall be treated and considered as an amendment to the bill itself.

7.4—Deleting everything after enacting clause

A proposal to delete everything after the enacting clause, or the resolving clause of a bill or resolution, and insert new matter of the same general subject as stated in the original title shall be deemed proper and germane and shall be treated as an amendment.

7.5—Amendment by section

The adoption of an amendment to a section shall not preclude further amendment of that section. If a bill is being considered section by section or item by item, only amendments to the section or item under consideration shall be in order. The President, in recognizing Senators for the purpose of moving the adoption of amendments, shall endeavor to cause all amendments to section 1 to be considered first, then all those in section 2, and so on. After all sections have been considered separately, the entire bill shall be open for amendment.

7.6—Printing in Journal

All amendments taken up by the Senate unless withdrawn shall be printed in the Journal except that an amendment to the general appropriations bill constituting an entirely new bill shall not be printed until the filing of the conference committee report. All item amendments to the general appropriations bill shall be printed.

7.7—Senate amendments to House bills

A House bill may be amended in the same manner as a Senate bill. If a House bill is amended, the same shall be noted by the Secretary on the jacket before it is reported to the House.

7.8—House amendments to Senate bills

(1) After the reading of a House amendment to a Senate bill, the Senate may:

(a) Amend the House amendment,
(b) Concur in the House amendment,
(c) Refuse to concur in the House amendment and ask the House to recede, or
(d) Request a conference committee.

(2) The adoption of all the foregoing motions shall be by majority vote of those Senators present.

7.9—House refusal to concur in Senate amendment

(1) If the House shall refuse to concur in a Senate amendment to a House bill, the Senate may:

(a) Recede,
(b) Insist that the House concur and request a conference committee, or

(c) Insist that the House concur.

(2) The adoption of any of the foregoing motions shall be by majority vote of those Senators present.

RULE EIGHT

DECORUM AND DEBATE

8.1—Decorum and debate

When a Senator desires to speak or deliver a matter to the Senate, the Senator shall rise at his or her seat and address himself or herself to "Mr. or Madam President," and, on being recognized, may address the Senate from his or her desk or from the well of the Senate, and shall confine any remarks to the question under debate, avoiding personality. A Senator shall not address or refer to another Senator by his or her first name. A Senator shall use the appellation of Senator or such appellation and the district number of the Senator being addressed, or a Senator may also use such appellation and the surname of the Senator referred to or addressed.

8.2—Presiding officer's power of recognition

When two (2) or more Senators rise at once, the presiding officer shall name the Senator who is first to be recognized.

8.3—Interruptions; when allowed

(1) No Senator shall be interrupted by another without the consent of the Senator who has the floor, except by:

(a) Rising to a question of privilege;
(b) Rising to a point of order requiring an immediate ruling;
(c) Rising to appeal a decision of the presiding officer concerning a point of order (if the appeal is made immediately following the decision);
(d) Rising to make a parliamentary inquiry requiring an immediate reply; or
(e) Rising to question the existence of a quorum.

(2) The presiding officer shall strictly enforce this Rule.

8.4—Senator speaking, rights

(1) When a member is speaking and another member interrupts to request recognition, the presiding officer may permit the person rising to state why he or she desires the floor. If the question the member desires to raise is entitled to precedence, the member originally speaking shall relinquish the floor until the question having precedence is disposed of. The member then is entitled to resume the floor.

(2) The Senator making a debatable motion or the primary introducer of a bill shall have five (5) minutes in order to close debate.

8.5—Limit on speaking

No Senator shall speak longer than thirty (30) minutes without yielding the floor, except by consent of a majority of those Senators present.

8.6—Limitation of debate

When a measure is under debate by the Senate, a Senator may move to limit debate, and such motion shall be decided without debate, except the introducer of the measure shall have five (5) minutes to discuss said motion. If, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Senators present, the question is decided in the affirmative, debate shall be limited accordingly.

8.7—Points of order, parliamentary inquiry, definitions

A point of order is the parliamentary device that is used to require a deliberative body to observe its own rules and to follow established parliamentary practice. A parliamentary inquiry is the device for obtaining a predetermination of a rule or a clarification thereof and may be presented in hypothetical form.

8.8—Questioning right to vote

A point of order questioning the right of a member to vote on account of interest may be raised after the vote has been recorded and before the result is announced.

8.9—Appeals

Taking exception to a ruling of a presiding officer shall be by appeal. An appeal from a decision of the presiding officer must be made promptly before debate has concluded or other business has intervened. A point of order on any other question is not in order while an appeal is pending, but a point of order relating to the appeal may be raised; and, if the determination of the appeal is dependent on this point, it may be decided by the presiding officer. This second (2nd) decision is also subject to appeal.

8.10—Appeals, debatable

An appeal from a decision of the presiding officer on a point of order is debatable even though the question from which it arose was not debatable.

8.11—Questions of privilege

(1) Questions of privilege shall be:
  (a) Those affecting the rights of the Senate collectively, its safety, dignity, and the integrity of its proceedings; and
  (b) The rights, reputation, and conduct of Senators individually, in their representative capacity only.

(2) These shall have precedence over all other questions except motions to adjourn. The question shall not be recognized during the debate on a bill. A question of privilege affecting either house collectively takes precedence over a question of privilege affecting an individual member.

RULE NINE

LOBBYING

9.1—Those required to register

All persons (except those specifically exempted) who seek to encourage the passage, defeat, or modification of legislation in the Senate or before its committees shall, before engaging in such activity, register as prescribed by law and the Joint Rules of the Florida House and Senate.

9.2—Obligations of lobbyist

(1) A lobbyist shall supply facts, information, and opinions of principals to legislators from the point of view from which he or she openly declares. A lobbyist shall not offer or propose anything to improperly influence the official act, decision, or vote of a legislator.

(2) A lobbyist, by personal example and admonition to colleagues, shall uphold the honor of the legislative process by the integrity of his or her relationship with legislators.

(3) A lobbyist shall not knowingly and willfully falsify a material fact or make any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation or make or use any writing or document knowing the same contains any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or entry.

9.3—Lobbyists' requirements

A lobbyist shall adhere to the statutory requirements for lobbyists provided by law and the Joint Rules.

9.4—Advisory opinions

(1) A lobbyist, when in doubt about the applicability and interpretation of this Rule in a particular context, may submit in writing a statement of the facts involved to the Committee on Rules and Calendar and may appear in person before said committee.

(2) The Committee on Rules and Calendar may render advisory opinions to any lobbyist who seeks advice as to whether or not the facts in a particular case will constitute a violation of these Rules. All opinions shall delete names and be numbered, dated, and published in the Journal of the Senate.

9.5—Compilation of opinions

The Secretary of the Senate shall keep a compilation of all advisory opinions of the Committee on Rules and Calendar.

9.6—Penalties for violations

Separately from any prosecutions or penalties otherwise provided by law, any person determined to have violated the requirements of this Rule shall be censured, reprimanded, placed on probation, or prohibited from lobbying for the duration of the session and from appearing before any committee of the Senate. Said determination shall be made by a majority of the Senate and on recommendation of the Committee on Rules and

Calendar. The Committee on Rules and Calendar, before making said recommendation, shall conduct a hearing, after notifying the person alleged to have violated this Rule and granting such person an opportunity to appear at the hearing.

9.7—Committees to be diligent

Committees shall be diligent to ascertain whether those who appear before them, in other than an obviously individual capacity, have conformed with the requirements of this Rule, the Joint Rules, and the *Laws of Florida*, and shall report violations. No committee member shall knowingly permit an unregistered lobbyist to be heard.

RULE TEN

CHAMBER OF THE SENATE

10.1—Persons entitled to admission

No person shall be admitted to the main floor of the Senate Chamber while the Senate is in session except present members of the Senate, all officers and employees of the Senate in the performance of their duties, and persons charged with messages or papers to the Senate. Also entitled to admission are the Governor or one (1) representative designated by the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, Cabinet officers, former governors, present and former United States Senators, members or former members of the House of Representatives of the United States and of this State, Justices of the Supreme Court, former State Senators of Florida, and persons by invitation of the President. A special section of the gallery shall be reserved for members of the families of Senators.

10.2—Exception

None of the persons entitled to admission shall be admitted if registered pursuant to Rule Nine (9).

10.3—Admission of press by President

Representatives of the press and of radio and television stations, in performance of their duties, shall be assigned to a press section specifically set aside for them, and shall not be allowed on the Senate floor while the Senate is in session, except with the approval of the President.

10.4—Attire

All male persons on the main floor of the Senate Chamber and in the gallery (with the exception of visitors in that portion of the gallery set aside for the general public) shall wear coats and ties at all times while the Senate is in session.

10.5—Gallery

No food or beverages shall be allowed in the gallery at any time.

RULE ELEVEN

CONSTRUCTION AND WAIVER OF RULES

11.1—Interpretation of Rules

It shall be the duty of the President, or the presiding officer for the time being, to interpret all Rules. Motions for the previous question and to lay on the table shall not be entertained.

11.2—Waiver and suspension of Rules

These Rules shall not be waived or suspended except by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Senators present. The motion, when made, shall be decided without debate. A motion to waive a Rule requiring unanimous consent of the Senate shall be construed to be an amendment to these Rules and shall be referred to the Committee on Rules and Calendar except by unanimous consent of those Senators present.

11.3—Changes in Rules

All proposed actions touching the Rules and Order of Business in the Senate shall be first referred to the Committee on Rules and Calendar, which shall report as soon as practicable. Consideration of such a report shall always be in order. The Committee on Rules and Calendar may originate reports and resolutions dealing with these Rules and the Order of Business, and such power shall be exclusive, provided, however, that any report made pursuant to this Rule may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Senators present.

11.4—Majority action

Unless otherwise indicated by these Rules or the *State Constitution*, all action by the Senate shall be by majority vote of those Senators present.

11.5—Uniform construction

When in these Rules reference is made to "two-thirds (2/3) of those present," "two-thirds (2/3) vote," "two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate," "two-thirds (2/3) of those voting," etc., these shall all be construed to mean two-thirds (2/3) of those Senators present, except that two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate shall be required to consider additional proposed legislation in any extended session in accordance with Article III, Section 3 of the *State Constitution*.

11.6—General

When used in these Rules, the following words shall, unless the text otherwise indicates, have the following respective meaning: the singular always includes the plural. Except where specifically provided otherwise, the use of the word "bill" or "measure" means a bill, joint resolution, concurrent resolution, resolution, or memorial.

RULE TWELVE

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS, APPOINTMENTS, SUSPENSIONS, AND REMOVALS

PART ONE—EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

12.1—Executive session; authority

The business of the Senate shall be transacted openly and not in executive session except under conditions pursuant to Article III, Section 4(b) of the *State Constitution*.

12.2—Executive session; purpose

Pursuant to Article III, Section 4(b) of the *State Constitution*, the Senate may resolve itself into executive session for the sole purpose of considering appointment, removal, or suspension. No one shall be in attendance except Senators and the Secretary of the Senate, who shall be sworn not to disclose any executive business without consent of the Senate.

12.3—Executive session; vote required

When the Senate agrees, by a majority of those Senators present, that specified appointments, removals, or suspensions shall be considered in executive session, such shall be calendared for formal consideration by the Senate.

12.4—Work product confidentiality

All information and remarks including committee work product concerning the character and qualification, together with the vote on each appointment, removal, or suspension considered in executive session shall be kept a secret except information on which the bans of secrecy were lifted by the Senate while in executive session.

12.5—Separate Journal

A separate Journal shall be kept of executive proceedings of the Senate, and no information regarding same shall be made public except by order of the Senate or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

12.6—Violation of Rule

Violation of the above Rules as to the secrecy of the proceedings of executive sessions shall be considered by the Senate as sufficient grounds for unseating the offending Senator.

PART TWO—APPOINTMENTS, SUSPENSIONS, AND REMOVALS

12.7—Procedure

(1) Except as otherwise herein provided, on receipt by the Senate of appointments or suspensions on which action by the Senate is required, the President shall refer each to the Committee on Ethics and Elections,

other appropriate committee or to a Special Master appointed by the President. Either one shall make inquiry or investigation and hold hearings, as appropriate, and advise the President and the Senate with a recommendation and the necessity for deliberating the subject in executive session. Reports and findings of the committee or the Special Master appointed pursuant hereto are advisory only and shall be made to the Senate President. The report of the committee or the Special Master may be privileged and confidential. The President may order the report presented to the Senate in either open or executive session, or the President may refer it to the Committee on Rules and Calendar for its consideration and report. When the report is presented to the Senate in open session or received by the Committee on Rules and Calendar, the report shall lose its privileged and confidential character.

(2) Upon receipt of a request by the Governor or other appointing official or authority for the return of the documentation of an appointment, which appointment has not been acted upon by the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate, upon consultation with the President, shall return the appointment documentation and the return shall be noted in the Journal of the Senate. The appointee whose appointment was returned continues in office until the end of the next ensuing session of the Legislature or until the Senate confirms a successor, whichever occurs first.

(a) If the appointment returned was made by the Governor, official or authority's predecessor, the appointee shall not be subject to the provisions of section 114.05(1)(e) or (f), *Florida Statutes*, during the period of withdrawal.

(b) If the appointment returned was made by the Governor, official or authority requesting the return, for purposes of section 114.05(1)(e) and (f), *Florida Statutes*, the returned appointment shall be treated as if the Senate failed to consider the appointment.

(3)(a) An executive suspension of a public official who is under indictment or who has pending against him or her criminal charges filed by the appropriate prosecuting officer in a court of record, or an executive suspension of a public official that is challenged in a court shall be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Elections, other appropriate committee or Special Master; however, all inquiry or investigation or hearings thereon shall be held in abeyance and the matter shall not be considered by the Senate, the committee or the Special Master until the pending charges have been dismissed, or until final determination of the criminal charges at the trial court level, or until the final determination of a court challenge, if any, and the exhaustion of all appellate remedies for any of the above.

(b) In a suspension case in which the criminal charge is not for the alleged commission of a felony, the committee or the Special Master, and the Senate may proceed if the written consent of counsel for the Governor and of the suspended official is obtained.

(4) The Governor and the suspended official shall be given reasonable notice in writing of any hearing or pre-hearing conference before the committee or Special Master.

(5) The suspended official may file with the Secretary of the Senate, no later than ten (10) days prior to the first (1st) pre-hearing conference, or no later than the date set by the committee or Special Master if no pre-hearing conference is held, all written defenses or matters in avoidance of the charges contained in the suspension order.

(6) When it is advisable, the committee or Special Master may request that the Governor file a bill of particulars containing a statement of further facts and circumstances supporting the suspension order. Within twenty (20) days after the receipt of such bill of particulars by the suspended officer, that officer shall file with the committee or Special Master a response to the Governor's bill of particulars. Such response shall specifically admit or deny the facts or circumstances set forth in the Governor's bill of particulars, and may further make such representation of fact and circumstances or assert such further defenses as are responsive to the bill of particulars or as may bear on the matter of the suspension.

(7) The committee or Special Master may provide for a pre-hearing conference with counsel for the Governor and the suspended official to narrow the issues involved in the suspension. At such conference, both the Governor and the suspended official shall set forth the names and addresses of all the witnesses they intend to call, the nature of their testimony, and photocopies of all documentary and a description of all physical evidence that will be relied on by the parties at the hearing. Each shall state briefly what each expects to prove by such testimony and evidence.

(8) Subject to the limitations of Rule 12.7(3) the committee or Special Master shall institute action by transmitting a notice of hearing for a pre-hearing conference or a hearing on the merits within three (3) months after the effective date of the suspension order. If a suspension order is referred to the committee or Special Master but is held in abeyance in accordance with Rule 12.7(3), the committee or Special Master shall institute action within three (3) months after the termination of pending proceedings as described in Rule 12.7(3). The Senate may act on the recommendations of the committee or Special Master at any time it is in session but shall do so no later than the end of the next regular session of the Legislature.

(9) For the purposes of Article IV, Section 7(b) of the *State Constitution*, the Senate may find that the suspended official has committed a felony notwithstanding that a court may have withheld adjudication of guilt upon which the suspension order is based in whole or in part.

(10) If the Governor files an amended suspension order, the attention of the Senate, the committee, or the Special Master shall be directed at the amended suspension order.

(11) Within sixty (60) days after the Senate has completed final action on the recommendation of the committee or Special Master, any party to

the suspension matter may request the return, at that party's expense, of any exhibit, document, or other evidence introduced by that party. After the expiration of sixty (60) days from the date the Senate has completed final action, the committee or Special Master may dispose of such exhibits or other evidence.

12.8—Special Master; appointment

The President may appoint and contract for the services of a Special Master to perform such duties and make such reports in relation to suspensions and removals as he or she shall prescribe.

12.9—Special Master; floor privilege

With consent of the President, the Special Master may have the privilege of the Senate floor to present and explain the report and answer questions as to the law and facts involved.

12.10—Issuance of subpoenas and process

The committee and the Special Master shall each have the authority to request the issuance of subpoenas, subpoenas duces tecum, and other necessary process under Rule 2.2. The committee chair and the Special Master may each administer all oaths and affirmations in the manner prescribed by law to witnesses who shall appear to testify on matters pending before the committee or Special Master.

12.11—Rule takes precedence

In any situation where there is a direct conflict between the provisions of Rule Twelve (12) and part V of chapter 112, *Florida Statutes*, the Rule, derived from Article III, Section 4(a) of the *State Constitution*, shall take precedence.

RULE THIRTEEN

SPECIAL SESSION

13.1—Applicability of Senate Rules

All Senate Rules in effect on adjournment of the next preceding regular session shall apply and govern during special sessions except to the extent specifically modified or contradicted herein.

13.2—Sessions of the Senate

The Senate shall meet each legislative day at 9:00 a.m. or pursuant to a schedule adopted by the Committee on Rules and Calendar and approved by the President.

13.3—Committee meetings; schedule, notice

Committee meetings shall be coordinated and scheduled by the Committee on Rules and Calendar with the approval of the President. Meetings of standing committees and standing subcommittees scheduled in accordance with this Rule may be held following an announcement by the chair while the Senate is in session, and by posting a notice on a bul-

letin board in the public corridor leading into the Senate Chamber for two (2) hours in advance of the meeting. The notice posted shall include the date, time, and place of the meeting together with the name of the introducer, short title, and number of each bill to be considered. All other provisions for publication of notice of committee meetings are suspended.

13.4—Delivery for introduction

All bills and other measures for introduction may be delivered to the Secretary of the Senate at any time.

13.5—Committee reports

Every bill, joint resolution, resolution, and memorial referred to a standing committee or committees shall be reported to the Secretary before 4:30 p.m. of the third (3rd) calendar day from the day of reference (the day of reference not being counted as the first (1st) day) unless otherwise ordered by the Senate by majority vote of those Senators present. Any bill on which no committee report is filed may be withdrawn from such committee and calendared on point of order. Every bill, joint resolution, resolution, and memorial referred to a standing subcommittee shall be reported to the standing committee at a time specified by the chair of the standing committee which shall not be beyond the time allowed herein.

13.6—Conference committee reports

(1) The report of a committee of conference appointed pursuant to Rule 1.5 shall be read to the Senate on two (2) consecutive legislative days and, on the completion of the second (2nd) reading, the vote shall be on the adoption or rejection thereof and final passage of the measure as recommended. During the last two (2) days of a special session the report shall be read only once. A conference committee report shall be made available to the membership four (4) hours prior to the beginning of debate of the report by the Senate.

(2) The report must be acted on as a whole, being adopted or rejected, and each report shall include a statement sufficiently explicit to inform the Senate of the effect of the report on the measure to which it relates.

(3) Conference committees shall consider and report only on the differences existing between the Senate and the House, and no substance foreign to the bills before the conferees shall be included in the report or considered by the Senate.

(4) A conference committee may only report by recommending the adoption of a series of amendments to the House or Senate bill that was the subject of the conference, or it may offer an amendment deleting everything after the enacting clause of any such bill referred to the committee. In any event the conference committee may recommend, as part of its report, the adoption or rejection of any or all of the amendments theretofore adopted by either House.

(5) When a bill or joint resolution is referred to a conference committee and the conferees on the part of the Senate report an inability to agree,

no action of the Senate taken prior to such reference to a conference committee shall preclude further action on said measure as the Senate may determine.

(6) After Senate conferees have been appointed for thirty-six (36) hours and have failed to make a report, it is a motion of the highest privilege to move to discharge said Senate conferees and to appoint new conferees, or to instruct said Senate conferees.

13.7—Reconsideration

A motion to reconsider shall be made and considered on the same day.

13.8—Special Order Calendar

The Committee on Rules and Calendar may submit a Special Order Calendar determining the time and priority for consideration of bills. Such Special Order Calendar shall be for the next legislative day. The amendment deadline for bills on the Special Order Calendar shall be 5:00 p.m. or two (2) hours after the Special Order Calendar is announced, whichever occurs later.

RULE FOURTEEN

SEAL AND INSIGNIA

14.1—Seal and insignia

(1) There shall be an official seal of the Senate. The seal shall be the size of a circle of two and one-half inches diameter having in the center thereof a fan of the five flags which have flown over Florida, above a disc containing the words: "In God We Trust" arched above a gavel, quill, and scroll. At the top of the field of flags shall be the word: "Seal." At the bottom shall be the date: "1838." The perimeter of the seal shall contain the words: "Senate" and "State of Florida."

(2) There shall be an official coat of arms for the Senate. The coat of arms shall contain a fan of the five flags that have flown over Florida, above the Great Seal of Florida. At the base of the coat of arms shall be the words: "The Florida Senate."

(3) The Senate Seal, the Senate Coat of Arms, official Senate stationery, calling cards, and facsimiles thereof, may be used only in connection with official Senate business.

As instructed by the Senate, necessary technical and conforming changes have been made to the Senate Rules as adopted at the November 19, 2002, Organization Session.

Faye W. Blanton
Secretary of the Senate

GERMANITY STANDARDS

A proposed amendment must:

1. Be related to the same subject as the original measure,
2. Be a natural and logical expansion of the subject matter of the original proposal, and
3. Not raise a new, independent issue.

The member raising the point of order has the burden of showing that the amendment is not germane.

COMMON MOTIONS

AMENDMENTS

Adopt

Mr. [Madam] President, I move the adoption of the amendment. *(Rules 7.1 and 7.2, **majority vote**)*

Concur in House Amendment

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that the Senate concur in House Amendment No(s) __ to Senate Bill __. *(Rule 7.8, **majority vote** but bill requires same final vote as originally)*

Consider a late filed amendment

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that this amendment be considered even though it was filed after the amendment deadline. *(Rule 7.1, **2/3 vote of those present**)*

Recede from Senate Amendment

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that the Senate recede from Senate Amendment No(s) __ to House Bill __. *(Rule 7.9, **majority vote** to concur but bill requires same final vote as originally)*

Refuse to Concur in House Amendment

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that the Senate refuse to concur in House Amendment No(s) __ to Senate Bill __ and request the House to recede. *(Rule 7.8, **majority vote**)*

Reconsider

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that the Senate reconsider the vote by which amendment number __ was adopted [failed]. *(Rules 6.5 and 6.7, **majority vote**)*

BILLS

Add to End of Special Order Calendar

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that Senate Bill __ be added to the Special Order Calendar. *(Rule 4.17, **2/3 vote of those present**)*

Add to Specific Place on Special Order Calendar

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that the rules be waived and that Senate Bill __ be added __ (*state location on calendar*). *(Rule 4.17, **2/3 vote of those present**)*

Consider, Despite Unfavorable Report

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that Senate Bill __ be considered, the unfavorable report of the Committee on __ to the contrary notwithstanding. *(Rule 4.7, **2/3 vote of those present**)*

Indefinitely Postpone

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that Senate Bill __ [with pending amendments] be indefinitely postponed. *(Rules 6.2 and 6.9, **majority vote**)*

Introduce after Deadline for Filing

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that a bill relating to *(subject)* be introduced, notwithstanding the fact that the deadline for filing bills has passed. *(Rule 4.6, motion and bill referred to the Committee on Rules and Calendar)*

Introduce outside Governor's Call during Special Session

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that Senate Bill __ be admitted for introduction although it is outside the call of the Governor. *(Art. III, s. 3(c)(1), State Constitution, **2/3 vote of the membership**)*

Reconsider

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that the Senate reconsider the vote by which Senate Bill __ passed [failed to pass]. *(Rules 6.4 and 6.5, **majority vote**)*

Reconsider Immediately

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that the Rules be waived and the Senate do now reconsider the vote by which Senate Bill __ passed [failed to pass]. *(Rules 6.4 and 6.8, **2/3 vote of those present**)*

Refer to a Different or Additional Committee

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that Senate Bill __ be withdrawn from the Committee(s) on __ and referred [be also referred] to the Committee(s) on __. *(Rules 2.14, 3.8 and 4.10, **2/3 vote of those present**)*

Remove from Calendar and Recommit or Refer to a Different Committee

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that Senate Bill __ be removed from the calendar and recommitted [referred] to the Committee on __. *(Rules 2.15, 3.8, and 4.10, **2/3 vote of those present**)*

Substitute Companion Bill

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that House Bill __ be [withdrawn from the Committee on __ and] substituted for Senate Bill __. *(Rule 3.11, **majority vote** if bills on same reading, **2/3 vote of those present** if bills not on same reading. See also Rule 4.10, to withdraw from committee, **2/3 vote of those present**, companion measure shall be substantially the same and identical as to specific intent and purpose)*

Take up Out of Order

Mr. [Madam] President, I [wish to give 15 minutes' notice of my intention to] move that Senate Bill __ *(state position on calendar)* be considered out of order. *(Rule 4.16, **unanimous consent**)*

Take up Second Reading Same Day as First Reading

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that Senate Bill __ be read a second time. *(Art. III, s. 7, State Constitution; (Rule 4.12, **2/3 vote of those present**)*

Take up Third Reading Same Day as Second Reading

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that Senate Bill __ be read the third time and placed upon final passage. *(Art. III, s. 7, State Constitution; Rule 4.12, **2/3 vote of those present**)*

Withdraw from Committee

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that Senate Bill __ be withdrawn from the Committee(s) on __. *(Rules 2.14, 3.8, and 4.10, **2/3 vote of those present**)*

Withdraw from Further Consideration

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that Senate Bill __ be withdrawn from the committee(s) of reference and further consideration. *(Rules 2.14, 3.8, and 4.10, **2/3 vote of those present**)*

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Appointment

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that a conference committee be appointed on the part of the Senate to confer with a like committee on the part of the House on Senate Bill __ to consider the differences between the two houses. *(Rules 7.8 and 7.9, **majority vote**)*

DEBATE

Limitation

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that debate be limited to __ minutes per side on the amendment [bill]. *(Rule 8.6, **2/3 vote of those present**)*

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

Adopt Report of Committee

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that the report of the committee be adopted, and the Senate confirm the appointment set forth in the committee report. *(Rule 12.7, **majority vote**)*

EXECUTIVE SUSPENSIONS

Reinstate

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that the Senate finds the evidence insufficient to support the Executive Order of Suspension by the Governor, and that (*name of person*) not be removed from the office of (*name of office*) from which he has been suspended and that he or she be reinstated therein pursuant to the *State Constitution* and the *Florida Statutes*. *(Rule 12.7, **majority vote**)*

Remove

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that the Senate finds the evidence supports the Executive Order of Suspension by the Governor, and that (*name of person*) be removed from the office of (*name of office*) pursuant to the *State Constitution* and the *Florida Statutes*. *(Rule 12.7, **majority vote**)*

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. [Madam] President, I rise to a point of personal privilege relating to (*subject*) and ask permission to address the Senate. *(Rules 6.2 and 8.11)*

RECONVENE SENATE

At Other than the Scheduled Time

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that the Rules be waived and when the Senate adjourns that it reconvene at (*time*), (*date*). *(Rule 4.1, **2/3 vote of those present**)*

VETO OVERRIDES

General Bill

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that Senate Bill __ of the 20__ Session be passed, the veto of the Governor to the contrary notwithstanding. *(Art. III, s. 8, State Constitution, **2/3 vote of those present**)*

Line Items of Appropriations Bill

Mr. [Madam] President, I move that Item(s) __ [and __] in Senate Bill __ be passed, the Governor's objections to the contrary notwithstanding. *(Art. III, s. 8, State Constitution, **2/3 vote of those present**)*

VOTE OR CHANGE VOTE

After Announcement of Roll Call

Mr. [Madam] President, I request unanimous consent of the Senate to be recorded as voting "yea" ["nay"] on Senate [House] Bill __. *(Rule 5.2, **unanimous consent**)*

Joint Rules

of the

Florida Legislature

2002-2004

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JOINT RULES

JOINT RULE ONE

(As amended March 2000)

LOBBYIST REGISTRATION AND REPORTING

1.1—Those Required to Register; Exemptions; Committee Appearance Records

(1) All lobbyists before the Florida Legislature must register with the Lobbyist Registration Office in the Division of Legislative Information Services of the Office of Legislative Services, referred to in Joint Rule One as the Lobbyist Registration Office. Registration is required for each principal represented.

(2) As used in this rule, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Designated lobbyist" means the lobbyist who is appointed, by a principal represented by two or more lobbyists, to file expenditure reports that include lobbying expenditures made directly by the principal.

(b) "Legislative action" means introduction, sponsorship, testimony, debate, voting, or any other official action on any measure, resolution, amendment, nomination, appointment, or report of, or any matter which may be the subject of action by, either house of the Legislature or any committee thereof.

(c) "Lobby" or "lobbying" means influencing or attempting to influence legislative action or nonaction through oral or written communication or an attempt to obtain the goodwill of a member or employee of the Legislature.

(d) "Lobbyist" means a person who is employed and receives payment, or who contracts for economic consideration, for the purpose of lobbying, or a person who is principally employed for governmental affairs by another person or governmental entity to lobby on behalf of that other person or governmental entity. An employee of the principal is not a "lobbyist" unless the employee is principally employed for governmental affairs. "Principally employed for governmental affairs" means that one of the principal or most significant responsibilities of the employee to the employer is overseeing the employer's various relationships with government or representing the employer in its contacts with government. Any person employed by any executive, judicial, or quasi-judicial department of the state or any community college of the state who seeks to encourage the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation by personal appearance or attendance before the House of Representatives or the Senate, or any member or committee thereof, is a lobbyist.

(e) "Payment" or "salary" means wages or any other consideration provided in exchange for services, but does not include reimbursement for expenses.

(f) "Principal" means the person, firm, corporation, or other entity that has employed or retained a lobbyist. When an association has employed or retained a lobbyist, the association is the principal; the individual members of the association are not principals merely because of their membership in the association.

(3) For purposes of this rule, the terms "lobby" and "lobbying" do not include any of the following:

(a) Response to an inquiry for information made by any member, committee, or staff of the Legislature.

(b) An appearance in response to a legislative subpoena.

(c) Advice or services that arise out of a contractual obligation with the Legislature, a member, a committee, any staff, or any legislative entity to render the advice or services where such obligation is fulfilled through the use of public funds.

(d) Representation of a client before the House of Representatives or the Senate, or any member or committee thereof, when the client is subject to disciplinary action by the House of Representatives or the Senate, or any member or committee thereof.

(4) For purposes of registration and reporting, the term "lobbyist" does not include any of the following:

(a) A member of the Legislature.

(b) A person who is employed by the Legislature.

(c) A judge who is acting in that judge's official capacity.

(d) A person who is a state officer holding elective office or an officer of a political subdivision of the state holding elective office and who is acting in that officer's official capacity.

(e) A person who appears as a witness or for the purpose of providing information at the written request of the chair of a committee, subcommittee, or legislative delegation.

(f) A person employed by any executive, judicial, or quasi-judicial department of the state or community college of the state who makes a personal appearance or attendance before the House of Representatives or the Senate, or any member or committee thereof, while that person is on approved leave or outside normal working hours, and who does not otherwise meet the definition of lobbyist.

(5) When a person, whether or not the person is registered as a lobbyist, appears before a committee of the Legislature, that person must submit a Committee Appearance Record on a form to be provided by the respective house.

1.2—Method of Registration

(1) Each person who is required to register under Joint Senate and House Rule 1.1 must register on forms furnished by the Lobbyist Registration Office, on which that person must state, under oath, that per-

son's full legal name, driver's license number, business address, and phone number, the name and business address of each principal that person represents, the areas of that person's legislative interest, and the extent of any direct business association or partnership that person has with any member of the Legislature. The Lobbyist Registration Office or its designee is authorized to acknowledge the oath of any person who registers in person. Any changes to the information provided in the registration form must be reported to the Lobbyist Registration Office in writing within 15 days on forms furnished by the Lobbyist Registration Office.

(2) Any person required to register must do so with respect to each principal prior to commencement of lobbying on behalf of that principal. At the time of registration, the registrant shall provide a statement signed by the principal or principal's representative that the registrant is authorized to represent the principal. Any person required to register must renew the registration annually, in accordance with Joint Senate and House Rule 1.3.

(3) If a principal is represented by two or more lobbyists, the first lobbyist who registers to represent that principal shall be the designated lobbyist. The principal may change its designated lobbyist at any time in writing on forms furnished by the Lobbyist Registration Office. Upon termination of the designated lobbyist's representation, the principal shall notify the Lobbyist Registration Office within 15 days, on forms furnished by the office, of the appointment of a new designated lobbyist.

(4) A lobbyist shall promptly send a notice to the Lobbyist Registration Office, on forms furnished by the Lobbyist Registration Office, cancelling the registration for a principal upon termination of the lobbyist's representation of that principal. A notice of cancellation takes effect the day it is received by the Lobbyist Registration Office. Notwithstanding this requirement, the Lobbyist Registration Office may remove the name of a lobbyist from the list of registered lobbyists if the principal notifies the Lobbyist Registration Office that the lobbyist is no longer authorized to represent that principal. Each lobbyist shall file an expenditure report for each period during any portion of which he or she was registered, and each principal shall ensure that an expenditure report is filed for each period during any portion of which the principal was represented by a registered lobbyist.

(5) The Lobbyist Registration Office shall publish on the first Monday of each regular session and weekly thereafter through the end of that session a compilation of the names of persons who have registered and the information contained in their registrations.

(6) The Lobbyist Registration Office shall retain all original documents submitted under this section.

(7) A person who is required to register under this rule, or who chooses to register, shall be considered a lobbyist of the Legislature for the purposes of sections 112.3148 and 112.3149, Florida Statutes, relating to the reporting of and the prohibited receipt of gifts and honoraria.

1.3—Registration Costs; Exemptions

(1) To cover the costs incurred in administering this joint policy, each person who registers under Joint Senate and House Rule 1.1 must pay an annual registration fee to the Lobbyist Registration Office. The annual period runs from January 1 to December 31. These fees must be paid at the time of registration.

(2) The following persons are exempt from paying the fee, provided they are designated in writing by the agency head or person designated in this subsection:

(a) Two employees of each department of the executive branch created under chapter 20, Florida Statutes.

(b) Two employees of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

(c) Two employees of the Executive Office of the Governor.

(d) Two employees of the Commission on Ethics.

(e) Two employees of the Florida Public Service Commission.

(f) Two employees of the judicial branch designated in writing by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court.

(3) The annual fee is up to $50 per each house for a person to register to represent one principal and up to an additional $10 per house for each additional principal that the person registers to represent. The amount of each fee shall be established annually by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The fees set shall be adequate to ensure operation of the lobbyist registration and reporting operations of the Lobbyist Registration Office. The fees collected by the Lobbyist Registration Office under this joint policy shall be deposited in the State Treasury and credited to the Legislative Lobbyist Registration Trust Fund specifically to cover the costs incurred in administering this joint policy.

1.4—Periodic Reports Required

(1) REPORTING DATES.—Each person who registers pursuant to Joint Senate and House Rule 1.2 must submit to the Lobbyist Registration Office, on forms provided by the Lobbyist Registration Office and for each reporting period required by this rule, a signed and certified statement listing all lobbying expenditures during the reporting period and the sources of funds for those expenditures as required in this rule. Reporting statements shall be filed no later than 45 days after the end of the reporting period. Only two reports are required each calendar year. The first report shall disclose expenditures made from January 1 through June 30. The second report shall disclose expenditures for July 1 through December 31. It is the intent of this rule that each reporting period be separate from the other reporting period and that each expenditure be reported just once. In addition, any reporting statement may be filed by electronic means, when feasible.

(2) TIMELINESS OF REPORTS.—Reports shall be filed not later than 5 p.m. of the report due date. However, any report that is postmarked

by the United States Postal Service no later than midnight of the due date shall be deemed to have been filed in a timely manner. A certificate of mailing obtained from and dated by the United States Postal Service at the time of the mailing, or a receipt from an established courier company which bears a date on or before the due date, shall be proof of mailing in a timely manner.

(3) LOBBYIST'S EXPENDITURE REPORT.—

(a) The Lobbyist's Expenditure Report shall include the name of the lobbyist and the name of the principal on whom the report is prepared. Expenditures for the reporting period shall be reported by the following categories: Food and Beverages; Entertainment; Research; Communications; Media Advertising; Publications; Travel; Lodging; Special Events; and Other. For each expenditure category, the report must identify the amount paid directly by the lobbyist, directly by the principal, initiated or expended by the lobbyist and paid for by the principal, or initiated or expended by the principal and paid for by the lobbyist. Forms shall be provided by the Lobbyist Registration Office.

(b) A lobbyist shall file a Lobbyist's Expenditure Report for each principal represented.

(c) When a principal has two or more lobbyists, the designated lobbyist will be responsible for filing a report that discloses the expenditures made directly by the principal and the expenditures of the designated lobbyist on behalf of the principal. The designated lobbyist is responsible for making a good faith effort to obtain the figures reported as lobbying expenditures made by the principal.

(d) When there are multiple lobbyists, only the designated lobbyist is to report expenditures made directly by the principal. When there are multiple lobbyists, only unduplicated amounts should be reported for expenditures initiated or expended by the lobbyist and paid for by the principal.

(e) The principal is responsible for the accuracy of the figures submitted to the lobbyist for reporting, and the lobbyist is responsible for the accuracy of the figures reported as lobbying expenditures made by that lobbyist. The principal shall sign the expenditure report submitted by the principal's sole or designated lobbyist.

(4) EXPENDITURES.—

(a) Definitions.—

1. "Expenditure" means a payment, distribution, loan, advance, reimbursement, deposit, or anything of value made or controlled, directly or indirectly, by a lobbyist or principal for the purpose of lobbying. Expenditures shall be accounted for and reported on an accrual accounting basis.

2. "Accrual accounting basis" means the method of accounting that recognizes expenses during the period in which they are incurred regardless of when they are actually paid.

(b) Goodwill expenditures.—An expenditure shall be considered to have been intended to be for the purpose of engendering goodwill if it is a gift, an entertainment, any food or beverage, or any other item or service of similar personal benefit to a member or an employee of the Legislature, unless the member or employee is a relative of the lobbyist. A relative is an individual who is related to the member or employee as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, grandparent, great grandparent, grandchild, great grandchild, step grandparent, step great grandparent, step grandchild, or step great grandchild; any person who is engaged to be married to the member or employee or who otherwise holds himself or herself out as or is generally known as the person whom the member or employee intends to marry or with whom the member or employee intends to form a household; or any other natural person having the same legal residence as the member or employee.

(c) Expenditure categories.—Each reporting individual shall make a good faith effort to report an expenditure and to report it in the appropriate category. If an expenditure fits in two or more categories, it shall be reported in the category to which the expense primarily relates. When an expenditure is not within any defined category, it should be reported in the "Other" category. The categories of expenditures used in this rule are as follows:

1.a. "Communications" means dissemination of information, including, but not limited to, by means of the following:

I. Audio-visual materials; and

II. Signs, placards, banners, buttons, promotional materials, and other display materials;

together with any associated production services.

b. This category does not include media advertising, publications, or research.

2. "Entertainment" means amusement or recreation, including, but not limited to, sporting, hunting, fishing, theatrical, artistic, cultural, and musical activities or events.

3. "Food and Beverages" means meals, snacks or other edible substances, or liquids for drinking, including services associated therewith.

4. "Lodging" means sleeping or living accommodations for an individual for one or more nights.

5. "Media Advertising" means newspaper and magazine advertising, radio and television advertising, and outdoor advertising, including production services and copyrighting services.

6. "Other" means any item or service that is not included within one of the specified categories, but does not include any item or service that is not required by law to be reported.

7. "Publications" means mass-produced, printed materials, including, but not limited to, magazines, newsletters, brochures, or pamphlets, which expressly encourage persons to communicate with members or employees of the Legislature to influence the official actions of members or employees of the Legislature or which are designed to communicate with members or employees of the Legislature.

8. "Research" means procurement of information relating to a specific issue, regardless of the form or medium in which that information is provided, including, but not limited to, surveys, bill-tracking services, information services, periodicals, and consultants or consultant services to gather data or statistics.

9. "Special Events" means large-scale occurrences, including, but not limited to, receptions, banquets, dinners, or legislative days, to which more than 250 persons are invited and for which the expenditures associated with hosting the occurrence are negotiated with a catering service or facility at a single, set price or which include multiple expenditure categories.

10. "Travel" means transporting an individual from one place to another, regardless of the means used.

(d) Items that are not expenditures.—The term "expenditure" does not include:

1. Contributions or expenditures reported pursuant to chapter 106, Florida Statutes; campaign-related personal services provided without compensation by individuals volunteering their time; or any other contribution or expenditure by a political party.

2. A lobbyist's or principal's salary, office expenses, and personal expenses for lodging, meals, and travel. If the principal is a firm, corporation, association, or person, other than a natural person, the office expenses of the entity and the salaries of the officers of the entity, as well as expenses for their lodging, meals, and travel, are not lobbying expenditures. Office expenses include, but are not limited to, payment or obligation for rent or mortgage, utilities, postage, telephone service, employees' salaries, furniture, copies, computers, software, paper supplies, and custodial or maintenance services. Communications, publications, and research are office expenses if performed or produced by the lobbyist or principal or their employees. If those functions are performed by independent contractors, other than the lobbyist or principal or an affiliate controlled by the principal, they are expenditures reportable under the appropriate expenditure category.

3. If an expense is incurred for a nonlobbying business purpose and the product of that expense is later used for a lobbying purpose, a reportable expenditure is not created.

(e) Valuation of expenditures.—

1. In calculating the amount of aggregate expenditures, a lobbyist or principal may, prior to prorating, round each entry up or down to the nearest $5. A record is not required to be maintained for any amount that rounds to zero.

2. The amount to be reported for an expenditure shall be determined using the actual cost to the lobbyist or principal or other person making the payment on behalf of the lobbyist or principal, less any compensation received by such lobbyist or principal in payment for the object of the expenditure. If a lobbyist or principal makes a contribution to an expenditure by another lobbyist or principal, the person making the contribution shall report the amount of the contribution as an expenditure, and the person receiving the contribution shall subtract the value of the contribution from the expenditure to be reported by that person.

3. When a lobbyist has multiple principals, expenditures made for the purpose of engendering goodwill that are not attributable to one principal may be prorated among the lobbyist's principals or may be attributed to one principal.

4. When a lobbyist has multiple principals, expenditures for research or other expenditures that may benefit several principals may be reported to the principal for whom the research was done or other expenditures incurred or prorated to those principals that may benefit from the research or other expenditures.

5. The amount reported as an expenditure shall not include the amount of any additional expenses that are required as a condition precedent to eligibility to make an expenditure if the amount expended for the condition precedent is primarily intended to be for a purpose other than lobbying or if it is paid to a charitable organization. If the amount expended for the condition precedent is primarily intended to be for a lobbying purpose and is not paid to a charitable organization, the total amount of the expenditure shall be reported as a lobbying expenditure. Initiation fees, membership fees, and booster fees are examples, although not exclusive examples, of additional expenses that are regularly required as conditions precedent for eligibility to make other expenditures.

6. A person providing transportation in a private automobile shall be considered to be making an expenditure at the rate of 29 cents per mile, and the amount of an expenditure made for transportation provided in other private conveyances shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of section 112.3148(7), Florida Statutes.

7. A person providing lodging in a private residence shall be considered to be making an expenditure of $29 per night.

8. Expenditures made for more than one person may be attributed, on a pro rata basis, among all of the persons for whom the expenditure is made.

(5) AGGREGATION OF EXPENDITURE FIGURES.—For each reporting period, the Lobbyist Registration Office shall aggregate the expenditures reported by all of the lobbyists for a principal represented by

more than one lobbyist. Following the last report for each calendar year, the Lobbyist Registration Office shall provide a total of expenditures reported as spent by and on behalf of each principal for that calendar year.

1.5—Penalties for Late Filing

(1) Upon determining that a report is late, the person designated to review the timeliness of reports shall immediately notify the lobbyist as to the failure to timely file the report and that a fine is being assessed for each late day. The fine shall be $50 per day per report for each late day, not to exceed $5,000 per report.

(2) Upon receipt of the report, the person designated to review the timeliness of reports shall determine the amount of the fine due based upon the earliest of the following:

(a) When a report is actually received by the lobbyist registration and reporting office;

(b) When the report is postmarked;

(c) When the certificate of mailing is dated; or

(d) When the receipt from an established courier company is dated.

(3) Such fine shall be paid within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted by the Lobbyist Registration Office, unless appeal is made to the Lobbyist Registration Office. The moneys shall be deposited into the Legislative Lobbyist Registration Trust Fund.

(4) A fine shall not be assessed against a lobbyist the first time any reports for which the lobbyist is responsible are not timely filed. However, to receive this one-time fine waiver, all reports for which the lobbyist is responsible must be filed within 30 days after notice that any reports have not been timely filed is transmitted by the Lobbyist Registration Office. A fine shall be assessed for any subsequent late-filed reports.

(5) A lobbyist, a lobbyist's legal representative, or the principal of a lobbyist may request that the filing of an expenditure report be waived upon good cause shown, based on unusual circumstances. The request must be filed with the General Counsel of the Office of Legislative Services, who shall make a recommendation concerning the waiver request to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives may grant or deny the request. The registration of a lobbyist who fails to timely pay a fine is automatically suspended until the fine is paid or waived.

(6) The person designated to review the timeliness of reports shall notify the director of the division of the failure of a lobbyist to file a report after notice or of the failure of a lobbyist to pay the fine imposed.

1.6—Appeal of Fines; Hearings; Unusual Circumstances

(1) A lobbyist wishing to appeal or dispute a fine imposed in accordance with Joint Senate and House Rule 1.5 shall file with the Lobbyist

Registration Office a notice of appeal within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted by the Lobbyist Registration Office, setting out with specificity the unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on the designated due date. A request for a hearing on the matter before the General Counsel of the Office of Legislative Services must be made within the same 30-day period. The notice of appeal may be accompanied by any documentation or evidence supporting the claim. Failure to timely file a notice of appeal as described in this subsection shall constitute a waiver of the right to appeal or to dispute a fine.

(2) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives may waive the fine in whole or in part for good cause shown based on the unusual circumstances presented by the lobbyist.

(3) The term "unusual circumstances" for the purposes of this rule means uncommon, rare, or sudden events over which the person has no control and which directly result in the failure to meet the filing requirements.

(4) The Department of Banking and Finance shall collect any fine that is not timely paid.

1.7—Questions Regarding Registration

(1) A person may request in writing an informal opinion from the general counsel of the Office of Legislative Services as to the application of this rule to a specific situation. The general counsel shall issue the opinion within 10 days after receiving the request. The informal opinion may be relied upon by the person who requested the informal opinion. A copy of each informal opinion which is issued shall be provided to the presiding officer of each house. The committees designated under section 11.045(4), Florida Statutes, may revise any informal opinion rendered by the general counsel through an advisory opinion to the person who requested the informal opinion. The advisory opinion shall supersede the informal opinion as of the date the advisory opinion is issued.

(2) Persons in doubt about the applicability or interpretation of this rule may submit in writing the facts for an advisory opinion to the committee of either house designated pursuant to section 11.045(4), Florida Statutes, and may appear in person before the committee in accordance with section 11.045(4), Florida Statutes.

1.8—Open Records

All of the lobbyist registration and expenditure reports received by the Lobbyist Registration Office shall be available for public inspection and for duplication at reasonable cost.

1.9—Records Retention and Inspection

Each lobbyist and each principal shall preserve for a period of 4 years all accounts, bills, receipts, computer records, books, papers, and other documents and records necessary to substantiate lobbying expenditures. Upon receipt of a complaint based upon the personal knowledge of the

complainant made pursuant to the Senate Rules or Rules of the House of Representatives, any such documents and records may be inspected when authorized by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as applicable. The person authorized to perform the inspection shall be designated in writing and shall be a member of The Florida Bar or a certified public accountant licensed in Florida. Any information obtained by such an inspection may only be used for purposes authorized by law, this rule, Senate Rules, or Rules of the House of Representatives, which purposes may include the imposition of sanctions against a person subject to this rule or Senate Rules or the Rules of the House of Representatives. Any employee who uses that information for an unauthorized purpose is subject to discipline. Any member who uses that information for an unauthorized purpose is subject to discipline under the applicable rules of each house. The right of inspection may be enforced by appropriate writ issued by any court of competent jurisdiction.

JOINT RULE TWO

GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

(As amended March 1999)

2.1—General Appropriations Bill; Review Period

(1) A general appropriations bill shall be subject to a 72-hour public review period before a vote is taken on final passage of the bill in the form that will be presented to the Governor.

(2) If a bill is returned to the house in which the bill originated and the originating house does not concur in all the amendments or adds additional amendments, no further action shall be taken on the bill by the nonoriginating house, and a conference committee shall be established by operation of this rule to consider the bill.

(3) If a bill is referred to a conference committee by operation of this rule, a 72-hour public review period shall be provided prior to a vote being taken on the conference committee report by either house.

(4) A copy of the bill, a copy of the bill with amendments adopted by the nonoriginating house, or the conference committee report shall be furnished to each member of the Legislature, the Governor, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and each member of the Cabinet. Copies for the Governor, Chief Justice and members of the Cabinet shall be furnished to the official's office in the Capitol or Supreme Court Building. A member's copy shall be furnished to the member's desk in the appropriate chamber. The Secretary of the Senate shall be responsible for furnishing copies under this rule for Senate bills, House bills as amended by the Senate, and conference committee reports on Senate bills. The Clerk of the House shall be responsible for furnishing copies under this rule for House bills, Senate bills as amended by the House, and conference committee reports on House bills.

(5) The 72-hour public review period shall begin to run upon completion of the furnishing of copies required to be provided herein. The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, as appropriate, shall be informed of the completion time and such time shall be announced on the floor prior to vote on final passage in each house and shall be entered in the journal of each house. Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays shall be included in the computation under this rule.

2.2—General Appropriations Bill; Definition

For the purposes of Joint Rule 2, the term "general appropriations bill" means a bill which provides for the salaries of public officers and other current expenses of the state and contains no subject other than appropriations. A bill which contains appropriations which are incidental and necessary solely to implement a substantive law is not included within this term.

JOINT RULE THREE

(As Amended April 1998)

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

3.1—Organizational Structure

The Legislature shall be supported by the Office of Legislative Services, the Office of Legislative Information Technology Services, and the Office of Economic and Demographic Research. These offices shall provide support services that are determined by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to be necessary and that can be effectively provided jointly to both houses and other units of the Legislature. Each office shall be directed by a coordinator selected by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(1) The Office of Legislative Services shall provide legislative support services other than those prescribed in subsections (2) and (3). The Division of Statutory Revision and the Division of Legislative Information shall be two of the divisions within the Office of Legislative Services.

(2) The Office of Legislative Information Technology Services shall provide support services to assist the Legislature in achieving its objectives through the application of cost-effective information technology.

(3) The Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall provide research support services, principally regarding forecasting economic and social trends that affect policymaking, revenue, and appropriations.

3.2—Policies

The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall jointly adopt policies they consider advisable to carry out the functions of the Legislature.

JOINT RULE FOUR

(As Amended April 1998)

JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDITING COMMITTEE

4.1—Responsibilities

(1) On or before December 31 of the year following each decennial census, the Legislative Auditing Committee shall review the performance of the Auditor General and shall submit a report to the Legislature which recommends whether the Auditor General should continue to serve in office.

(2) The expenses of the members of the committee shall be approved by the chair of the committee and paid from the appropriation for legislative expense.

(3) The committee shall submit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, for approval, an estimate of the financial needs of the committee, the Auditor General, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, and the Public Counsel.

(4) The committee and the units it oversees, including the Auditor General, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, and the Public Counsel, shall submit their budget requests and operating budgets to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for prior written approval by the presiding officers acting together.

(5) The committee may receive requests for audits and reviews from legislators. Staff of the committee shall review each request and make a recommendation to the committee concerning its disposition. The manner of disposition recommended may be:

(a) Assignment to the Auditor General for inclusion in a regularly scheduled agency audit;

(b) Assignment to the Auditor General for special audit or review;

(c) Assignment to the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability for inclusion in a regularly scheduled performance audit;

(d) Assignment to the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability for special audit or review;

(e) Assignment to committee staff; or

(f) Rejection as being an unnecessary or inappropriate application of legislative resources.

(6) The committee may at any time, without regard to whether the Legislature is in session, take under investigation any matter within the scope of an audit either completed or then being conducted by the Auditor General or the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, and in connection with such investigation may exercise the

powers of subpoena by law vested in a standing committee of the Legislature.

(7) The committee shall review the performance of the director of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability every 4 years and shall submit a report to the Legislature recommending whether the director should be reappointed. A vacancy in the office must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

JOINT RULE FIVE

AUDITOR GENERAL

5.1—Rulemaking authority

The Auditor General shall make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations necessary to facilitate audits that he or she is authorized to perform.

5.2—Budget and accounting

(1) The Auditor General shall prepare and submit annually to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for their joint approval a proposed budget for the ensuing fiscal year.

(2) Within the limitations of the approved operating budget, the salaries and expenses of the Auditor General and the staff of the Auditor General shall be paid from the appropriation for legislative expense or any other moneys appropriated by the Legislature for that purpose. The Auditor General shall approve all bills for salaries and expenses for his or her staff before the same shall be paid.

5.3—Audit report distribution

(1) A copy of each audit report shall be submitted to the Governor, to the Comptroller, and to the officer or person in charge of the state agency or political subdivision audited. One copy shall be filed as a permanent public record in the office of the Auditor General. In the case of county reports, one copy of the report of each county office, school district, or other district audited shall be submitted to the board of county commissioners of the county in which the audit was made and shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the circuit court of that county as a public record. When an audit is made of the records of the district school board, a copy of the audit report shall also be filed with the district school board, and thereupon such report shall become a part of the public records of such board.

(2) A copy of each audit report shall be made available to each member of the Legislative Auditing Committee.

(3) The Auditor General shall transmit a copy of each audit report to the appropriate substantive and fiscal committees of the Senate and House of Representatives.

(4) Other copies may be furnished to other persons who, as in the opinion of the Auditor General, are directly interested in the audit or who have a duty to perform in connection therewith.

(5) The Auditor General shall transmit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, by December 1 of each year, a list of statutory and fiscal changes recommended by audit reports. The recommendations shall be presented in two categories: one addressing substantive law and policy issues and the other addressing budget issues. The Auditor General may also transmit recommendations at other times of the year when the information would be timely and useful for the Legislature.

JOINT RULE SIX

OFFICE OF PROGRAM POLICY

ANALYSIS AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

6.1—Responsibilities of the director

(1) The director may adopt and enforce reasonable rules necessary to facilitate the studies, reviews, and reports that the office is authorized to perform.

(2) The director shall prepare and submit annually to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for their joint approval the annual projected work plan of the office in conjunction with a proposed operating budget for the ensuing fiscal year.

(3) Within the monetary limitations of the approved operating budget, the salaries and expenses of the director and the staff of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall be paid from the appropriation for legislative expense or any other moneys appropriated by the Legislature for that purpose. The director shall approve all bills for salaries and expenses before the same shall be paid.

(4) Within the monetary limitations of the approved operating budget, the director shall make all spending decisions, including entering into contracts on behalf of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.

(5) The director shall transmit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, by December 1 of each year, a list of statutory and fiscal changes recommended by office reports. The recommendations shall be presented in two categories: one addressing substantive law and policy issues and the other addressing budget issues. The director may also transmit recommendations at other times of the year when the information would be timely and useful for the Legislature.

JOINT RULE SEVEN

JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET COMMISSION

(As created November 2000)

7.1—General Responsibilities

(1) The commission, as provided in chapter 216, Florida Statutes, shall receive and review notices of budget and personnel actions and proposed actions taken or to be taken by the executive and judicial branches and shall approve or disapprove such actions.

(2) Through the Chairman, the commission shall advise the Governor and the Chief Justice of actions or proposed actions that exceed delegated authority or that are contrary to legislative policy and intent.

(3) To the extent possible, the commission shall inform members of the Legislature of budget amendments requested by the executive or judicial branches.

(4) The commission shall consult with the Comptroller and the Executive Office of the Governor on matters as required by chapter 216, Florida Statutes.

(5) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives may jointly assign other responsibilities to the commission in addition to those assigned by law.

(6) The commission shall develop policies and procedures necessary to carry out its assigned responsibilities.

(7) The commission, with the approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, may appoint subcommittees as necessary to facilitate its work.

7.2—Zero-based Budgeting

(1) The commission shall develop a schedule and apply zero-based budgeting principles in reviewing the budget of each state agency at least once every 8 years.

(2) By July 1 of each year, the commission shall issue instructions to the agencies whose budgets are to be reviewed prior to the next legislative session.

(3) The commission shall provide these reviews to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 31 of the year in which they are completed.

(4) By February 1, 2001, the commission shall provide to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a schedule for completing zero-based budgeting reviews of all state agencies prior to December 31, 2008.

7.3—Organizational Structure

(1) The commission shall be composed of seven members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate and seven members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The appointees shall include the Chairman of the Fiscal Responsibility Council in the House of Representatives and the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations in the Senate.

(2) The members of the commission shall elect a Chairman and a vice Chairman. In even-numbered years, a Senator shall be Chairman and a House member vice Chairman. In odd-numbered years, a House member shall be Chairman and a Senator vice Chairman.

(3) The commission shall meet at least quarterly and more frequently at the direction of the presiding officers or the Chairman. Meetings may be conducted through teleconferences or other electronic means.

(4) A quorum shall consist of a majority of the commission members of each house plus one additional member of the commission.

(5) Action by the commission shall require a majority vote of the members present of each house.

(6) The commission shall be jointly staffed by the appropriations committees of both houses. During even-numbered years, the Senate shall provide the lead staff. During odd-numbered years, the House of Representatives shall provide the lead staff.

7.4—Notice of Commission Meetings

Not less than 7 days prior to a meeting of the commission, a notice of the meeting, stating the items to be considered, date, time, and place, shall be filed with the Secretary of the Senate when the Chairman is a Senator or with the Clerk of the House of Representatives when the Chairman is a Representative. The Secretary or the Clerk shall distribute notice to the Legislature and the public, consistent with the rules and policies of their respective houses.

JOINT RULE EIGHT

CONTINUING EXISTENCE OF JOINT RULES

(As amended November 2000)

8.1—Continuing Existence of Joint Rules

All joint rules adopted by concurrent resolution, and amendments thereto, shall continue in effect from session to session or Legislature to Legislature until repealed by concurrent resolution.

COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE

Agriculture

Senator Argenziano, Chair; Senator Hill, Vice Chair; Senators Alexander, Bennett, Bullard, Crist, Dockery and Siplin

Appropriations

Senator Pruitt, Chair; Senator Wasserman Schultz, Vice Chair; Senators Carlton, Clary, Crist, Dawson, Diaz de la Portilla, Dockery, Hill, Jones, Klein, Lawson, Lee, Miller, Peaden, Smith, Villalobos and Webster

Subcommittee on Article V Implementation and Judiciary: Senator Smith, Chair; Senators Aronberg, Haridopolos, Villalobos and Wise

Subcommittee on Criminal Justice: Senator Crist, Chair; Senators Argenziano, Constantine, Dawson and Fasano

Subcommittee on Education: Senator Carlton, Chair; Senators Bennett, Cowin, Diaz de la Portilla, Miller and Wasserman Schultz

Subcommittee on General Government: Senator Clary, Chair; Senators Bullard, Dockery, Lawson and Lynn

Subcommittee on Health and Human Services: Senator Peaden, Chair; Senators Garcia, Jones, Klein and Wilson

Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development: Senator Webster, Chair; Senators Atwater, Hill, Lee, Sebesta and Siplin

Banking and Insurance

Senator Posey, Chair; Senator Margolis, Vice Chair; Senators Alexander, Atwater, Campbell, Dawson, Diaz de la Portilla, Dockery, Lawson, Lee, Peaden and Wasserman Schultz

Children and Families

Senator Lynn, Chair; Senator Wilson, Vice Chair; Senators Campbell, Dawson, Garcia, Haridopolos, Peaden, Sebesta, Smith and Webster

Commerce, Economic Opportunities, and Consumer Services

Senator Garcia, Chair; Senator Alexander, Vice Chair; Senators Haridopolos, Jones, Klein, Lynn, Margolis, Miller, Saunders, Wasserman Schultz, Wilson and Wise

Communication and Public Utilities

Senator Bennett, Chair; Senator Atwater, Vice Chair; Senators Cowin, Crist, Margolis, Miller, Posey, Pruitt and Siplin

Comprehensive Planning

Senator Geller, Chair; Senator Webster, Vice Chair; Senators Argenziano, Bennett, Bullard, Campbell, Constantine and Posey

Criminal Justice

Senator Villalobos, Chair; Senator Smith, Vice Chair; Senators Argenziano, Crist, Fasano, Geller, Hill and Lynn

Education

Senator Constantine, Chair; Senator Bullard, Vice Chair; Senators Aronberg, Carlton, Clary, Cowin, Klein, Pruitt, Sebesta, Wilson and Wise

Ethics and Elections

Senator Cowin, Chair; Senator Dawson, Vice Chair; Senators Argenziano, Bullard, Dockery, Fasano, Garcia, Margolis, Posey and Smith

Finance and Taxation

Senator Campbell, Chair; Senator Saunders, Vice Chair; Senators Geller, Margolis and Posey

Governmental Oversight and Productivity

Senator Wise, Chair; Senator Miller, Vice Chair; Senators Aronberg, Atwater, Constantine, Cowin, Fasano, Lawson and Posey

Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care

Senator Saunders, Chair; Senator Jones, Vice Chair; Senators Aronberg, Carlton, Dawson, Diaz de la Portilla, Fasano, Peaden, Villalobos, Wasserman Schultz and Wilson

Home Defense, Public Security, and Ports

Senator Dockery, Chair; Senator Wise, Vice Chair; Senators Dawson, Garcia, Hill, Klein, Miller, Peaden, Saunders and Sebesta

Judiciary

Senator Villalobos, Chair; Senator Aronberg, Vice Chair; Senators Campbell, Carlton, Clary, Diaz de la Portilla, Peaden, Smith and Webster

Military and Veterans' Affairs, Base Protection, and Spaceports

Senator Fasano, Chair; Senator Clary, Vice Chair; Senators Crist, Futch, Haridopolos, Lynn, Siplin, Wasserman Schultz and Wilson

Natural Resources

Senator Lawson, Chair; Senator Dockery, Vice Chair; Senators Argenziano, Atwater, Constantine, Cowin, Hill and Siplin

Regulated Industries

Senator Diaz de la Portilla, Chair; Senator Lawson, Vice Chair; Senators Aronberg, Bennett, Campbell, Geller, Haridopolos, Hill, Pruitt, Saunders, Sebesta and Villalobos

Rules and Calendar

Senator Lee, Chair; Senator Villalobos, Vice Chair; Senators Campbell, Carlton, Clary, Cowin, Diaz de la Portilla, Geller, Jones, Klein, Margolis, Miller and Pruitt

Transportation

Senator Sebesta, Chair; Senator Klein, Vice Chair; Senators Alexander, Bullard, Clary, Geller, Lynn, Webster and Wise

SELECT COMMITTEES

Select Committee on Automobile Insurance/PIP Reform

Senator Alexander, Chair; Senator Miller, Vice Chair; Senators Aronberg, Atwater, Garcia, Geller, Posey, Sebesta and Siplin

Select Committee on Constitutional Amendment Implementation

Senator Lee, Chair; Senator Klein, Vice Chair; Senators Cowin, Lawson, Pruitt, Smith, Villalobos, Wasserman Schultz and Webster

JOINT COMMITTEES

Administrative Procedures Committee

Senator Bennett, Alternating Chair; Senators Argenziano and Margolis

Joint Legislative Committee on Everglades Oversight

Senator Alexander, Alternating Chair; Senators Campbell and Constantine

Legislative Auditing Committee

Senator Atwater, Alternating Chair; Senators Clary, Dawson, Hill and Posey

Legislative Budget Commission

Senator Pruitt, Alternating Chair; Senators Carlton, Jones, Klein, Lee, Miller and Smith

Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations

Senator Saunders, Alternating Chair; Senators Haridopolos, Lynn and Miller

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE

Joint Select Committee on Nursing Homes

Senator Carlton, Chair; Senators Campbell, Jones, Margolis, Peaden and Saunders

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

(Standing Committees in Roman, *Select and Joint Committees in Italics*)

JD Alexander, 17th District
Commerce, Economic Opportunities, and Consumer Services, Vice Chair; Agriculture; Banking and Insurance; Transportation; *Select Committee on Automobile Insurance/PIP Reform, Chair; Joint Legislative Committee on Everglades Oversight, Alternating Chair*

Nancy Argenziano, 3rd District
Agriculture, Chair; Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal Justice; Comprehensive Planning; Criminal Justice; Ethics and Elections; Natural Resources; *Administrative Procedures Committee*

Dave Aronberg, 27th District
Judiciary, Vice Chair; Appropriations Subcommittee on Article V Implementation and Judiciary; Education; Governmental Oversight and Productivity; Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care; Regulated Industries; *Select Committee on Automobile Insurance/PIP Reform*

Jeffrey H. (Jeff) Atwater, 25th District
Communication and Public Utilities, Vice Chair; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development; Banking and Insurance; Governmental Oversight and Productivity; Natural Resources; *Select Committee on Automobile Insurance/PIP Reform; Legislative Auditing Committee, Alternating Chair*

Michael S. (Mike) Bennett, 21st District
Communication and Public Utilities, Chair; Agriculture; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Comprehensive Planning; Regulated Industries; *Administrative Procedures Committee, Alternating Chair*

Larcenia J. Bullard, 39th District
Education, Vice Chair; Agriculture; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Comprehensive Planning; Ethics and Elections; Transportation

Walter G. (Skip) Campbell, Jr., 32nd District
Finance and Taxation, Chair; Banking and Insurance; Children and Families; Comprehensive Planning; Judiciary; Regulated Industries; Rules and Calendar; *Joint Legislative Committee on Everglades Oversight; Joint Select Committee on Nursing Homes*

Lisa Carlton, 23rd District
Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, Chair; Appropriations; Education; Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care; Judiciary; Rules and Calendar; *Legislative Budget Commission; Joint Select Committee on Nursing Homes, Chair*

Charlie Clary, 4th District
Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government, Chair; Military and Veterans' Affairs, Base Protection, and Spaceports, Vice Chair; Appropriations; Education; Judiciary; Rules and Calendar; Transportation; *Legislative Auditing Committee*

Lee Constantine, 22nd District
Education, Chair; Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal Justice; Comprehensive Planning; Governmental Oversight and Productivity; Natural Resources; *Joint Legislative Committee on Everglades Oversight*

Anna P. Cowin, 20th District
Ethics and Elections, Chair; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Communication and Public Utilities; Education; Governmental Oversight and Productivity; Natural Resources; Rules and Calendar; *Select Committee on Constitutional Amendment Implementation*

Victor D. Crist, 12th District
Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Chair; Agriculture; Appropriations; Communication and Public Utilities; Criminal Justice; Military and Veterans' Affairs, Base Protection, and Spaceports

M. Mandy Dawson, 29th District
Ethics and Elections, Vice Chair; Appropriations; Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal Justice; Banking and Insurance; Children and Families; Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care; Home Defense, Public Security, and Ports; *Legislative Auditing Committee*

Alex Diaz de la Portilla, 36th District
Regulated Industries, Chair; Appropriations; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Banking and Insurance; Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care; Judiciary; Rules and Calendar

Paula Dockery, 15th District
Home Defense, Public Security, and Ports, Chair; Natural Resources, Vice Chair; Agriculture; Appropriations; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Banking and Insurance; Ethics and Elections

Mike Fasano, 11th District
Military and Veterans' Affairs, Base Protection, and Spaceports, Chair; Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal Justice; Criminal Justice; Ethics and Elections; Governmental Oversight and Productivity; Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care

Rudy Garcia, 40th District
Commerce, Economic Opportunities, and Consumer Services, Chair; Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Children and Families; Ethics and Elections; Home Defense, Public Security, and Ports; *Select Committee on Automobile Insurance/PIP Reform*

Steven A. Geller, 31st District
Comprehensive Planning, Chair; Criminal Justice; Finance and Taxation; Regulated Industries; Rules and Calendar; Transportation; *Select Committee on Automobile Insurance/PIP Reform*

Mike Haridopolos, 26th District
Appropriations Subcommittee on Article V Implementation and Judiciary; Children and Families; Commerce Economic Opportunities, and Consumer Services; Military and Veterans' Affairs, Base Protection, and Spaceports; Regulated Industries; *Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations*

Anthony C. (Tony) Hill, Sr., 1st District
Agriculture, Vice Chair; Appropriations; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development; Criminal Justice; Home Defense, Public Security, and Ports; Natural Resources; Regulated Industries; *Legislative Auditing Committee*

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Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care, Vice Chair; Appropriations; Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Commerce, Economic Opportunities, and Consumer Services; Rules and Calendar; *Legislative Budget Commission; Joint Select Committee on Nursing Homes*

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Transportation, Vice Chair; Appropriations; Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Commerce, Economic Opportunities, and Consumer Services; Education; Home Defense, Public Security, and Ports; Rules and Calendar; *Select Committee on Constitutional Amendment Implementation, Vice Chair; Legislative Budget Commission*

Alfred (Al) Lawson, Jr., 6th District
Natural Resources, Chair; Regulated Industries, Vice Chair; Appropriations; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Banking and Insurance; Governmental Oversight and Productivity; *Select Committee on Constitutional Amendment Implementation*

Tom Lee, 10th District
Rules and Calendar, Chair; Appropriations; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development; Banking and Insurance; *Select Committee on Constitutional Amendment Implementation, Chair; Legislative Budget Commission*

Evelyn J. Lynn, 7th District
Children and Families, Chair; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Commerce, Economic Opportunities, and Consumer Services; Criminal Justice; Military and Veterans' Affairs, Base Protection, and Spaceports; Transportation; *Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations*

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Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care, Chair; Commerce, Economic Opportunities, and Consumer Services; Finance and Taxation, Vice Chair; Home Defense, Public Security, and Ports; Regulated Industries; *Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, Alternating Chair; Joint Select Committee on Nursing Homes*

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Children and Families, Vice Chair; Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Commerce, Economic Opportunities, and Consumer Services; Education; Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care; Military and Veterans' Affairs, Base Protection, and Spaceports

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TO

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AND

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CONSTITUTION

OF THE

STATE OF FLORIDA

AS REVISED IN 1968 AND SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED

The Constitution of the State of Florida as revised in 1968 consisted of certain revised articles as proposed by three joint resolutions which were adopted during the special session of June 24-July 3, 1968, and ratified by the electorate on November 5, 1968, together with one article carried forward from the Constitution of 1885, as amended. The articles proposed in House Joint Resolution 1-2X constituted the entire revised constitution with the exception of Articles V, VI, and VIII. Senate Joint Resolution 4-2X proposed Article VI, relating to suffrage and elections. Senate Joint Resolution 5-2X proposed a new Article VIII, relating to local government. Article V, relating to the judiciary, was carried forward from the Constitution of 1885, as amended.

Sections composing the 1968 revision have no history notes. Subsequent changes are indicated by notes appended to the affected sections. The indexes appearing at the beginning of each article, notes appearing at the end of various sections, and section and subsection headings are added editorially and are not to be considered as part of the constitution..

PREAMBLE

We, the people of the State of Florida, being grateful to Almighty God for our constitutional liberty, in order to secure its benefits, perfect our government, insure domestic tranquility, maintain public order, and guarantee equal civil and political rights to all, do ordain and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

Sec.

1. Political power.
2. Basic rights.
3. Religious freedom.
4. Freedom of speech and press.
5. Right to assemble.
6. Right to work.
7. Military power.
8. Right to bear arms.
9. Due process.
10. Prohibited laws.
11. Imprisonment for debt.
12. Searches and seizures.
13. Habeas corpus.
14. Pretrial release and detention.
15. Prosecution for crime; offenses committed by children.
16. Rights of accused and of victims.
17. Excessive punishments.
18. Administrative penalties.
19. Costs.
20. Treason.
21. Access to courts.
22. Trial by jury.
23. Right of privacy.
24. Access to public records and meetings.
25. Taxpayers' Bill of Rights.

SECTION 1. Political power.—All political power is inherent in the people. The enunciation herein of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or impair others retained by the people.

SECTION 2. Basic rights.—All natural persons, female and male alike, are equal before the law and have inalienable rights, among which are the right to enjoy and defend life and liberty, to pursue happiness, to be rewarded for industry, and to acquire, possess and protect property; except that the ownership, inheritance, disposition and possession of real property by aliens ineligible for citizenship may be regulated or prohibited by law. No person shall be deprived of any right because of race, religion, national origin, or physical disability.

History.—Am. S.J.R. 917, 1974; adopted 1974; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 9, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 3. Religious freedom.—There shall be no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting or penalizing the free exercise thereof. Religious freedom shall not justify practices inconsistent with public morals, peace or safety. No revenue of the state or any political subdivision or agency thereof shall ever be taken from the public treasury directly or indirectly in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or in aid of any sectarian institution.

SECTION 4. Freedom of speech and press.—Every person may speak, write and publish sentiments on all subjects but shall be responsible for the abuse of that right. No law shall be passed to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press. In all criminal prosecutions and civil actions for defamation the truth may be given in evidence. If the matter charged as defamatory is true and was published with good motives, the party shall be acquitted or exonerated.

History.—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 5. Right to assemble.—The people shall have the right peaceably to assemble, to instruct their representatives, and to petition for redress of grievances.

SECTION 6. Right to work.—The right of persons to work shall not be denied or abridged on account of membership or non-membership in any labor union or labor organization. The right of employees, by and through a labor organization, to bargain collectively shall not be denied or abridged. Public employees shall not have the right to strike.

SECTION 7. Military power.—The military power shall be subordinate to the civil.

SECTION 8. Right to bear arms.—

(a) The right of the people to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves and of the lawful authority of the state shall not be infringed, except that the manner of bearing arms may be regulated by law.

(b) There shall be a mandatory period of three days, excluding weekends and legal holidays, between the purchase and delivery at retail of any

handgun. For the purposes of this section, "purchase" means the transfer of money or other valuable consideration to the retailer, and "handgun" means a firearm capable of being carried and used by one hand, such as a pistol or revolver. Holders of a concealed weapon permit as prescribed in Florida law shall not be subject to the provisions of this paragraph.

(c) The legislature shall enact legislation implementing subsection (b) of this section, effective no later than December 31, 1991, which shall provide that anyone violating the provisions of subsection (b) shall be guilty of a felony.

(d) This restriction shall not apply to a trade in of another handgun.

History.—Am. C.S. for S.J.R. 43, 1989; adopted 1990.

SECTION 9. Due process.—No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, or be twice put in jeopardy for the same offense, or be compelled in any criminal matter to be a witness against oneself.

History.—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 10. Prohibited laws.—No bill of attainder, ex post facto law or law impairing the obligation of contracts shall be passed.

SECTION 11. Imprisonment for debt.—No person shall be imprisoned for debt, except in cases of fraud.

SECTION 12. Searches and seizures.—The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, and against the unreasonable interception of private communications by any means, shall not be violated. No warrant shall be issued except upon probable cause, supported by affidavit, particularly describing the place or places to be searched, the person or persons, thing or things to be seized, the communication to be intercepted, and the nature of evidence to be obtained. This right shall be construed in conformity with the 4th Amendment to the United States Constitution, as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court. Articles or information obtained in violation of this right shall not be admissible in evidence if such articles or information would be inadmissible under decisions of the United States Supreme Court construing the 4th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

History.—Am. H.J.R. 31-H, 1982; adopted 1982.

SECTION 13. Habeas corpus.—The writ of habeas corpus shall be grantable of right, freely and without cost. It shall be returnable without delay, and shall never be suspended unless, in case of rebellion or invasion, suspension is essential to the public safety.

SECTION 14. Pretrial release and detention.—Unless charged with a capital offense or an offense punishable by life imprisonment and the proof of guilt is evident or the presumption is great, every person charged with a crime or violation of municipal or county ordinance shall be entitled to pretrial release on reasonable conditions. If no conditions of release can reasonably protect the community from risk of physical harm to persons, assure the presence of the accused at trial, or assure the integrity of the judicial process, the accused may be detained.

History.—Am. H.J.R. 43-H, 1982; adopted 1982.

SECTION 15. Prosecution for crime; offenses committed by children.—

(a) No person shall be tried for capital crime without presentment or indictment by a grand jury, or for other felony without such presentment or indictment or an information under oath filed by the prosecuting officer of the court, except persons on active duty in the militia when tried by courts martial.

(b) When authorized by law, a child as therein defined may be charged with a violation of law as an act of delinquency instead of crime and tried without a jury or other requirements applicable to criminal cases. Any child so charged shall, upon demand made as provided by law before a trial in a juvenile proceeding, be tried in an appropriate court as an adult. A child found delinquent shall be disciplined as provided by law.

SECTION 16. Rights of accused and of victims.—

(a) In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall, upon demand, be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, and shall be furnished a copy of the charges, and shall have the right to have compulsory process for witnesses, to confront at trial adverse witnesses, to be heard in person, by counsel or both, and to have a speedy and public trial by impartial jury in the county where the crime was committed. If the county is not known, the indictment or information may charge venue in two or more counties conjunctively and proof that the crime was committed in that area shall be sufficient; but before pleading the accused may elect in which of those counties the trial will take place. Venue for prosecution of crimes committed beyond the boundaries of the state shall be fixed by law.

(b) Victims of crime or their lawful representatives, including the next of kin of homicide victims, are entitled to the right to be informed, to be present, and to be heard when relevant, at all crucial stages of criminal proceedings, to the extent that these rights do not interfere with the constitutional rights of the accused.

History.—Am. S.J.R. 135, 1987; adopted 1988; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 17. Excessive punishments.—Excessive fines, cruel and unusual punishment, attainder, forfeiture of estate, indefinite imprisonment, and unreasonable detention of witnesses are forbidden. The death penalty is an authorized punishment for capital crimes designated by the legislature. The

prohibition against cruel or unusual punishment, and the prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment, shall be construed in conformity with decisions of the United States Supreme Court which interpret the prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment provided in the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Any method of execution shall be allowed, unless prohibited by the United States Constitution. Methods of execution may be designated by the legislature, and a change in any method of execution may be applied retroactively. A sentence of death shall not be reduced on the basis that a method of execution is invalid. In any case in which an execution method is declared invalid, the death sentence shall remain in force until the sentence can be lawfully executed by any valid method. This section shall apply retroactively.

History.—Am. H.J.R. 3505, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. H.J.R. 951, 2001; adopted 2002.

SECTION 18. Administrative penalties.—No administrative agency, except the Department of Military Affairs in an appropriately convened court-martial action as provided by law, shall impose a sentence of imprisonment, nor shall it impose any other penalty except as provided by law.

History.—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 19. Costs.—No person charged with crime shall be compelled to pay costs before a judgment of conviction has become final.

SECTION 20. Treason.—Treason against the state shall consist only in levying war against it, adhering to its enemies, or giving them aid and comfort, and no person shall be convicted of treason except on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act or on confession in open court.

SECTION 21. Access to courts.—The courts shall be open to every person for redress of any injury, and justice shall be administered without sale, denial or delay.

SECTION 22. Trial by jury.—The right of trial by jury shall be secure to all and remain inviolate. The qualifications and the number of jurors, not fewer than six, shall be fixed by law.

SECTION 23. Right of privacy.—Every natural person has the right to be let alone and free from governmental intrusion into the person's private life except as otherwise provided herein. This section shall not be construed to limit the public's right of access to public records and meetings as provided by law.

History.—Added, C.S. for H.J.R. 387, 1980; adopted 1980; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 24. Access to public records and meetings.—

(a) Every person has the right to inspect or copy any public record made or received in connection with the official business of any public body, officer, or employee of the state, or persons acting on their behalf, except with respect to records exempted pursuant to this section or specifically made confidential by this Constitution. This section specifically includes the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government and each agency or department created thereunder; counties, municipalities, and districts; and each constitutional officer, board, and commission, or entity created pursuant to law or this Constitution.

(b) All meetings of any collegial public body of the executive branch of state government or of any collegial public body of a county, municipality, school district, or special district, at which official acts are to be taken or at which public business of such body is to be transacted or discussed, shall be open and noticed to the public and meetings of the legislature shall be open and noticed as provided in Article III, Section 4(e), except with respect to meetings exempted pursuant to this section or specifically closed by this Constitution.

(c) This section shall be self-executing. The legislature, however, may provide by general law passed by a two-thirds vote of each house for the exemption of records from the requirements of subsection (a) and the exemption of meetings from the requirements of subsection (b), provided that such law shall state with specificity the public necessity justifying the exemption and shall be no broader than necessary to accomplish the stated purpose of the law. The legislature shall enact laws governing the enforcement of this section, including the maintenance, control, destruction, disposal, and disposition of records made public by this section, except that each house of the legislature may adopt rules governing the enforcement of this section in relation to records of the legislative branch. Laws enacted pursuant to this subsection shall contain only exemptions from the requirements of subsections (a) or (b) and provisions governing the enforcement of this section, and shall relate to one subject.

(d) All laws that are in effect on July 1, 1993 that limit public access to records or meetings shall remain in force, and such laws apply to records of the legislative and judicial branches, until they are repealed. Rules of court that are in effect on the date of adoption of this section that limit access to records shall remain in effect until they are repealed.

History.—Added, C.S. for C.S. for H.J.R.'s 1727, 863, 2035, 1992; adopted 1992; Am. S.J.R. 1284, 2002; adopted 2002.

[1]**SECTION 25. Taxpayers' Bill of Rights.**—By general law the legislature shall prescribe and adopt a Taxpayers' Bill of Rights that, in clear and concise language, sets forth taxpayers' rights and responsibilities and government's responsibilities to deal fairly with

taxpayers under the laws of this state. This section shall be effective July 1, 1993.

History.—Proposed by Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, Revision No. 2, 1992, filed with the Secretary of State May 7, 1992; adopted 1992.

[1]**Note.**—This section, originally designated section 24 by Revision No. 2 of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, 1992, was redesignated section 25 by the editors in order to avoid confusion with section 24 as contained in H.J.R.'s 1727, 863, 2035, 1992.

ARTICLE II

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec.

1. State boundaries.
2. Seat of government.
3. Branches of government.
4. State seal and flag.
5. Public officers.
6. Enemy attack.
7. Natural resources and scenic beauty.
8. Ethics in government.
9. English is the official language of Florida.

SECTION 1. State boundaries.—

(a) The state boundaries are: Begin at the mouth of the Perdido River, which for the purposes of this description is defined as the point where latitude 30°16'53" north and longitude 87°31'06" west intersect; thence to the point where latitude 30°17'02" north and longitude 87°31'06" west intersect; thence to the point where latitude 30°18'00" north and longitude 87°27'08" west intersect; thence to the point where the center line of the Intracoastal Canal (as the same existed on June 12, 1953) and longitude 87°27'00" west intersect; the same being in the middle of the Perdido River; thence up the middle of the Perdido River to the point where it intersects the south boundary of the State of Alabama, being also the point of intersection of the middle of the Perdido River with latitude 31°00'00" north; thence east, along the south boundary line of the State of Alabama, the same being latitude 31°00'00" north to the middle of the Chattahoochee River; thence down the middle of said river to its confluence with the Flint River; thence in a straight line to the head of the St. Marys River; thence down the middle of said river to the Atlantic Ocean; thence due east to the edge of the Gulf Stream or a distance of three geographic miles whichever is the greater distance; thence in a southerly direction along the edge of the Gulf Stream or along a line three geographic miles from the Atlantic coastline and three leagues distant from the Gulf of Mexico coastline, whichever is greater, to and through the Straits of Florida and westerly, including the Florida reefs, to a point due south of and three leagues from the southernmost point of the Marquesas Keys; thence westerly along a straight line to a point due south of and three leagues from Loggerhead Key, the westernmost of the Dry Tortugas Islands; thence westerly, northerly and easterly along the arc of a curve three leagues distant from Loggerhead Key to a point due north of Loggerhead Key; thence northeast along a straight line to a point three leagues from the coastline of Florida; thence northerly and westerly three leagues distant from the coastline to a point west of the mouth of the Perdido River three leagues from the coastline as measured on a line bearing south 0°01'00" west from the point of beginning; thence northerly along said line to the point of beginning. The State of Florida shall also include any additional territory within the United States adjacent to the Peninsula of Florida lying south of the St. Marys River, east of the Perdido River, and south of the States of Alabama and Georgia.

(b) The coastal boundaries may be extended by statute to the limits permitted by the laws of the United States or international law.

SECTION 2. Seat of government.—The seat of government shall be the City of Tallahassee, in Leon County, where the offices of the governor, lieutenant governor, cabinet members and the supreme court shall be maintained and the sessions of the legislature shall be held; provided that, in time of invasion or grave emergency, the governor by proclamation may for the period of the emergency transfer the seat of government to another place.

SECTION 3. Branches of government.—The powers of the state government shall be divided into legislative, executive and judicial branches. No person belonging to one branch shall exercise any powers appertaining to either of the other branches unless expressly provided herein.

SECTION 4. State seal and flag.—The design of the great seal and flag of the state shall be prescribed by law.

SECTION 5. Public officers.—

(a) No person holding any office of emolument under any foreign government, or civil office of emolument under the United States or any other state, shall hold any office of honor or of emolument under the government of this state. No person shall hold at the same time more than one office under the government of the state and the counties and municipalities therein, except that a notary public or military officer may hold another office, and any officer may be a member of a constitution revision commission, taxation and budget reform commission, constitutional convention, or statutory body having only advisory powers.

(b) Each state and county officer, before entering upon the duties of the office, shall give bond as required by law, and shall swear or affirm:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the state; and that I will well and faithfully perform

the duties of (title of office) on which I am now about to enter. So help me God.",

and thereafter shall devote personal attention to the duties of the office, and continue in office until a successor qualifies.

(c) The powers, duties, compensation and method of payment of state and county officers shall be fixed by law.

History.—Am. H.J.R. 1616, 1988; adopted 1988; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 6. Enemy attack.—In periods of emergency resulting from enemy attack the legislature shall have power to provide for prompt and temporary succession to the powers and duties of all public offices the incumbents of which may become unavailable to execute the functions of their offices, and to adopt such other measures as may be necessary and appropriate to insure the continuity of governmental operations during the emergency. In exercising these powers, the legislature may depart from other requirements of this constitution, but only to the extent necessary to meet the emergency.

SECTION 7. Natural resources and scenic beauty.—

(a) It shall be the policy of the state to conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty. Adequate provision shall be made by law for the abatement of air and water pollution and of excessive and unnecessary noise and for the conservation and protection of natural resources.

(b) Those in the Everglades Agricultural Area who cause water pollution within the Everglades Protection Area or the Everglades Agricultural Area shall be primarily responsible for paying the costs of the abatement of that pollution. For the purposes of this subsection, the terms "Everglades Protection Area" and "Everglades Agricultural Area" shall have the meanings as defined in statutes in effect on January 1, 1996.

History.—Am. by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State March 26, 1996; adopted 1996; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 5, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 8. Ethics in government.—A public office is a public trust. The people shall have the right to secure and sustain that trust against abuse. To assure this right:

(a) All elected constitutional officers and candidates for such offices and, as may be determined by law, other public officers, candidates, and employees shall file full and public disclosure of their financial interests.

(b) All elected public officers and candidates for such offices shall file full and public disclosure of their campaign finances.

(c) Any public officer or employee who breaches the public trust for private gain and any person or entity inducing such breach shall be liable to the state for all financial benefits obtained by such actions. The manner of recovery and additional damages may be provided by law.

(d) Any public officer or employee who is convicted of a felony involving a breach of public trust shall be subject to forfeiture of rights and privileges under a public retirement system or pension plan in such manner as may be provided by law.

(e) No member of the legislature or statewide elected officer shall personally represent another person or entity for compensation before the government body or agency of which the individual was an officer or member for a period of two years following vacation of office. No member of the legislature shall personally represent another person or entity for compensation during term of office before any state agency other than judicial tribunals. Similar restrictions on other public officers and employees may be established by law.

(f) There shall be an independent commission to conduct investigations and make public reports on all complaints concerning breach of public trust by public officers or employees not within the jurisdiction of the judicial qualifications commission.

(g) A code of ethics for all state employees and nonjudicial officers prohibiting conflict between public duty and private interests shall be prescribed by law.

(h) This section shall not be construed to limit disclosures and prohibitions which may be established by law to preserve the public trust and avoid conflicts between public duties and private interests.

(i) Schedule—On the effective date of this amendment and until changed by law:

(1) Full and public disclosure of financial interests shall mean filing with the custodian of state records by July 1 of each year a sworn statement showing net worth and identifying each asset and liability in excess of $1,000 and its value together with one of the following:

a. A copy of the person's most recent federal income tax return; or

b. A sworn statement which identifies each separate source and amount of income which exceeds $1,000. The forms for such source disclosure and the rules under which they are to be filed shall be prescribed by the independent commission established in subsection (f), and such rules shall include disclosure of secondary sources of income.

(2) Persons holding statewide elective offices shall also file disclosure of their financial interests pursuant to subsection (i)(1).

(3) The independent commission provided for in subsection (f) shall mean the Florida Commission on Ethics.

History.—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State July 29, 1976; adopted 1976; Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 8 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 9. English is the official language of Florida.—

(a) English is the official language of the State of Florida.

(b) The legislature shall have the power to enforce this section by appropriate legislation.

History.—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State August 8, 1988; adopted 1988.

ARTICLE III

LEGISLATURE

Sec.

1. Composition.
2. Members; officers.
3. Sessions of the legislature.
4. Quorum and procedure.
5. Investigations; witnesses.
6. Laws.
7. Passage of bills.
8. Executive approval and veto.
9. Effective date of laws.
10. Special laws.
11. Prohibited special laws.
12. Appropriation bills.
13. Term of office.
14. Civil service system.
15. Terms and qualifications of legislators.
16. Legislative apportionment.
17. Impeachment.
18. Conflict of Interest.
19. State Budgeting, Planning and Appropriations Processes.

SECTION 1. Composition.—The legislative power of the state shall be vested in a legislature of the State of Florida, consisting of a senate composed of one senator elected from each senatorial district and a house of representatives composed of one member elected from each representative district.

SECTION 2. Members; officers.—Each house shall be the sole judge of the qualifications, elections, and returns of its members, and shall biennially choose its officers, including a permanent presiding officer selected from its membership, who shall be designated in the senate as President of the Senate, and in the house as Speaker of the House of Representatives. The senate shall designate a Secretary to serve at its pleasure, and the house of representatives shall designate a Clerk to serve at its pleasure. The legislature shall appoint an auditor to serve at its pleasure who shall audit public records and perform related duties as prescribed by law or concurrent resolution.

SECTION 3. Sessions of the legislature.—

(a) ORGANIZATION SESSIONS. On the fourteenth day following each general election the legislature shall convene for the exclusive purpose of organization and selection of officers.

(b) REGULAR SESSIONS. A regular session of the legislature shall convene on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of each odd-numbered year, and on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March, or such other date as may be fixed by law, of each even-numbered year.

(c) SPECIAL SESSIONS.

(1) The governor, by proclamation stating the purpose, may convene the legislature in special session during which only such legislative business may be transacted as is within the purview of the proclamation, or of a communication from the governor, or is introduced by consent of two-thirds of the membership of each house.

(2) A special session of the legislature may be convened as provided by law.

(d) LENGTH OF SESSIONS. A regular session of the legislature shall not exceed sixty consecutive days, and a special session shall not exceed twenty consecutive days, unless extended beyond such limit by a three-fifths vote of each house. During such an extension no new business may be taken up in either house without the consent of two-thirds of its membership.

(e) ADJOURNMENT. Neither house shall adjourn for more than seventy-two consecutive hours except pursuant to concurrent resolution.

(f) ADJOURNMENT BY GOVERNOR. If, during any regular or special session, the two houses cannot agree upon a time for adjournment, the governor may adjourn the session sine die or to any date within the period authorized for such session; provided that, at least twenty-four hours before adjourning the session, and while neither house is in recess, each house shall be given formal written notice of the governor's intention to do so, and agreement reached within that period by both houses on a time for adjournment shall prevail.

History.—Am. C.S. for S.J.R. 380, 1989; adopted 1990; Am. S.J.R. 2606, 1994; adopted 1994; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 4. Quorum and procedure.—

(a) A majority of the membership of each house shall constitute a quorum, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day and compel the presence of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as it may prescribe. Each house shall determine its rules of procedure.

(b) Sessions of each house shall be public; except sessions of the senate when considering appointment to or removal from public office may be closed.

(c) Each house shall keep and publish a journal of its proceedings; and upon the request of five members present, the vote of each member voting on any question shall be entered on the journal. In any legislative committee or subcommittee, the vote of each member voting on the final passage of any legislation pending before the committee, and upon the request of any two members of the committee or subcommittee, the vote of each member on any other question, shall be recorded.

(d) Each house may punish a member for contempt or disorderly conduct and, by a two-thirds vote of its membership, may expel a member.

(e) The rules of procedure of each house shall provide that all legislative committee and subcommittee meetings of each house, and joint conference committee meetings, shall be open and noticed to the public. The rules of procedure of each house shall further provide that all prearranged gatherings, between more than two members of the legislature, or between the governor, the president of the senate, or the speaker of the house of representatives, the purpose of which is to agree upon formal legislative action that will be taken at a subsequent time, or at which formal legislative action is taken, regarding pending legislation or amendments, shall be reasonably open to the public. All open meetings shall be subject to order and decorum. This section shall be implemented and defined by the rules of each house, and such rules shall control admission to the floor of each legislative chamber and may, where reasonably necessary for security purposes or to protect a witness appearing before a committee, provide for the closure of committee meetings. Each house shall be the sole judge for the interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of this section.

History.—Am. S.J.R.'s 1990, 2, 1990; adopted 1990.

SECTION 5. Investigations; witnesses.—Each house, when in session, may compel attendance of witnesses and production of documents and other evidence upon any matter under investigation before it or any of its committees, and may punish by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or imprisonment not exceeding ninety days, or both, any person not a member who has been guilty of disorderly or contemptuous conduct in its presence or has refused to obey its lawful summons or to answer lawful questions. Such powers, except the power to punish, may be conferred by law upon committees when the legislature is not in session. Punishment of contempt of an interim legislative committee shall be by judicial proceedings as prescribed by law.

SECTION 6. Laws.—Every law shall embrace but one subject and matter properly connected therewith, and the subject shall be briefly expressed in the title. No law shall be revised or amended by reference to its title only. Laws to revise or amend shall set out in full the revised or amended act, section, subsection or paragraph of a subsection. The enacting clause of every law shall read: "Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:".

SECTION 7. Passage of bills.—Any bill may originate in either house and after passage in one may be amended in the other. It shall be read in each house on three separate days, unless this rule is waived by two-thirds vote; provided the publication of its title in the journal of a house shall satisfy the requirement for the first reading in that house. On each reading, it shall be read by title only, unless one-third of the members present desire it read in full. On final passage, the vote of each member voting shall be entered on the journal. Passage of a bill shall require a majority vote in each house. Each bill and joint resolution passed in both houses shall be signed by the presiding officers of the respective houses and by the secretary of the senate and the clerk of the house of representatives during the session or as soon as practicable after its adjournment sine die.

History.—Am. S.J.R. 1349, 1980; adopted 1980.

SECTION 8. Executive approval and veto.—

(a) Every bill passed by the legislature shall be presented to the governor for approval and shall become a law if the governor approves and signs it, or fails to veto it within seven consecutive days after presentation. If during that period or on the seventh day the legislature adjourns sine die or takes a recess of more than thirty days, the governor shall have fifteen consecutive days from the date of presentation to act on the bill. In all cases except general appropriation bills, the veto shall extend to the entire bill. The governor may veto any specific appropriation in a general appropriation bill, but may not veto any qualification or restriction without also vetoing the appropriation to which it relates.

(b) When a bill or any specific appropriation of a general appropriation bill has been vetoed, the governor shall transmit signed objections thereto to the house in which the bill originated if in session. If that house is not in session, the governor shall file them with the custodian of state records, who shall lay them before that house at its next regular or special session, whichever occurs first, and they shall be entered on its journal. If the originating house votes to re-enact a vetoed measure, whether in a regular or special session, and the other house does not consider or fails to re-enact the vetoed measure, no further consideration by either house at any subsequent session may be taken. If a vetoed measure is presented at a special session and the originating house does not consider it, the measure will be available for consideration at any intervening special session and until the end of the next regular session.

(c) If each house shall, by a two-thirds vote, re-enact the bill or reinstate the vetoed specific appropriation of a general appropriation bill, the vote of each member voting shall be entered on the respective journals, and the bill shall become law or the specific appropriation reinstated, the veto notwithstanding.

History.—Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 8 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 9. Effective date of laws.—Each law shall take effect on the sixtieth day after adjournment sine die of the session of the legislature in which enacted or as otherwise provided therein. If the law is passed over the veto of the governor it shall take effect on the sixtieth day after adjournment sine die of the session in which the veto is overridden, on a later

date fixed in the law, or on a date fixed by resolution passed by both houses of the legislature.

SECTION 10. Special laws.—No special law shall be passed unless notice of intention to seek enactment thereof has been published in the manner provided by general law. Such notice shall not be necessary when the law, except the provision for referendum, is conditioned to become effective only upon approval by vote of the electors of the area affected.

SECTION 11. Prohibited special laws.—

(a) There shall be no special law or general law of local application pertaining to:

(1) election, jurisdiction or duties of officers, except officers of municipalities, chartered counties, special districts or local governmental agencies;

(2) assessment or collection of taxes for state or county purposes, including extension of time therefor, relief of tax officers from due performance of their duties, and relief of their sureties from liability;

(3) rules of evidence in any court;

(4) punishment for crime;

(5) petit juries, including compensation of jurors, except establishment of jury commissions;

(6) change of civil or criminal venue;

(7) conditions precedent to bringing any civil or criminal proceedings, or limitations of time therefor;

(8) refund of money legally paid or remission of fines, penalties or forfeitures;

(9) creation, enforcement, extension or impairment of liens based on private contracts, or fixing of interest rates on private contracts;

(10) disposal of public property, including any interest therein, for private purposes;

(11) vacation of roads;

(12) private incorporation or grant of privilege to a private corporation;

(13) effectuation of invalid deeds, wills or other instruments, or change in the law of descent;

(14) change of name of any person;

(15) divorce;

(16) legitimation or adoption of persons;

(17) relief of minors from legal disabilities;

(18) transfer of any property interest of persons under legal disabilities or of estates of decedents;

(19) hunting or fresh water fishing;

(20) regulation of occupations which are regulated by a state agency; or

[1](21) any subject when prohibited by general law passed by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house. Such law may be amended or repealed by like vote.

(b) In the enactment of general laws on other subjects, political subdivisions or other governmental entities may be classified only on a basis reasonably related to the subject of the law.

[1]**Note.**—See the following for prohibited subject matters added under the authority of this paragraph:

s. 112.67, F.S. (Pertaining to protection of public employee retirement benefits).

s. 121.191, F.S. (Pertaining to state-administered or supported retirement systems).

s. 145.16, F.S. (Pertaining to compensation of designated county officials).

s. 189.404(2), F.S. (Pertaining to independent special districts).

s. 190.049, F.S. (Pertaining to the creation of independent special districts having the powers enumerated in two or more of the paragraphs of s. 190.012, F.S.).

s. 215.845, F.S. (Pertaining to the maximum rate of interest on bonds).

s. 298.76(1), F.S. (Pertaining to the grant of authority, power, rights, or privileges to a water control district formed pursuant to ch. 298, F.S.).

s. 370.083, F.S. (Pertaining to the sale or purchase of speckled sea trout or weakfish).

s. 370.172(4), F.S. (Pertaining to spearfishing in salt waters and saltwater tributaries).

s. 373.503(2)(b), F.S. (Pertaining to allocation of millage for water management purposes).

s. 1011.77, F.S. (Pertaining to taxation for school purposes and the Florida Education Finance Program).

s. 1013.37(5), F.S. (Pertaining to the "State Uniform Building Code for Public Educational Facilities Construction").

SECTION 12. Appropriation bills.—Laws making appropriations for salaries of public officers and other current expenses of the state shall contain provisions on no other subject.

SECTION 13. Term of office.—No office shall be created the term of which shall exceed four years except as provided herein.

SECTION 14. Civil service system.—By law there shall be created a civil service system for state employees, except those expressly exempted, and there may be created civil service systems and boards for county, district or municipal employees and for such offices thereof as are not elected or appointed by the governor, and there may be authorized such boards as are necessary to prescribe the qualifications, method of selection and tenure of such employees and officers.

SECTION 15. Terms and qualifications of legislators.—

(a) SENATORS. Senators shall be elected for terms of four years, those from odd-numbered districts in the years the numbers of which are multiples of four and those from even-numbered districts in even-numbered years the numbers of which are not multiples of four; except, at the election next following a reapportionment, some senators shall be elected for terms of two years when necessary to maintain staggered terms.

(b) REPRESENTATIVES. Members of the house of representatives shall be elected for terms of two years in each even-numbered year.

(c) QUALIFICATIONS. Each legislator shall be at least twenty-one years of age, an elector and resident of the district from which elected and shall have resided in the state for a period of two years prior to election.

(d) ASSUMING OFFICE; VACANCIES. Members of the legislature shall take office upon election. Vacancies in legislative office shall be filled only by election as provided by law.

SECTION 16. Legislative apportionment.—

(a) SENATORIAL AND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS. The legislature at its regular session in the second year following each decennial census, by joint resolution, shall apportion the state in accordance with the constitution of the state and of the United States into not less than thirty nor more than forty con-

secutively numbered senatorial districts of either contiguous, overlapping or identical territory, and into not less than eighty nor more than one hundred twenty consecutively numbered representative districts of either contiguous, overlapping or identical territory. Should that session adjourn without adopting such joint resolution, the governor by proclamation shall reconvene the legislature within thirty days in special apportionment session which shall not exceed thirty consecutive days, during which no other business shall be transacted, and it shall be the mandatory duty of the legislature to adopt a joint resolution of apportionment.

(b) FAILURE OF LEGISLATURE TO APPORTION; JUDICIAL REAPPORTIONMENT. In the event a special apportionment session of the legislature finally adjourns without adopting a joint resolution of apportionment, the attorney general shall, within five days, petition the supreme court of the state to make such apportionment. No later than the sixtieth day after the filing of such petition, the supreme court shall file with the custodian of state records an order making such apportionment.

(c) JUDICIAL REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENT. Within fifteen days after the passage of the joint resolution of apportionment, the attorney general shall petition the supreme court of the state for a declaratory judgment determining the validity of the apportionment. The supreme court, in accordance with its rules, shall permit adversary interests to present their views and, within thirty days from the filing of the petition, shall enter its judgment.

(d) EFFECT OF JUDGMENT IN APPORTIONMENT; EXTRAORDINARY APPORTIONMENT SESSION. A judgment of the supreme court of the state determining the apportionment to be valid shall be binding upon all the citizens of the state. Should the supreme court determine that the apportionment made by the legislature is invalid, the governor by proclamation shall reconvene the legislature within five days thereafter in extraordinary apportionment session which shall not exceed fifteen days, during which the legislature shall adopt a joint resolution of apportionment conforming to the judgment of the supreme court.

(e) EXTRAORDINARY APPORTIONMENT SESSION; REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENT. Within fifteen days after the adjournment of an extraordinary apportionment session, the attorney general shall file a petition in the supreme court of the state setting forth the apportionment resolution adopted by the legislature, or if none has been adopted reporting that fact to the court. Consideration of the validity of a joint resolution of apportionment shall be had as provided for in cases of such joint resolution adopted at a regular or special apportionment session.

(f) JUDICIAL REAPPORTIONMENT. Should an extraordinary apportionment session fail to adopt a resolution of apportionment or should the supreme court determine that the apportionment made is invalid, the court shall, not later than sixty days after receiving the petition of the attorney general, file with the custodian of state records an order making such apportionment.

History.—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 17. Impeachment.—

(a) The governor, lieutenant governor, members of the cabinet, justices of the supreme court, judges of district courts of appeal, judges of circuit courts, and judges of county courts shall be liable to impeachment for misdemeanor in office. The house of representatives by two-thirds vote shall have the power to impeach an officer. The speaker of the house of representatives shall have power at any time to appoint a committee to investigate charges against any officer subject to impeachment.

(b) An officer impeached by the house of representatives shall be disqualified from performing any official duties until acquitted by the senate, and, unless impeached, the governor may by appointment fill the office until completion of the trial.

(c) All impeachments by the house of representatives shall be tried by the senate. The chief justice of the supreme court, or another justice designated by the chief justice, shall preside at the trial, except in a trial of the chief justice, in which case the governor shall preside. The senate shall determine the time for the trial of any impeachment and may sit for the trial whether the house of representatives be in session or not. The time fixed for trial shall not be more than six months after the impeachment. During an impeachment trial senators shall be upon their oath or affirmation. No officer shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members of the senate present. Judgment of conviction in cases of impeachment shall remove the offender from office and, in the discretion of the senate, may include disqualification to hold any office of honor, trust or profit. Conviction or acquittal shall not affect the civil or criminal responsibility of the officer.

History.—Am. S.J.R. 459, 1987; adopted 1988; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

[1]**SECTION 18. Conflict of Interest.**—A code of ethics for all state employees and nonjudicial officers prohibiting conflict between public duty and private interests shall be prescribed by law.

History.—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

[1]**Note.**—This section was repealed effective January 5, 1999, by Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998. *See* s. 5(c), Art. XI, State Constitution, for constitutional effective date. Identical language to s. 18, Art. III, State Constitution, was enacted in s. 8(g), Art. II, State Constitution, by Revision No. 13, 1998.

SECTION 19. State Budgeting, Planning and Appropriations Processes.—

(a) ANNUAL BUDGETING. Effective July 1, 1994, general law shall prescribe the adoption of annual state budgetary and planning processes and require that detail reflecting the annualized costs of the state budget and reflecting the nonrecurring costs of the budget requests shall accompany state depart-

ment and agency legislative budget requests, the governor's recommended budget, and appropriation bills. For purposes of this subsection, the terms department and agency shall include the judicial branch.

(b) APPROPRIATION BILLS FORMAT. Separate sections within the general appropriation bill shall be used for each major program area of the state budget; major program areas shall include: education enhancement "lottery" trust fund items; education (all other funds); human services; criminal justice and corrections; natural resources, environment, growth management, and transportation; general government; and judicial branch. Each major program area shall include an itemization of expenditures for: state operations; state capital outlay; aid to local governments and nonprofit organizations operations; aid to local governments and nonprofit organizations capital outlay; federal funds and the associated state matching funds; spending authorizations for operations; and spending authorizations for capital outlay. Additionally, appropriation bills passed by the legislature shall include an itemization of specific appropriations that exceed one million dollars ($1,000,000.00) in 1992 dollars. For purposes of this subsection, "specific appropriation," "itemization," and "major program area" shall be defined by law. This itemization threshold shall be adjusted by general law every four years to reflect the rate of inflation or deflation as indicated in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, All Items, or successor reports as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor. Substantive bills containing appropriations shall also be subject to the itemization requirement mandated under this provision and shall be subject to the governor's specific appropriation veto power described in Article III, Section 8. This subsection shall be effective July 1, 1994.

(c) APPROPRIATIONS REVIEW PROCESS. Effective July 1, 1993, general law shall prescribe requirements for each department and agency of state government to submit a planning document and supporting budget request for review by the appropriations committees of both houses of the legislature. The review shall include a comparison of the major issues in the planning document and budget requests to those major issues included in the governor's recommended budget. For purposes of this subsection, the terms department and agency shall include the judicial branch.

(d) SEVENTY-TWO HOUR PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD. All general appropriation bills shall be furnished to each member of the legislature, each member of the cabinet, the governor, and the chief justice of the supreme court at least seventy-two hours before final passage by either house of the legislature of the bill in the form that will be presented to the governor.

(e) FINAL BUDGET REPORT. Effective November 4, 1992, a final budget report shall be prepared as prescribed by general law. The final budget report shall be produced no later than the 90th day after the beginning of the fiscal year, and copies of the report shall be furnished to each member of the legislature, the head of each department and agency of the state, the auditor general, and the chief justice of the supreme court.

(f) TRUST FUNDS.

(1) No trust fund of the State of Florida or other public body may be created by law without a three-fifths ($^3/_5$) vote of the membership of each house of the legislature in a separate bill for that purpose only.

(2) State trust funds in existence before the effective date of this subsection shall terminate not more than four years after the effective date of this subsection. State trust funds created after the effective date of this subsection shall terminate not more than four years after the effective date of the act authorizing the creation of the trust fund. By law the legislature may set a shorter time period for which any trust fund is authorized.

(3) Trust funds required by federal programs or mandates; trust funds established for bond covenants, indentures, or resolutions, whose revenues are legally pledged by the state or public body to meet debt service or other financial requirements of any debt obligations of the state or any public body; the state transportation trust fund; the trust fund containing the net annual proceeds from the Florida Education Lotteries; the Florida retirement trust fund; trust funds for institutions under the management of the Board of Regents, where such trust funds are for auxiliary enterprises and contracts, grants, and donations, as those terms are defined by general law; trust funds that serve as clearing funds or accounts for the chief financial officer or state agencies; trust funds that account for assets held by the state in a trustee capacity as an agent or fiduciary for individuals, private organizations, or other governmental units; and other trust funds authorized by this Constitution, are not subject to the requirements set forth in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(4) All cash balances and income of any trust funds abolished under this subsection shall be deposited into the general revenue fund.

(5) The provisions of this subsection shall be effective November 4, 1992.

(g) BUDGET STABILIZATION FUND. Beginning with the 1994-1995 fiscal year, at least 1% of an amount equal to the last completed fiscal year's net revenue collections for the general revenue fund shall be retained in a budget stabilization fund. The budget stabilization fund shall be increased to at least 2% of said amount for the 1995-1996 fiscal year, at least 3% of said amount for the 1996-1997 fiscal year, at least 4% of said amount for the 1997-1998 fiscal year, and at least 5% of said amount for the 1998-1999 fiscal year. Subject to the provisions of this subsection, the budget stabilization fund shall be maintained at an amount equal to at least 5% of the last completed fiscal year's net revenue collections for the general revenue fund. The budget stabilization fund's principal balance shall not exceed an amount equal to 10% of the last completed fiscal year's net revenue

collections for the general revenue fund. The legislature shall provide criteria for withdrawing funds from the budget stabilization fund in a separate bill for that purpose only and only for the purpose of covering revenue shortfalls of the general revenue fund or for the purpose of providing funding for an emergency, as defined by general law. General law shall provide for the restoration of this fund. The budget stabilization fund shall be comprised of funds not otherwise obligated or committed for any purpose.

(h) STATE PLANNING DOCUMENT AND DEPART-MENT AND AGENCY PLANNING DOCUMENT PROCESSES. The governor shall recommend to the legislature biennially any revisions to the state planning document, as defined by law. General law shall require a biennial review and revision of the state planning document, shall require the governor to report to the legislature on the progress in achieving the state planning document's goals, and shall require all departments and agencies of state government to develop planning documents consistent with the state planning document. The state planning document and department and agency planning documents shall remain subject to review and revision by the legislature. The department and agency planning documents shall include a prioritized listing of planned expenditures for review and possible reduction in the event of revenue shortfalls, as defined by general law. To ensure productivity and efficiency in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, a quality management and accountability program shall be implemented by general law. For the purposes of this subsection, the terms department and agency shall include the judicial branch. This subsection shall be effective July 1, 1993.

History.—Proposed by Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, Revision No. 1, 1992, filed with the Secretary of State May 7, 1992; adopted 1992; Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 8 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

ARTICLE IV

EXECUTIVE

Sec.

1. Governor.
2. Lieutenant governor.
3. Succession to office of governor; acting governor.
4. Cabinet.
5. Election of governor, lieutenant governor and cabinet members; qualifications; terms.
6. Executive departments.
7. Suspensions; filling office during suspensions.
8. Clemency.
9. Fish and wildlife conservation commission.
10. Attorney General.
11. Department of Veterans Affairs.
12. Department of Elderly Affairs.
13. Revenue Shortfalls.

SECTION 1. Governor.—

(a) The supreme executive power shall be vested in a governor, who shall be commander-in-chief of all military forces of the state not in active service of the United States. The governor shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed, commission all officers of the state and counties, and transact all necessary business with the officers of government. The governor may require information in writing from all executive or administrative state, county or municipal officers upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices. The governor shall be the chief administrative officer of the state responsible for the planning and budgeting for the state.

(b) The governor may initiate judicial proceedings in the name of the state against any executive or administrative state, county or municipal officer to enforce compliance with any duty or restrain any unauthorized act.

(c) The governor may request in writing the opinion of the justices of the supreme court as to the interpretation of any portion of this constitution upon any question affecting the governor's executive powers and duties. The justices shall, subject to their rules of procedure, permit interested persons to be heard on the questions presented and shall render their written opinion not earlier than ten days from the filing and docketing of the request, unless in their judgment the delay would cause public injury.

(d) The governor shall have power to call out the militia to preserve the public peace, execute the laws of the state, suppress insurrection, or repel invasion.

(e) The governor shall by message at least once in each regular session inform the legislature concerning the condition of the state, propose such reorganization of the executive department as will promote efficiency and economy, and recommend measures in the public interest.

(f) When not otherwise provided for in this constitution, the governor shall fill by appointment any vacancy in state or county office for the remainder of the term of an appointive office, and for the remainder of the term of an elective office if less than twenty-eight months, otherwise until the first Tuesday after the first Monday following the next general election.

History.—Am. proposed by Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, Revision No. 1, 1992, filed with the Secretary of State May 7, 1992; adopted 1992; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 2. Lieutenant governor.—There shall be a lieutenant governor, who shall perform such duties pertaining to the office of governor as shall be assigned by the governor, except when otherwise provided by law, and such other duties as may be prescribed by law.

History.—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 3. Succession to office of governor; acting governor.—

(a) Upon vacancy in the office of governor, the lieutenant governor shall become governor. Further succession to the office of governor shall be prescribed by law. A successor shall serve for the remainder of the term.

(b) Upon impeachment of the governor and until completion of trial thereof, or during the governor's physical or mental incapacity, the lieutenant governor shall act as governor. Further succession as acting governor shall be prescribed by law. Incapacity to serve as governor may be determined by the supreme court upon due notice after docketing of a written suggestion thereof by three cabinet members, and in such case restoration of capacity shall be similarly determined after docketing of written suggestion thereof by the governor, the legislature or three cabinet members. Incapacity to serve as governor may also be established by certificate filed with the custodian of state records by the governor declaring incapacity for physical reasons to serve as governor, and in such case restoration of capacity shall be similarly established.

History.—Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 8 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 4. Cabinet.—

(a) There shall be a cabinet composed of an attorney general, a chief financial officer, and a commissioner of agriculture. In addition to the powers and duties specified herein, they shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed by law. In the event of a tie vote of the governor and cabinet, the side on which the governor voted shall be deemed to prevail.

(b) The attorney general shall be the chief state legal officer. There is created in the office of the attorney general the position of statewide prosecutor. The statewide prosecutor shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the state attorneys to prosecute violations of criminal laws occurring or having occurred, in two or more judicial circuits as part of a related transaction, or when any such offense is affecting or has affected two or more judicial circuits as provided by general law. The statewide prosecutor shall be appointed by the attorney general from not less than three persons nominated by the judicial nominating commission for the supreme court, or as otherwise provided by general law.

(c) The chief financial officer shall serve as the chief fiscal officer of the state, and shall settle and approve accounts against the state, and shall keep all state funds and securities.

(d) The commissioner of agriculture shall have supervision of matters pertaining to agriculture except as otherwise provided by law.

(e) The governor as chair, the chief financial officer, and the attorney general shall constitute the state board of administration, which shall succeed to all the power, control, and authority of the state board of administration established pursuant to Article IX, Section 16 of the Constitution of 1885, and which shall continue as a body at least for the life of Article XII, Section 9(c).

(f) The governor as chair, the chief financial officer, the attorney general, and the commissioner of agriculture shall constitute the trustees of the internal improvement trust fund and the land acquisition trust fund as provided by law.

(g) The governor as chair, the chief financial officer, the attorney general, and the commissioner of agriculture shall constitute the agency head of the Department of Law Enforcement.

History.—Am. H.J.R. 435, 1983; adopted 1984; Am. H.J.R. 386, 1985; adopted 1986; Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 8 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 5. Election of governor, lieutenant governor and cabinet members; qualifications; terms.—

(a) At a state-wide general election in each calendar year the number of which is even but not a multiple of four, the electors shall choose a governor and a lieutenant governor and members of the cabinet each for a term of four years beginning on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the succeeding year. In primary elections, candidates for the office of governor may choose to run without a lieutenant governor candidate. In the general election, all candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor shall form joint candidacies in a manner prescribed by law so that each voter shall cast a single vote for a candidate for governor and a candidate for lieutenant governor running together.

(b) When elected, the governor, lieutenant governor and each cabinet member must be an elector not less than thirty years of age who has resided in the state for the preceding seven years. The attorney general must have been a member of the bar of Florida for the preceding five years. No person who has, or but for resignation would have, served as governor or acting governor for more than six years in two consecutive terms shall be elected governor for the succeeding term.

History.—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 11, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 6. Executive departments.—All functions of the executive branch of state government shall be allotted among not more than twenty-five departments, exclusive of those specifically provided for or authorized in this constitution. The administration of each department, unless otherwise provided in this constitution, shall be placed by law under the direct supervision of the governor, the lieutenant governor, the governor and cabinet, a cabinet member, or

an officer or board appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the governor, except:

(a) When provided by law, confirmation by the senate or the approval of three members of the cabinet shall be required for appointment to or removal from any designated statutory office.

(b) Boards authorized to grant and revoke licenses to engage in regulated occupations shall be assigned to appropriate departments and their members appointed for fixed terms, subject to removal only for cause.

SECTION 7. Suspensions; filling office during suspensions.—

(a) By executive order stating the grounds and filed with the custodian of state records, the governor may suspend from office any state officer not subject to impeachment, any officer of the militia not in the active service of the United States, or any county officer, for malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect of duty, drunkenness, incompetence, permanent inability to perform official duties, or commission of a felony, and may fill the office by appointment for the period of suspension. The suspended officer may at any time before removal be reinstated by the governor.

(b) The senate may, in proceedings prescribed by law, remove from office or reinstate the suspended official and for such purpose the senate may be convened in special session by its president or by a majority of its membership.

(c) By order of the governor any elected municipal officer indicted for crime may be suspended from office until acquitted and the office filled by appointment for the period of suspension, not to extend beyond the term, unless these powers are vested elsewhere by law or the municipal charter.

History.—Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 8 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 8. Clemency.—

(a) Except in cases of treason and in cases where impeachment results in conviction, the governor may, by executive order filed with the custodian of state records, suspend collection of fines and forfeitures, grant reprieves not exceeding sixty days and, with the approval of two members of the cabinet, grant full or conditional pardons, restore civil rights, commute punishment, and remit fines and forfeitures for offenses.

(b) In cases of treason the governor may grant reprieves until adjournment of the regular session of the legislature convening next after the conviction, at which session the legislature may grant a pardon or further reprieve; otherwise the sentence shall be executed.

(c) There may be created by law a parole and probation commission with power to supervise persons on probation and to grant paroles or conditional releases to persons under sentences for crime. The qualifications, method of selection and terms, not to exceed six years, of members of the commission shall be prescribed by law.

History.—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 9. Fish and wildlife conservation commission.—There shall be a fish and wildlife conservation commission, composed of seven members appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the senate for staggered terms of five years. The commission shall exercise the regulatory and executive powers of the state with respect to wild animal life and fresh water aquatic life, and shall also exercise regulatory and executive powers of the state with respect to marine life, except that all license fees for taking wild animal life, fresh water aquatic life, and marine life and penalties for violating regulations of the commission shall be prescribed by general law. The commission shall establish procedures to ensure adequate due process in the exercise of its regulatory and executive functions. The legislature may enact laws in aid of the commission, not inconsistent with this section, except that there shall be no special law or general law of local application pertaining to hunting or fishing. The commission's exercise of executive powers in the area of planning, budgeting, personnel management, and purchasing shall be as provided by law. Revenue derived from license fees for the taking of wild animal life and fresh water aquatic life shall be appropriated to the commission by the legislature for the purposes of management, protection, and conservation of wild animal life and fresh water aquatic life. Revenue derived from license fees relating to marine life shall be appropriated by the legislature for the purposes of management, protection, and conservation of marine life as provided by law. The commission shall not be a unit of any other state agency and shall have its own staff, which includes management, research, and enforcement. Unless provided by general law, the commission shall have no authority to regulate matters relating to air and water pollution.

History.—Am. C.S. for H.J.R. 637, 1973; adopted 1974; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 5, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 10. Attorney General.—The attorney general shall, as directed by general law, request the opinion of the justices of the supreme court as to the validity of any initiative petition circulated pursuant to Section 3 of Article XI. The justices shall, subject to their rules of procedure, permit interested persons to be heard on the questions presented and shall render their written opinion expeditiously.

History.—Added, H.J.R. 71, 1986; adopted 1986.

SECTION 11. Department of Veterans Affairs.—The legislature, by general law, may provide for the establishment of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

History.—Added, C.S. for H.J.R. 290, 1988; adopted 1988.

SECTION 12. Department of Elderly Affairs.—The legislature may create a Department of Elderly Affairs and prescribe its duties. The provisions governing the administration of the department must

comply with Section 6 of Article IV of the State Constitution.

History.—Added, C.S. for H.J.R. 290, 1988; adopted 1988.

SECTION 13. Revenue Shortfalls.—In the event of revenue shortfalls, as defined by general law, the governor and cabinet may establish all necessary reductions in the state budget in order to comply with the provisions of Article VII, Section 1(d). The governor and cabinet shall implement all necessary reductions for the executive budget, the chief justice of the supreme court shall implement all necessary reductions for the judicial budget, and the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate shall implement all necessary reductions for the legislative budget. Budget reductions pursuant to this section shall be consistent with the provisions of Article III, Section 19(h).

History.—Proposed by Taxation and Budget Reform Commission Revision No. 1, 1992, filed with the Secretary of State May 7, 1992; adopted 1992.

ARTICLE V

JUDICIARY

Sec.

1. Courts.
2. Administration; practice and procedure.
3. Supreme court.
4. District courts of appeal.
5. Circuit courts.
6. County courts.
7. Specialized divisions.
8. Eligibility.
9. Determination of number of judges.
10. Retention; election and terms.
11. Vacancies.
12. Discipline; removal and retirement.
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14. Judicial salaries.
15. Attorneys; admission and discipline.
16. Clerks of the circuit courts.
17. State attorneys.
18. Public defenders.
19. Judicial officers as conservators of the peace.
20. Schedule to Article V.

SECTION 1. Courts.—The judicial power shall be vested in a supreme court, district courts of appeal, circuit courts and county courts. No other courts may be established by the state, any political subdivision or any municipality. The legislature shall, by general law, divide the state into appellate court districts and judicial circuits following county lines. Commissions established by law, or administrative officers or bodies may be granted quasi-judicial power in matters connected with the functions of their offices. The legislature may establish by general law a civil traffic hearing officer system for the purpose of hearing civil traffic infractions. The legislature may, by general law, authorize a military court-martial to be conducted by military judges of the Florida National Guard, with direct appeal of a decision to the District Court of Appeal, First District.

History.—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. H.J.R. 1608, 1988; adopted 1988; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 2. Administration; practice and procedure.—

(a) The supreme court shall adopt rules for the practice and procedure in all courts including the time for seeking appellate review, the administrative supervision of all courts, the transfer to the court having jurisdiction of any proceeding when the jurisdiction of another court has been improvidently invoked, and a requirement that no cause shall be dismissed because an improper remedy has been sought. The supreme court shall adopt rules to allow the court and the district courts of appeal to submit questions relating to military law to the federal Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for an advisory opinion. Rules of court may be repealed by general law enacted by two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the legislature.

(b) The chief justice of the supreme court shall be chosen by a majority of the members of the court; shall be the chief administrative officer of the judicial system; and shall have the power to assign justices or judges, including consenting retired justices or judges, to temporary duty in any court for which the judge is qualified and to delegate to a chief judge of a judicial circuit the power to assign judges for duty in that circuit.

(c) A chief judge for each district court of appeal shall be chosen by a majority of the judges thereof or, if there is no majority, by the chief justice. The chief judge shall be responsible for the administrative supervision of the court.

(d) A chief judge in each circuit shall be chosen from among the circuit judges as provided by supreme court rule. The chief judge shall be responsible for the administrative supervision of the circuit courts and county courts in his circuit.

History.—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 3. Supreme court.—

(a) ORGANIZATION.—The supreme court shall consist of seven justices. Of the seven justices, each appellate district shall have at least one justice elected or appointed from the district to the supreme court who is a resident of the district at the time of the original appointment or election. Five justices shall constitute a quorum. The concurrence of four justices shall be necessary to a decision. When recusals for cause would prohibit the court from convening because of the requirements of this section, judges assigned to temporary duty may be substituted for justices.

(b) JURISDICTION.—The supreme court:

(1) Shall hear appeals from final judgments of trial courts imposing the death penalty and from deci-

sions of district courts of appeal declaring invalid a state statute or a provision of the state constitution.

(2) When provided by general law, shall hear appeals from final judgments entered in proceedings for the validation of bonds or certificates of indebtedness and shall review action of statewide agencies relating to rates or service of utilities providing electric, gas, or telephone service.

(3) May review any decision of a district court of appeal that expressly declares valid a state statute, or that expressly construes a provision of the state or federal constitution, or that expressly affects a class of constitutional or state officers, or that expressly and directly conflicts with a decision of another district court of appeal or of the supreme court on the same question of law.

(4) May review any decision of a district court of appeal that passes upon a question certified by it to be of great public importance, or that is certified by it to be in direct conflict with a decision of another district court of appeal.

(5) May review any order or judgment of a trial court certified by the district court of appeal in which an appeal is pending to be of great public importance, or to have a great effect on the proper administration of justice throughout the state, and certified to require immediate resolution by the supreme court.

(6) May review a question of law certified by the Supreme Court of the United States or a United States Court of Appeals which is determinative of the cause and for which there is no controlling precedent of the supreme court of Florida.

(7) May issue writs of prohibition to courts and all writs necessary to the complete exercise of its jurisdiction.

(8) May issue writs of mandamus and quo warranto to state officers and state agencies.

(9) May, or any justice may, issue writs of habeas corpus returnable before the supreme court or any justice, a district court of appeal or any judge thereof, or any circuit judge.

(10) Shall, when requested by the attorney general pursuant to the provisions of Section 10 of Article IV, render an advisory opinion of the justices, addressing issues as provided by general law.

(c) CLERK AND MARSHAL.—The supreme court shall appoint a clerk and a marshal who shall hold office during the pleasure of the court and perform such duties as the court directs. Their compensation shall be fixed by general law. The marshal shall have the power to execute the process of the court throughout the state, and in any county may deputize the sheriff or a deputy sheriff for such purpose.

History.—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. C.S. for S.J.R.'s 49, 81, 1976; adopted 1976; Am. S.J.R. 20-C, 1979; adopted 1980; Am. H.J.R. 71, 1986; adopted 1986; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 4. District courts of appeal.—

(a) ORGANIZATION.—There shall be a district court of appeal serving each appellate district. Each district court of appeal shall consist of at least three judges. Three judges shall consider each case and the concurrence of two shall be necessary to a decision.

(b) JURISDICTION.—

(1) District courts of appeal shall have jurisdiction to hear appeals, that may be taken as a matter of right, from final judgments or orders of trial courts, including those entered on review of administrative action, not directly appealable to the supreme court or a circuit court. They may review interlocutory orders in such cases to the extent provided by rules adopted by the supreme court.

(2) District courts of appeal shall have the power of direct review of administrative action, as prescribed by general law.

(3) A district court of appeal or any judge thereof may issue writs of habeas corpus returnable before the court or any judge thereof or before any circuit judge within the territorial jurisdiction of the court. A district court of appeal may issue writs of mandamus, certiorari, prohibition, quo warranto, and other writs necessary to the complete exercise of its jurisdiction. To the extent necessary to dispose of all issues in a cause properly before it, a district court of appeal may exercise any of the appellate jurisdiction of the circuit courts.

(c) CLERKS AND MARSHALS.—Each district court of appeal shall appoint a clerk and a marshal who shall hold office during the pleasure of the court and perform such duties as the court directs. Their compensation shall be fixed by general law. The marshal shall have the power to execute the process of the court throughout the territorial jurisdiction of the court, and in any county may deputize the sheriff or a deputy sheriff for such purpose.

History.—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972.

SECTION 5. Circuit courts.—

(a) ORGANIZATION.—There shall be a circuit court serving each judicial circuit.

(b) JURISDICTION.—The circuit courts shall have original jurisdiction not vested in the county courts, and jurisdiction of appeals when provided by general law. They shall have the power to issue writs of mandamus, quo warranto, certiorari, prohibition and habeas corpus, and all writs necessary or proper to the complete exercise of their jurisdiction. Jurisdiction of the circuit court shall be uniform throughout the state. They shall have the power of direct review of administrative action prescribed by general law.

History.—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972.

SECTION 6. County courts.—

(a) ORGANIZATION.—There shall be a county court in each county. There shall be one or more judges for each county court as prescribed by general law.

(b) JURISDICTION.—The county courts shall exercise the jurisdiction prescribed by general law. Such jurisdiction shall be uniform throughout the state.

History.—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972.

SECTION 7. Specialized divisions.—All courts except the supreme court may sit in divisions as may be established by general law. A circuit or county court may hold civil and criminal trials and hearings in any place within the territorial jurisdiction of the court as designated by the chief judge of the circuit.

History.—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972.

SECTION 8. Eligibility.—No person shall be eligible for office of justice or judge of any court unless the person is an elector of the state and resides in the territorial jurisdiction of the court. No justice or judge shall serve after attaining the age of seventy years except upon temporary assignment or to complete a term, one-half of which has been served. No person is eligible for the office of justice of the supreme court or judge of a district court of appeal unless the person is, and has been for the preceding ten years, a member of the bar of Florida. No person is eligible for the office of circuit judge unless the person is, and has been for the preceding five years, a member of the bar of Florida. Unless otherwise provided by general law, no person is eligible for the office of county court judge unless the person is, and has been for the preceding five years, a member of the bar of Florida. Unless otherwise provided by general law, a person shall be eligible for election or appointment to the office of county court judge in a county having a population of 40,000 or less if the person is a member in good standing of the bar of Florida.

History.—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. H.J.R. 37, 1984; adopted 1984 (effective July 1, 1985); Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 9. Determination of number of judges.—The supreme court shall establish by rule uniform criteria for the determination of the need for additional judges except supreme court justices, the necessity for decreasing the number of judges and for increasing, decreasing or redefining appellate districts and judicial circuits. If the supreme court finds that a need exists for increasing or decreasing the number of judges or increasing, decreasing or redefining appellate districts and judicial circuits, it shall, prior to the next regular session of the legislature, certify to the legislature its findings and recommendations concerning such need. Upon receipt of such certificate, the legislature, at the next regular session, shall consider the findings and recommendations and may reject the recommendations or by law implement the recommendations in whole or in part; provided the legislature may create more judicial offices than are recommended by the supreme court or may decrease the number of judicial offices by a greater number than recommended by the court only upon a finding of two-thirds of the membership of both houses of the legislature, that such a need exists. A decrease in the number of judges shall be effective only after the expiration of a term. If the supreme court fails to make findings as provided above when need exists, the legislature may by concurrent resolution request the court to certify its findings and recommendations and upon the failure of the court to certify its findings for nine consecutive months, the legislature may, upon a finding of two-thirds of the membership of both houses of the legislature that a need exists, increase or decrease the number of judges or increase, decrease or redefine appellate districts and judicial circuits.

History.—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972.

SECTION 10. Retention; election and terms.—

(a) Any justice or judge may qualify for retention by a vote of the electors in the general election next preceding the expiration of the justice's or judge's term in the manner prescribed by law. If a justice or judge is ineligible or fails to qualify for retention, a vacancy shall exist in that office upon the expiration of the term being served by the justice or judge. When a justice or judge so qualifies, the ballot shall read substantially as follows: "Shall Justice (or Judge) (name of justice or judge) of the (name of the court) be retained in office?" If a majority of the qualified electors voting within the territorial jurisdiction of the court vote to retain, the justice or judge shall be retained for a term of six years. The term of the justice or judge retained shall commence on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January following the general election. If a majority of the qualified electors voting within the territorial jurisdiction of the court vote to not retain, a vacancy shall exist in that office upon the expiration of the term being served by the justice or judge.

(b)

(1) The election of circuit judges shall be preserved notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) unless a majority of those voting in the jurisdiction of that circuit approves a local option to select circuit judges by merit selection and retention rather than by election. The election of circuit judges shall be by a vote of the qualified electors within the territorial jurisdiction of the court.

(2) The election of county court judges shall be preserved notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) unless a majority of those voting in the jurisdiction of that county approves a local option to select county judges by merit selection and retention rather than by election. The election of county court judges shall be by a vote of the qualified electors within the territorial jurisdiction of the court.

(3)a. A vote to exercise a local option to select circuit court judges and county court judges by merit selection and retention rather than by election shall be held in each circuit and county at the general election in the year 2000. If a vote to exercise this local option fails in a vote of the electors, such option shall not again be put to a vote of the electors of that jurisdiction until the expiration of at least two years.

b. After the year 2000, a circuit may initiate the local option for merit selection and retention or the election of circuit judges, whichever is applicable, by filing with the custodian of state records a petition signed by the number of electors equal to at least ten percent of the votes cast in the circuit in the last preceding election in which presidential electors were chosen.

c. After the year 2000, a county may initiate the local option for merit selection and retention or the election of county court judges, whichever is applicable, by filing with the supervisor of elections a petition signed by the number of electors equal to at least ten percent of the votes cast in the county in the last preceding election in which presidential electors were chosen. The terms of circuit judges and judges of county courts shall be for six years.

History.—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. C.S. for S.J.R.'s 49, 81, 1976; adopted 1976; Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 7 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 11. Vacancies.—

(a) Whenever a vacancy occurs in a judicial office to which election for retention applies, the governor shall fill the vacancy by appointing for a term ending on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the year following the next general election occurring at least one year after the date of appointment, one of not fewer than three persons nor more than six persons nominated by the appropriate judicial nominating commission.

(b) The governor shall fill each vacancy on a circuit court or on a county court, wherein the judges are elected by a majority vote of the electors, by appointing for a term ending on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the year following the next primary and general election occurring at least one year after the date of appointment, one of not fewer than three persons nor more than six persons nominated by the appropriate judicial nominating commission. An election shall be held to fill that judicial office for the term of the office beginning at the end of the appointed term.

(c) The nominations shall be made within thirty days from the occurrence of a vacancy unless the period is extended by the governor for a time not to exceed thirty days. The governor shall make the appointment within sixty days after the nominations have been certified to the governor.

(d) There shall be a separate judicial nominating commission as provided by general law for the supreme court, each district court of appeal, and each judicial circuit for all trial courts within the circuit. Uniform rules of procedure shall be established by the judicial nominating commissions at each level of the court system. Such rules, or any part thereof, may be repealed by general law enacted by a majority vote of the membership of each house of the legislature, or by the supreme court, five justices concurring. Except for deliberations of the judicial nominating commissions, the proceedings of the commissions and their records shall be open to the public.

History.—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. C.S. for S.J.R.'s 49, 81, 1976; adopted 1976; Am. H.J.R. 1160, 1984; adopted 1984; Am. C.S. for S.J.R. 978, 1996; adopted 1996; Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 7 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 12. Discipline; removal and retirement.—

(a) JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION.—A judicial qualifications commission is created.

(1) There shall be a judicial qualifications commission vested with jurisdiction to investigate and recommend to the Supreme Court of Florida the removal from office of any justice or judge whose conduct, during term of office or otherwise occurring on or after November 1, 1966, (without regard to the effective date of this section) demonstrates a present unfitness to hold office, and to investigate and recommend the discipline of a justice or judge whose conduct, during term of office or otherwise occurring on or after November 1, 1966 (without regard to the effective date of this section), warrants such discipline. For purposes of this section, discipline is defined as any or all of the following: reprimand, fine, suspension with or without pay, or lawyer discipline. The commission shall have jurisdiction over justices and judges regarding allegations that misconduct occurred before or during service as a justice or judge if a complaint is made no later than one year following service as a justice or judge. The commission shall have jurisdiction regarding allegations of incapacity during service as a justice or judge. The commission shall be composed of:

a. Two judges of district courts of appeal selected by the judges of those courts, two circuit judges selected by the judges of the circuit courts and two judges of county courts selected by the judges of those courts;

b. Four electors who reside in the state, who are members of the bar of Florida, and who shall be chosen by the governing body of the bar of Florida; and

c. Five electors who reside in the state, who have never held judicial office or been members of the bar of Florida, and who shall be appointed by the governor.

(2) The members of the judicial qualifications commission shall serve staggered terms, not to exceed six years, as prescribed by general law. No member of the commission except a judge shall be eligible for state judicial office while acting as a member of the commission and for a period of two years thereafter. No member of the commission shall hold office in a political party or participate in any campaign for judicial office or hold public office; provided that a judge may campaign for judicial office and hold that office. The commission shall elect one of its members as its chairperson.

(3) Members of the judicial qualifications commission not subject to impeachment shall be subject to removal from the commission pursuant to the provisions of Article IV, Section 7, Florida Constitution.

(4) The commission shall adopt rules regulating its proceedings, the filling of vacancies by the appointing authorities, the disqualification of members, the rotation of members between the panels, and the temporary replacement of disqualified or incapacitated members. The commission's rules, or any part thereof, may be repealed by general law enacted by a majority vote of the membership of each house of the legislature, or by the supreme court, five justices concurring. The commission shall have power to issue

subpoenas. Until formal charges against a justice or judge are filed by the investigative panel with the clerk of the supreme court of Florida all proceedings by or before the commission shall be confidential; provided, however, upon a finding of probable cause and the filing by the investigative panel with said clerk of such formal charges against a justice or judge such charges and all further proceedings before the commission shall be public.

(5) The commission shall have access to all information from all executive, legislative and judicial agencies, including grand juries, subject to the rules of the commission. At any time, on request of the speaker of the house of representatives or the governor, the commission shall make available all information in the possession of the commission for use in consideration of impeachment or suspension, respectively.

(b) PANELS.—The commission shall be divided into an investigative panel and a hearing panel as established by rule of the commission. The investigative panel is vested with the jurisdiction to receive or initiate complaints, conduct investigations, dismiss complaints, and upon a vote of a simple majority of the panel submit formal charges to the hearing panel. The hearing panel is vested with the authority to receive and hear formal charges from the investigative panel and upon a two-thirds vote of the panel recommend to the supreme court the removal of a justice or judge or the involuntary retirement of a justice or judge for any permanent disability that seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties. Upon a simple majority vote of the membership of the hearing panel, the panel may recommend to the supreme court that the justice or judge be subject to appropriate discipline.

(c) SUPREME COURT.—The supreme court shall receive recommendations from the judicial qualifications commission's hearing panel.

(1) The supreme court may accept, reject, or modify in whole or in part the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the commission and it may order that the justice or judge be subjected to appropriate discipline, or be removed from office with termination of compensation for willful or persistent failure to perform judicial duties or for other conduct unbecoming a member of the judiciary demonstrating a present unfitness to hold office, or be involuntarily retired for any permanent disability that seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties. Malafides, scienter or moral turpitude on the part of a justice or judge shall not be required for removal from office of a justice or judge whose conduct demonstrates a present unfitness to hold office. After the filing of a formal proceeding and upon request of the investigative panel, the supreme court may suspend the justice or judge from office, with or without compensation, pending final determination of the inquiry.

(2) The supreme court may award costs to the prevailing party.

(d) The power of removal conferred by this section shall be both alternative and cumulative to the power of impeachment.

(e) Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions of this section, if the person who is the subject of proceedings by the judicial qualifications commission is a justice of the supreme court of Florida all justices of such court automatically shall be disqualified to sit as justices of such court with respect to all proceedings therein concerning such person and the supreme court for such purposes shall be composed of a panel consisting of the seven chief judges of the judicial circuits of the state of Florida most senior in tenure of judicial office as circuit judge. For purposes of determining seniority of such circuit judges in the event there be judges of equal tenure in judicial office as circuit judge the judge or judges from the lower numbered circuit or circuits shall be deemed senior. In the event any such chief circuit judge is under investigation by the judicial qualifications commission or is otherwise disqualified or unable to serve on the panel, the next most senior chief circuit judge or judges shall serve in place of such disqualified or disabled chief circuit judge.

(f) SCHEDULE TO SECTION 12.—

(1) Except to the extent inconsistent with the provisions of this section, all provisions of law and rules of court in force on the effective date of this article shall continue in effect until superseded in the manner authorized by the constitution.

(2) After this section becomes effective and until adopted by rule of the commission consistent with it:

a. The commission shall be divided, as determined by the chairperson, into one investigative panel and one hearing panel to meet the responsibilities set forth in this section.

b. The investigative panel shall be composed of:

1. Four judges,
2. Two members of the bar of Florida, and
3. Three non-lawyers.

c. The hearing panel shall be composed of:

1. Two judges,
2. Two members of the bar of Florida, and
3. Two non-lawyers.

d. Membership on the panels may rotate in a manner determined by the rules of the commission provided that no member shall vote as a member of the investigative and hearing panel on the same proceeding.

e. The commission shall hire separate staff for each panel.

f. The members of the commission shall serve for staggered terms of six years.

g. The terms of office of the present members of the judicial qualifications commission shall expire upon the effective date of the amendments to this section approved by the legislature during the regular session of the legislature in 1996 and new members shall be appointed to serve the following staggered terms:

1. Group I.—The terms of five members, composed of two electors as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)c. of Article V, one member of the bar of Florida as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)b. of Article V, one judge from the district courts of appeal and one circuit judge as set forth in s.

12(a)(1)a. of Article V, shall expire on December 31, 1998.

2. Group II.—The terms of five members, composed of one elector as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)c. of Article V, two members of the bar of Florida as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)b. of Article V, one circuit judge and one county judge as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)a. of Article V shall expire on December 31, 2000.

3. Group III.—The terms of five members, composed of two electors as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)c. of Article V, one member of the bar of Florida as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)b., one judge from the district courts of appeal and one county judge as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)a. of Article V, shall expire on December 31, 2002.

h. An appointment to fill a vacancy of the commission shall be for the remainder of the term.

i. Selection of members by district courts of appeal judges, circuit judges, and county court judges, shall be by no less than a majority of the members voting at the respective courts' conferences. Selection of members by the board of governors of the bar of Florida shall be by no less than a majority of the board.

j. The commission shall be entitled to recover the costs of investigation and prosecution, in addition to any penalty levied by the supreme court.

k. The compensation of members and referees shall be the travel expenses or transportation and per diem allowance as provided by general law.

History.—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. H.J.R. 3911, 1974; adopted 1974; Am. H.J.R. 1709, 1975; adopted 1976; Am. C.S. for S.J.R. 978, 1996; adopted 1996; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 7, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 13. Prohibited activities.—All justices and judges shall devote full time to their judicial duties. They shall not engage in the practice of law or hold office in any political party.

History.—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972.

[1]**SECTION 14. Judicial salaries.**—All justices and judges shall be compensated only by state salaries fixed by general law. The judiciary shall have no power to fix appropriations.

History.—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 7, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

[1]**Note.**—

A. Section 25(a), Art. XII, State Constitution, provides that "[c]ommencing with fiscal year 2000-2001, the legislature shall appropriate funds to pay for the salaries, costs, and expenses set forth in the amendment to Section 14 of Article V pursuant to a phase-in schedule established by general law."

B. Section 25(b), Art. XII, State Constitution, provides for the amendment to s. 14, Art. V, State Constitution, by Revision No. 7 (1998) to "be fully effectuated by July 1, 2004." As amended by Revision No. 7 (1998), "fully effectuated by July 1, 2004," s. 14, Art. V, State Constitution, reads:

SECTION 14. Funding.—

(a) All justices and judges shall be compensated only by state salaries fixed by general law. Funding for the state courts system, state attorneys' offices, public defenders' offices, and court-appointed counsel, except as otherwise provided in subsection (c), shall be provided from state revenues appropriated by general law.

(b) All funding for the offices of the clerks of the circuit and county courts performing court-related functions, except as otherwise provided in this subsection and subsection (c), shall be provided by adequate and appropriate filing fees for judicial proceedings and service charges and costs for performing court-related functions as required by general law. Selected salaries, costs, and expenses of the state courts system may be funded from appropriate filing fees for judicial proceedings and service charges and costs for performing court-related functions, as provided by general law. Where the requirements of either the United States Constitution or the Constitution of the State of Florida preclude the imposition of filing fees for judicial proceedings and service charges and costs for performing court-related functions sufficient to fund the court-related functions of the offices of the clerks of the circuit and county courts, the state shall provide, as determined by the legislature, adequate and appropriate supplemental funding from state revenues appropriated by general law.

(c) No county or municipality, except as provided in this subsection, shall be required to provide any funding for the state courts system, state attorneys' offices, public defenders' offices, court-appointed counsel or the offices of the clerks of the circuit and county courts performing court-related functions. Counties shall be required to fund the cost of communications services, existing radio systems, existing multi-agency criminal justice information systems, and the cost of construction or lease, maintenance, utilities, and security of facilities for the trial courts, public defenders' offices, state attorneys' offices, and the offices of the clerks of the circuit and county courts performing court-related functions. Counties shall also pay reasonable and necessary salaries, costs, and expenses of the state courts system to meet local requirements as determined by general law.

(d) The judiciary shall have no power to fix appropriations.

SECTION 15. Attorneys; admission and discipline.—The supreme court shall have exclusive jurisdiction to regulate the admission of persons to the practice of law and the discipline of persons admitted.

History.—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972.

SECTION 16. Clerks of the circuit courts.—There shall be in each county a clerk of the circuit court who shall be selected pursuant to the provisions of Article VIII section 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of the constitution, the duties of the clerk of the circuit court may be divided by special or general law between two officers, one serving as clerk of court and one serving as ex officio clerk of the board of county commissioners, auditor, recorder, and custodian of all county funds. There may be a clerk of the county court if authorized by general or special law.

History.—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972.

SECTION 17. State attorneys.—In each judicial circuit a state attorney shall be elected for a term of four years. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution, the state attorney shall be the prosecuting officer of all trial courts in that circuit and shall perform other duties prescribed by general law; provided, however, when authorized by general law, the violations of all municipal ordinances may be prosecuted by municipal prosecutors. A state attorney shall be an elector of the state and reside in the territorial jurisdiction of the circuit; shall be and have been a member of the bar of Florida for the preceding five years; shall devote full time to the duties of the office; and shall not engage in the private practice of law. State attorneys shall appoint such assistant state attorneys as may be authorized by law.

History.—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. H.J.R. 386, 1985; adopted 1986; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 18. Public defenders.—In each judicial circuit a public defender shall be elected for a term of four years, who shall perform duties prescribed by general law. A public defender shall be an elector of the state and reside in the territorial jurisdiction of the circuit and shall be and have been a member of the Bar of Florida for the preceding five years. Public defenders shall appoint such assistant public defenders as may be authorized by law.

History.—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 19. Judicial officers as conservators of the peace.—All judicial officers in this state shall be conservators of the peace.

History.—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972.

SECTION 20. Schedule to Article V.—

(a) This article shall replace all of Article V of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, which shall then stand repealed.

(b) Except to the extent inconsistent with the provisions of this article, all provisions of law and rules of court in force on the effective date of this article shall continue in effect until superseded in the manner authorized by the constitution.

(c) After this article becomes effective, and until changed by general law consistent with sections 1 through 19 of this article:

(1) The supreme court shall have the jurisdiction immediately theretofore exercised by it, and it shall determine all proceedings pending before it on the effective date of this article.

(2) The appellate districts shall be those in existence on the date of adoption of this article. There shall be a district court of appeal in each district. The district courts of appeal shall have the jurisdiction immediately theretofore exercised by the district courts of appeal and shall determine all proceedings pending before them on the effective date of this article.

(3) Circuit courts shall have jurisdiction of appeals from county courts and municipal courts, except those appeals which may be taken directly to the supreme court; and they shall have exclusive original jurisdiction in all actions at law not cognizable by the county courts; of proceedings relating to the settlement of the estate of decedents and minors, the granting of letters testamentary, guardianship, involuntary hospitalization, the determination of incompetency, and other jurisdiction usually pertaining to courts of probate; in all cases in equity including all cases relating to juveniles; of all felonies and of all misdemeanors arising out of the same circumstances as a felony which is also charged; in all cases involving legality of any tax assessment or toll; in the action of ejectment; and in all actions involving the titles or boundaries or right of possession of real property. The circuit court may issue injunctions. There shall be judicial circuits which shall be the judicial circuits in existence on the date of adoption of this article. The chief judge of a circuit may authorize a county court judge to order emergency hospitalizations pursuant to Chapter 71-131, Laws of Florida, in the absence from the county of the circuit judge and the county court judge shall have the power to issue all temporary orders and temporary injunctions necessary or proper to the complete exercise of such jurisdiction.

(4) County courts shall have original jurisdiction in all criminal misdemeanor cases not cognizable by the circuit courts, of all violations of municipal and county ordinances, and of all actions at law in which the matter in controversy does not exceed the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars ($2,500.00) exclusive of interest and costs, except those within the exclusive jurisdiction of the circuit courts. Judges of county courts shall be committing magistrates. The county courts shall have jurisdiction now exercised by the county judge's courts other than that vested in the circuit court by subsection (c)(3) hereof, the jurisdiction now exercised by the county courts, the claims court, the small claims courts, the small claims magistrates courts, magistrates courts, justice of the peace courts, municipal courts and courts of chartered counties, including but not limited to the counties referred to in Article VIII, sections 9, 10, 11 and 24 of the Constitution of 1885.

(5) Each judicial nominating commission shall be composed of the following:

a. Three members appointed by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar from among The Florida Bar members who are actively engaged in the practice of law with offices within the territorial jurisdiction of the affected court, district or circuit;

b. Three electors who reside in the territorial jurisdiction of the court or circuit appointed by the governor; and

c. Three electors who reside in the territorial jurisdiction of the court or circuit and who are not members of the bar of Florida, selected and appointed by a majority vote of the other six members of the commission.

(6) No justice or judge shall be a member of a judicial nominating commission. A member of a judicial nominating commission may hold public office other than judicial office. No member shall be eligible for appointment to state judicial office so long as that person is a member of a judicial nominating commission and for a period of two years thereafter. All acts of a judicial nominating commission shall be made with a concurrence of a majority of its members.

(7) The members of a judicial nominating commission shall serve for a term of four years except the terms of the initial members of the judicial nominating commissions shall expire as follows:

a. The terms of one member of category a. b. and c. in subsection (c)(5) hereof shall expire on July 1, 1974;

b. The terms of one member of category a. b. and c. in subsection (c)(5) hereof shall expire on July 1, 1975;

c. The terms of one member of category a. b. and c. in subsection (c)(5) hereof shall expire on July 1, 1976;

(8) All fines and forfeitures arising from offenses tried in the county court shall be collected, and accounted for by clerk of the court, and deposited in a special trust account. All fines and forfeitures received from violations of ordinances or misdemeanors committed within a county or municipal ordinances committed within a municipality within the territorial jurisdiction of the county court shall be paid monthly to the county or municipality respectively. If any costs are assessed and collected in connection with offenses tried in county court, all court costs shall be paid into

the general revenue fund of the state of Florida and such other funds as prescribed by general law.

(9) Any municipality or county may apply to the chief judge of the circuit in which that municipality or county is situated for the county court to sit in a location suitable to the municipality or county and convenient in time and place to its citizens and police officers and upon such application said chief judge shall direct the court to sit in the location unless the chief judge shall determine the request is not justified. If the chief judge does not authorize the county court to sit in the location requested, the county or municipality may apply to the supreme court for an order directing the county court to sit in the location. Any municipality or county which so applies shall be required to provide the appropriate physical facilities in which the county court may hold court.

(10) All courts except the supreme court may sit in divisions as may be established by local rule approved by the supreme court.

(11) A county court judge in any county having a population of 40,000 or less according to the last decennial census, shall not be required to be a member of the bar of Florida.

(12) Municipal prosecutors may prosecute violations of municipal ordinances.

(13) Justice shall mean a justice elected or appointed to the supreme court and shall not include any judge assigned from any court.

(d) When this article becomes effective:

(1) All courts not herein authorized, except as provided by subsection (d)(4) of this section shall cease to exist and jurisdiction to conclude all pending cases and enforce all prior orders and judgments shall vest in the court that would have jurisdiction of the cause if thereafter instituted. All records of and property held by courts abolished hereby shall be transferred to the proper office of the appropriate court under this article.

(2) Judges of the following courts, if their terms do not expire in 1973 and if they are eligible under subsection (d)(8) hereof, shall become additional judges of the circuit court for each of the counties of their respective circuits, and shall serve as such circuit judges for the remainder of the terms to which they were elected and shall be eligible for election as circuit judges thereafter. These courts are: civil court of record of Dade county, all criminal courts of record, the felony courts of record of Alachua, Leon and Volusia Counties, the courts of record of Broward, Brevard, Escambia, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee and Sarasota Counties, the civil and criminal court of record of Pinellas County, and county judge's courts and separate juvenile courts in counties having a population in excess of 100,000 according to the 1970 federal census. On the effective date of this article, there shall be an additional number of positions of circuit judges equal to the number of existing circuit judges and the number of judges of the above named courts whose term expires in 1973. Elections to such offices shall take place at the same time and manner as elections to other state judicial offices in 1972 and the terms of such offices shall be for a term of six years. Unless changed pursuant to section nine of this article, the number of circuit judges presently existing and created by this subsection shall not be changed.

(3) In all counties having a population of less than 100,000 according to the 1970 federal census and having more than one county judge on the date of the adoption of this article, there shall be the same number of judges of the county court as there are county judges existing on that date unless changed pursuant to section 9 of this article.

(4) Municipal courts shall continue with their same jurisdiction until amended or terminated in a manner prescribed by special or general law or ordinances, or until January 3, 1977, whichever occurs first. On that date all municipal courts not previously abolished shall cease to exist. Judges of municipal courts shall remain in office and be subject to reappointment or reelection in the manner prescribed by law until said courts are terminated pursuant to the provisions of this subsection. Upon municipal courts being terminated or abolished in accordance with the provisions of this subsection, the judges thereof who are not members of the bar of Florida, shall be eligible to seek election as judges of county courts of their respective counties.

(5) Judges, holding elective office in all other courts abolished by this article, whose terms do not expire in 1973 including judges established pursuant to Article VIII, sections 9 and 11 of the Constitution of 1885 shall serve as judges of the county court for the remainder of the term to which they were elected. Unless created pursuant to section 9, of this Article V such judicial office shall not continue to exist thereafter.

(6) By March 21, 1972, the supreme court shall certify the need for additional circuit and county judges. The legislature in the 1972 regular session may by general law create additional offices of judge, the terms of which shall begin on the effective date of this article. Elections to such offices shall take place at the same time and manner as election to other state judicial offices in 1972.

(7) County judges of existing county judge's courts and justices of the peace and magistrates' court who are not members of bar of Florida shall be eligible to seek election as county court judges of their respective counties.

(8) No judge of a court abolished by this article shall become or be eligible to become a judge of the circuit court unless the judge has been a member of bar of Florida for the preceding five years.

(9) The office of judges of all other courts abolished by this article shall be abolished as of the effective date of this article.

(10) The offices of county solicitor and prosecuting attorney shall stand abolished, and all county solicitors and prosecuting attorneys holding such offices upon the effective date of this article shall become and serve as assistant state attorneys for the

circuits in which their counties are situate for the remainder of their terms, with compensation not less than that received immediately before the effective date of this article.

(e) LIMITED OPERATION OF SOME PROVISIONS.—

(1) All justices of the supreme court, judges of the district courts of appeal and circuit judges in office upon the effective date of this article shall retain their offices for the remainder of their respective terms. All members of the judicial qualifications commission in office upon the effective date of this article shall retain their offices for the remainder of their respective terms. Each state attorney in office on the effective date of this article shall retain the office for the remainder of the term.

(2) No justice or judge holding office immediately after this article becomes effective who held judicial office on July 1, 1957, shall be subject to retirement from judicial office because of age pursuant to section 8 of this article.

(f) Until otherwise provided by law, the nonjudicial duties required of county judges shall be performed by the judges of the county court.

[1](g) All provisions of Article V of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, not embraced herein which are not inconsistent with this revision shall become statutes subject to modification or repeal as are other statutes.

(h) The requirements of section 14 relative to all county court judges or any judge of a municipal court who continues to hold office pursuant to subsection (d)(4) hereof being compensated by state salaries shall not apply prior to January 3, 1977, unless otherwise provided by general law.

(i) DELETION OF OBSOLETE SCHEDULE ITEMS.—The legislature shall have power, by concurrent resolution, to delete from this article any subsection of this section 20 including this subsection, when all events to which the subsection to be deleted is or could become applicable have occurred. A legislative determination of fact made as a basis for application of this subsection shall be subject to judicial review.

(j) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Unless otherwise provided herein, this article shall become effective at 11:59 o'clock P.M., Eastern Standard Time, January 1, 1973.

History.—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

[1]**Note.**—All provisions of Art. V of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, considered as statutory law, were repealed by ch. 73-303, Laws of Florida.

ARTICLE VI

SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

Sec.

1. Regulation of elections.
2. Electors.
3. Oath.
4. Disqualifications.
5. Primary, general, and special elections.
6. Municipal and district elections.
7. Campaign spending limits and funding of campaigns for elective state-wide office.

SECTION 1. Regulation of elections.—All elections by the people shall be by direct and secret vote. General elections shall be determined by a plurality of votes cast. Registration and elections shall, and political party functions may, be regulated by law; however, the requirements for a candidate with no party affiliation or for a candidate of a minor party for placement of the candidate's name on the ballot shall be no greater than the requirements for a candidate of the party having the largest number of registered voters.

History.—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 11, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 2. Electors.—Every citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen years of age and who is a permanent resident of the state, if registered as provided by law, shall be an elector of the county where registered.

History.—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 11, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 3. Oath.—Each eligible citizen upon registering shall subscribe the following: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Florida, and that I am qualified to register as an elector under the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida."

SECTION 4. Disqualifications.—

(a) No person convicted of a felony, or adjudicated in this or any other state to be mentally incompetent, shall be qualified to vote or hold office until restoration of civil rights or removal of disability.

(b) No person may appear on the ballot for reelection to any of the following offices:

(1) Florida representative,
(2) Florida senator,
(3) Florida Lieutenant governor,
(4) any office of the Florida cabinet,
(5) U.S. Representative from Florida, or
(6) U.S. Senator from Florida

if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in that office for eight consecutive years.

History.—Am. by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State July 23, 1992; adopted 1992.

SECTION 5. Primary, general, and special elections.—

(a) A general election shall be held in each county on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year to choose a successor to each elective state and county officer

whose term will expire before the next general election and, except as provided herein, to fill each vacancy in elective office for the unexpired portion of the term. A general election may be suspended or delayed due to a state of emergency or impending emergency pursuant to general law. Special elections and referenda shall be held as provided by law.

(b) If all candidates for an office have the same party affiliation and the winner will have no opposition in the general election, all qualified electors, regardless of party affiliation, may vote in the primary elections for that office.

History.—Am. S.J.R. 162, 1992; adopted 1992; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 11, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 6. Municipal and district elections.—Registration and elections in municipalities shall, and in other governmental entities created by statute may, be provided by law.

SECTION 7. Campaign spending limits and funding of campaigns for elective state-wide office.—It is the policy of this state to provide for state-wide elections in which all qualified candidates may compete effectively. A method of public financing for campaigns for state-wide office shall be established by law. Spending limits shall be established for such campaigns for candidates who use public funds in their campaigns. The legislature shall provide funding for this provision. General law implementing this paragraph shall be at least as protective of effective competition by a candidate who uses public funds as the general law in effect on January 1, 1998.

History.—Proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 11, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

ARTICLE VII

FINANCE AND TAXATION

Sec.

1. Taxation; appropriations; state expenses; state revenue limitation.
2. Taxes; rate.
3. Taxes; exemptions.
4. Taxation; assessments.
5. Estate, inheritance and income taxes.
6. Homestead exemptions.
7. Allocation of pari-mutuel taxes.
8. Aid to local governments.
9. Local taxes.
10. Pledging credit.
11. State bonds; revenue bonds.
12. Local bonds.
13. Relief from illegal taxes.
14. Bonds for pollution control and abatement and other water facilities.
15. Revenue bonds for scholarship loans.
16. Bonds for housing and related facilities.
17. Bonds for acquiring transportation right-of-way or for constructing bridges.
18. Laws requiring counties or municipalities to spend funds or limiting their ability to raise revenue or receive state tax revenue.

SECTION 1. Taxation; appropriations; state expenses; state revenue limitation.—

(a) No tax shall be levied except in pursuance of law. No state ad valorem taxes shall be levied upon real estate or tangible personal property. All other forms of taxation shall be preempted to the state except as provided by general law.

(b) Motor vehicles, boats, airplanes, trailers, trailer coaches and mobile homes, as defined by law, shall be subject to a license tax for their operation in the amounts and for the purposes prescribed by law, but shall not be subject to ad valorem taxes.

(c) No money shall be drawn from the treasury except in pursuance of appropriation made by law.

(d) Provision shall be made by law for raising sufficient revenue to defray the expenses of the state for each fiscal period.

(e) Except as provided herein, state revenues collected for any fiscal year shall be limited to state revenues allowed under this subsection for the prior fiscal year plus an adjustment for growth. As used in this subsection, “growth” means an amount equal to the average annual rate of growth in Florida personal income over the most recent twenty quarters times the state revenues allowed under this subsection for the prior fiscal year. For the 1995-1996 fiscal year, the state revenues allowed under this subsection for the prior fiscal year shall equal the state revenues collected for the 1994-1995 fiscal year. Florida personal income shall be determined by the legislature, from information available from the United States Department of Commerce or its successor on the first day of February prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. State revenues collected for any fiscal year in excess of this limitation shall be transferred to the budget stabilization fund until the fund reaches the maximum balance specified in Section 19(g) of Article III, and thereafter shall be refunded to taxpayers as provided by general law. State revenues allowed under this subsection for any fiscal year may be increased by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the legislature in a separate bill that contains no other subject and that sets forth the dollar amount by which the state revenues allowed will be increased. The vote may not be taken less than seventy-two hours after the third reading of the bill. For purposes of this subsection, “state revenues” means taxes, fees, licenses, and charges for services imposed by the legislature on individuals, businesses, or agencies outside state government. However, “state revenues” does not include: revenues that are necessary to meet the requirements set forth in documents authorizing the issuance of bonds by the state; revenues that are used to provide matching funds for

the federal Medicaid program with the exception of the revenues used to support the Public Medical Assistance Trust Fund or its successor program and with the exception of state matching funds used to fund elective expansions made after July 1, 1994; proceeds from the state lottery returned as prizes; receipts of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund; balances carried forward from prior fiscal years; taxes, licenses, fees, and charges for services imposed by local, regional, or school district governing bodies; or revenue from taxes, licenses, fees, and charges for services required to be imposed by any amendment or revision to this constitution after July 1, 1994. An adjustment to the revenue limitation shall be made by general law to reflect the fiscal impact of transfers of responsibility for the funding of governmental functions between the state and other levels of government. The legislature shall, by general law, prescribe procedures necessary to administer this subsection.

History.—Am. H.J.R. 2053, 1994; adopted 1994.

SECTION 2. Taxes; rate.—All ad valorem taxation shall be at a uniform rate within each taxing unit, except the taxes on intangible personal property may be at different rates but shall never exceed two mills on the dollar of assessed value; provided, as to any obligations secured by mortgage, deed of trust, or other lien on real estate wherever located, an intangible tax of not more than two mills on the dollar may be levied by law to be in lieu of all other intangible assessments on such obligations.

SECTION 3. Taxes; exemptions.—

(a) All property owned by a municipality and used exclusively by it for municipal or public purposes shall be exempt from taxation. A municipality, owning property outside the municipality, may be required by general law to make payment to the taxing unit in which the property is located. Such portions of property as are used predominantly for educational, literary, scientific, religious or charitable purposes may be exempted by general law from taxation.

(b) There shall be exempt from taxation, cumulatively, to every head of a family residing in this state, household goods and personal effects to the value fixed by general law, not less than one thousand dollars, and to every widow or widower or person who is blind or totally and permanently disabled, property to the value fixed by general law not less than five hundred dollars.

(c) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this subsection and general law, grant community and economic development ad valorem tax exemptions to new businesses and expansions of existing businesses, as defined by general law. Such an exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county or municipality, and only after the electors of the county or municipality voting on such question in a referendum authorize the county or municipality to adopt such ordinances. An exemption so granted shall apply to improvements to real property made by or for the use of a new business and improvements to real property related to the expansion of an existing business and shall also apply to tangible personal property of such new business and tangible personal property related to the expansion of an existing business. The amount or limits of the amount of such exemption shall be specified by general law. The period of time for which such exemption may be granted to a new business or expansion of an existing business shall be determined by general law. The authority to grant such exemption shall expire ten years from the date of approval by the electors of the county or municipality, and may be renewable by referendum as provided by general law.

[1](d) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, there may be granted an ad valorem tax exemption to a renewable energy source device and to real property on which such device is installed and operated, to the value fixed by general law not to exceed the original cost of the device, and for the period of time fixed by general law not to exceed ten years.

(e) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this subsection and general law, grant historic preservation ad valorem tax exemptions to owners of historic properties. This exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county or municipality. The amount or limits of the amount of this exemption and the requirements for eligible properties must be specified by general law. The period of time for which this exemption may be granted to a property owner shall be determined by general law.

History.—Am. S.J.R.'s 9-E, 15-E, 1980; adopted 1980; Am. C.S. for S.J.R.'s 318, 356, 1988; adopted 1988; Am. S.J.R. 152, 1992; adopted 1992; Am. H.J.R. 969, 1997; adopted 1998.

[1]**Note.**—This subsection, originally designated (c) by S.J.R. 15-E, 1980, was redesignated (d) by the editors in order to avoid confusion with subsection (c) as contained in S.J.R. 9-E, 1980.

cf.—s. 19, Art. XII Schedule.

SECTION 4. Taxation; assessments.—By general law regulations shall be prescribed which shall secure a just valuation of all property for ad valorem taxation, provided:

(a) Agricultural land, land producing high water recharge to Florida's aquifers, or land used exclusively for noncommercial recreational purposes may be classified by general law and assessed solely on the basis of character or use.

(b) Pursuant to general law tangible personal property held for sale as stock in trade and livestock may be valued for taxation at a specified percentage of its value, may be classified for tax purposes, or may be exempted from taxation.

(c) All persons entitled to a homestead exemption under Section 6 of this Article shall have their homestead assessed at just value as of January 1 of the year following the effective date of this amendment. This assessment shall change only as provided herein.

(1) Assessments subject to this provision shall be changed annually on January 1st of each year; but

those changes in assessments shall not exceed the lower of the following:

a. Three percent (3%) of the assessment for the prior year.

b. The percent change in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(2) No assessment shall exceed just value.

(3) After any change of ownership, as provided by general law, homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of January 1 of the following year. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided herein.

(4) New homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of January 1st of the year following the establishment of the homestead. That assessment shall only change as provided herein.

(5) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to homestead property shall be assessed as provided for by general law; provided, however, after the adjustment for any change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be assessed as provided herein.

(6) In the event of a termination of homestead status, the property shall be assessed as provided by general law.

(7) The provisions of this amendment are severable. If any of the provisions of this amendment shall be held unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of such court shall not affect or impair any remaining provisions of this amendment.

(d) The legislature may, by general law, for assessment purposes and subject to the provisions of this subsection, allow counties and municipalities to authorize by ordinance that historic property may be assessed solely on the basis of character or use. Such character or use assessment shall apply only to the jurisdiction adopting the ordinance. The requirements for eligible properties must be specified by general law.

(e) A county may, in the manner prescribed by general law, provide for a reduction in the assessed value of homestead property to the extent of any increase in the assessed value of that property which results from the construction or reconstruction of the property for the purpose of providing living quarters for one or more natural or adoptive grandparents or parents of the owner of the property or of the owner's spouse if at least one of the grandparents or parents for whom the living quarters are provided is 62 years of age or older. Such a reduction may not exceed the lesser of the following:

(1) The increase in assessed value resulting from construction or reconstruction of the property.

(2) Twenty percent of the total assessed value of the property as improved.

History.—Am. S.J.R. 12-E, 1980; adopted 1980; Am. H.J.R. 214, 1987; adopted 1988; Am. by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State August 3, 1992; adopted 1992; Am. H.J.R. 969, 1997; adopted 1998; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. C.S. for H.J.R. 317, 2002; adopted 2002.

SECTION 5. Estate, inheritance and income taxes.—

(a) NATURAL PERSONS. No tax upon estates or inheritances or upon the income of natural persons who are residents or citizens of the state shall be levied by the state, or under its authority, in excess of the aggregate of amounts which may be allowed to be credited upon or deducted from any similar tax levied by the United States or any state.

(b) OTHERS. No tax upon the income of residents and citizens other than natural persons shall be levied by the state, or under its authority, in excess of 5% of net income, as defined by law, or at such greater rate as is authorized by a three-fifths ($^3/_5$) vote of the membership of each house of the legislature or as will provide for the state the maximum amount which may be allowed to be credited against income taxes levied by the United States and other states. There shall be exempt from taxation not less than five thousand dollars ($5,000) of the excess of net income subject to tax over the maximum amount allowed to be credited against income taxes levied by the United States and other states.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE. This section shall become effective immediately upon approval by the electors of Florida.

History.—Am. H.J.R. 7-B, 1971; adopted 1971.

SECTION 6. Homestead exemptions.—

(a) Every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, up to the assessed valuation of five thousand dollars, upon establishment of right thereto in the manner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entireties, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of ninety-eight years.

(b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit or with respect to any residential unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion which the interest in the corporation bears to the assessed value of the property.

(c) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the exemption shall be increased to a total of twenty-five thousand dollars of the assessed value of the real estate for each school district levy. By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the exemption for all other levies may be increased up to an amount not exceeding ten thousand dollars of the assessed value of the real estate if the owner

has attained age sixty-five or is totally and permanently disabled and if the owner is not entitled to the exemption provided in subsection (d).

(d) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the exemption shall be increased to a total of the following amounts of assessed value of real estate for each levy other than those of school districts: fifteen thousand dollars with respect to 1980 assessments; twenty thousand dollars with respect to 1981 assessments; twenty-five thousand dollars with respect to assessments for 1982 and each year thereafter. However, such increase shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the provisions of section 4 by a state agency designated by general law. This subsection shall stand repealed on the effective date of any amendment to section 4 which provides for the assessment of homestead property at a specified percentage of its just value.

(e) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the Legislature may provide to renters, who are permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and amount established by general law.

(f) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant an additional homestead tax exemption not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars to any person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner and who has attained age sixty-five and whose household income, as defined by general law, does not exceed twenty thousand dollars. The general law must allow counties and municipalities to grant this additional exemption, within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living.

History.—Am. S.J.R. 1-B, 1979; adopted 1980; Am. S.J.R. 4-E, 1980; adopted 1980; Am. H.J.R. 3151, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 7. Allocation of pari-mutuel taxes.—Taxes upon the operation of pari-mutuel pools may be preempted to the state or allocated in whole or in part to the counties. When allocated to the counties, the distribution shall be in equal amounts to the several counties.

SECTION 8. Aid to local governments.—State funds may be appropriated to the several counties, school districts, municipalities or special districts upon such conditions as may be provided by general law. These conditions may include the use of relative ad valorem assessment levels determined by a state agency designated by general law.

History.—Am. S.J.R. 4-E, 1980; adopted 1980.

SECTION 9. Local taxes.—

(a) Counties, school districts, and municipalities shall, and special districts may, be authorized by law to levy ad valorem taxes and may be authorized by general law to levy other taxes, for their respective purposes, except ad valorem taxes on intangible personal property and taxes prohibited by this constitution.

(b) Ad valorem taxes, exclusive of taxes levied for the payment of bonds and taxes levied for periods not longer than two years when authorized by vote of the electors who are the owners of freeholds therein not wholly exempt from taxation, shall not be levied in excess of the following millages upon the assessed value of real estate and tangible personal property: for all county purposes, ten mills; for all municipal purposes, ten mills; for all school purposes, ten mills; for water management purposes for the northwest portion of the state lying west of the line between ranges two and three east, 0.05 mill; for water management purposes for the remaining portions of the state, 1.0 mill; and for all other special districts a millage authorized by law approved by vote of the electors who are owners of freeholds therein not wholly exempt from taxation. A county furnishing municipal services may, to the extent authorized by law, levy additional taxes within the limits fixed for municipal purposes.

History.—Am. S.J.R. 1061, 1975; adopted 1976.

SECTION 10. Pledging credit.—Neither the state nor any county, school district, municipality, special district, or agency of any of them, shall become a joint owner with, or stockholder of, or give, lend or use its taxing power or credit to aid any corporation, association, partnership or person; but this shall not prohibit laws authorizing:

(a) the investment of public trust funds;

(b) the investment of other public funds in obligations of, or insured by, the United States or any of its instrumentalities;

(c) the issuance and sale by any county, municipality, special district or other local governmental body of (1) revenue bonds to finance or refinance the cost of capital projects for airports or port facilities, or (2) revenue bonds to finance or refinance the cost of capital projects for industrial or manufacturing plants to the extent that the interest thereon is exempt from income taxes under the then existing laws of the United States, when, in either case, the revenue bonds are payable solely from revenue derived from the sale, operation or leasing of the projects. If any project so financed, or any part thereof, is occupied or operated by any private corporation, association, partnership or person pursuant to contract or lease with the issuing body, the property interest created by such contract or lease shall be subject to taxation to the same extent as other privately owned property.

(d) a municipality, county, special district, or agency of any of them, being a joint owner of, giving, or lending or using its taxing power or credit for the joint ownership, construction and operation of electri-

cal energy generating or transmission facilities with any corporation, association, partnership or person.

History.—Am. H.J.R. 1424, 1973; adopted 1974.

SECTION 11. State bonds; revenue bonds.—

(a) State bonds pledging the full faith and credit of the state may be issued only to finance or refinance the cost of state fixed capital outlay projects authorized by law, and purposes incidental thereto, upon approval by a vote of the electors; provided state bonds issued pursuant to this subsection may be refunded without a vote of the electors at a lower net average interest cost rate. The total outstanding principal of state bonds issued pursuant to this subsection shall never exceed fifty percent of the total tax revenues of the state for the two preceding fiscal years, excluding any tax revenues held in trust under the provisions of this constitution.

(b) Moneys sufficient to pay debt service on state bonds as the same becomes due shall be appropriated by law.

(c) Any state bonds pledging the full faith and credit of the state issued under this section or any other section of this constitution may be combined for the purposes of sale.

(d) Revenue bonds may be issued by the state or its agencies without a vote of the electors to finance or refinance the cost of state fixed capital outlay projects authorized by law, and purposes incidental thereto, and shall be payable solely from funds derived directly from sources other than state tax revenues.

(e) Bonds pledging all or part of a dedicated state tax revenue may be issued by the state in the manner provided by general law to finance or refinance the acquisition and improvement of land, water areas, and related property interests and resources for the purposes of conservation, outdoor recreation, water resource development, restoration of natural systems, and historic preservation.

(f) Each project, building, or facility to be financed or refinanced with revenue bonds issued under this section shall first be approved by the Legislature by an act relating to appropriations or by general law.

History.—Am. C.S. for C.S. for S.J.R. 612, 1984; adopted 1984; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 5, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 12. Local bonds.—Counties, school districts, municipalities, special districts and local governmental bodies with taxing powers may issue bonds, certificates of indebtedness or any form of tax anticipation certificates, payable from ad valorem taxation and maturing more than twelve months after issuance only:

(a) to finance or refinance capital projects authorized by law and only when approved by vote of the electors who are owners of freeholds therein not wholly exempt from taxation; or

(b) to refund outstanding bonds and interest and redemption premium thereon at a lower net average interest cost rate.

SECTION 13. Relief from illegal taxes.—Until payment of all taxes which have been legally assessed upon the property of the same owner, no court shall grant relief from the payment of any tax that may be illegal or illegally assessed.

SECTION 14. Bonds for pollution control and abatement and other water facilities.—

(a) When authorized by law, state bonds pledging the full faith and credit of the state may be issued without an election to finance the construction of air and water pollution control and abatement and solid waste disposal facilities and other water facilities authorized by general law (herein referred to as "facilities") to be operated by any municipality, county, district or authority, or any agency thereof (herein referred to as "local governmental agencies"), or by any agency of the State of Florida. Such bonds shall be secured by a pledge of and shall be payable primarily from all or any part of revenues to be derived from operation of such facilities, special assessments, rentals to be received under lease-purchase agreements herein provided for, any other revenues that may be legally available for such purpose, including revenues from other facilities, or any combination thereof (herein collectively referred to as "pledged revenues"), and shall be additionally secured by the full faith and credit of the State of Florida.

(b) No such bonds shall be issued unless a state fiscal agency, created by law, has made a determination that in no state fiscal year will the debt service requirements of the bonds proposed to be issued and all other bonds secured by the pledged revenues exceed seventy-five per cent of the pledged revenues.

(c) The state may lease any of such facilities to any local governmental agency, under lease-purchase agreements for such periods and under such other terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon. The local governmental agencies may pledge the revenues derived from such leased facilities or any other available funds for the payment of rentals thereunder; and, in addition, the full faith and credit and taxing power of such local governmental agencies may be pledged for the payment of such rentals without any election of freeholder electors or qualified electors.

(d) The state may also issue such bonds for the purpose of loaning money to local governmental agencies, for the construction of such facilities to be owned or operated by any of such local governmental agencies. Such loans shall bear interest at not more than one-half of one per cent per annum greater than the last preceding issue of state bonds pursuant to this section, shall be secured by the pledged revenues, and may be additionally secured by the full faith and credit of the local governmental agencies.

(e) The total outstanding principal of state bonds issued pursuant to this section 14 shall never exceed fifty per cent of the total tax revenues of the state for the two preceding fiscal years.

History.—C.S. for H.J.R.'s 3853, 4040, 1970; adopted 1970; Am. H.J.R. 1471, 1980; adopted 1980.

SECTION 15. Revenue bonds for scholarship loans.—

(a) When authorized by law, revenue bonds may be issued to establish a fund to make loans to students determined eligible as prescribed by law and who have been admitted to attend any public or private institutions of higher learning, junior colleges, health related training institutions, or vocational training centers, which are recognized or accredited under terms and conditions prescribed by law. Revenue bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be secured by a pledge of and shall be payable primarily from payments of interest, principal, and handling charges to such fund from the recipients of the loans and, if authorized by law, may be additionally secured by student fees and by any other moneys in such fund. There shall be established from the proceeds of each issue of revenue bonds a reserve account in an amount equal to and sufficient to pay the greatest amount of principal, interest, and handling charges to become due on such issue in any ensuing state fiscal year.

(b) Interest moneys in the fund established pursuant to this section, not required in any fiscal year for payment of debt service on then outstanding revenue bonds or for maintenance of the reserve account, may be used for educational loans to students determined to be eligible therefor in the manner provided by law, or for such other related purposes as may be provided by law.

History.—Added, H.J.R. 46-D, 1971; adopted 1972.

SECTION 16. Bonds for housing and related facilities.—

(a) When authorized by law, revenue bonds may be issued without an election to finance or refinance housing and related facilities in Florida, herein referred to as "facilities."

(b) The bonds shall be secured by a pledge of and shall be payable primarily from all or any part of revenues to be derived from the financing, operation or sale of such facilities, mortgage or loan payments, and any other revenues or assets that may be legally available for such purposes derived from sources other than ad valorem taxation, including revenues from other facilities, or any combination thereof, herein collectively referred to as "pledged revenues," provided that in no event shall the full faith and credit of the state be pledged to secure such revenue bonds.

(c) No bonds shall be issued unless a state fiscal agency, created by law, has made a determination that in no state fiscal year will the debt service requirements of the bonds proposed to be issued and all other bonds secured by the same pledged revenues exceed the pledged revenues available for payment of such debt service requirements, as defined by law.

History.—Added, S.J.R. 6-E, 1980; adopted 1980.

cf.—s. 18, Art. XII Schedule.

SECTION 17. Bonds for acquiring transportation right-of-way or for constructing bridges.—

(a) When authorized by law, state bonds pledging the full faith and credit of the state may be issued, without a vote of the electors, to finance or refinance the cost of acquiring real property or the rights to real property for state roads as defined by law, or to finance or refinance the cost of state bridge construction, and purposes incidental to such property acquisition or state bridge construction.

(b) Bonds issued under this section shall be secured by a pledge of and shall be payable primarily from motor fuel or special fuel taxes, except those defined in Section 9(c) of Article XII, as provided by law, and shall additionally be secured by the full faith and credit of the state.

(c) No bonds shall be issued under this section unless a state fiscal agency, created by law, has made a determination that in no state fiscal year will the debt service requirements of the bonds proposed to be issued and all other bonds secured by the same pledged revenues exceed ninety percent of the pledged revenues available for payment of such debt service requirements, as defined by law. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "pledged revenues" means all revenues pledged to the payment of debt service, excluding any pledge of the full faith and credit of the state.

History.—Added, C.S. for C.S. for S.J.R. 391, 1988; adopted 1988.

SECTION 18. Laws requiring counties or municipalities to spend funds or limiting their ability to raise revenue or receive state tax revenue.—

(a) No county or municipality shall be bound by any general law requiring such county or municipality to spend funds or to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds unless the legislature has determined that such law fulfills an important state interest and unless: funds have been appropriated that have been estimated at the time of enactment to be sufficient to fund such expenditure; the legislature authorizes or has authorized a county or municipality to enact a funding source not available for such county or municipality on February 1, 1989, that can be used to generate the amount of funds estimated to be sufficient to fund such expenditure by a simple majority vote of the governing body of such county or municipality; the law requiring such expenditure is approved by two-thirds of the membership in each house of the legislature; the expenditure is required to comply with a law that applies to all persons similarly situated, including the state and local governments; or the law is either required to comply with a federal requirement or required for eligibility for a federal entitlement, which federal requirement specifically contemplates actions by counties or municipalities for compliance.

(b) Except upon approval of each house of the legislature by two-thirds of the membership, the legislature may not enact, amend, or repeal any general law if the anticipated effect of doing so would be to reduce the authority that municipalities or counties

have to raise revenues in the aggregate, as such authority exists on February 1, 1989.

(c) Except upon approval of each house of the legislature by two-thirds of the membership, the legislature may not enact, amend, or repeal any general law if the anticipated effect of doing so would be to reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties and municipalities as an aggregate on February 1, 1989. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to enhancements enacted after February 1, 1989, to state tax sources, or during a fiscal emergency declared in a written joint proclamation issued by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives, or where the legislature provides additional state-shared revenues which are anticipated to be sufficient to replace the anticipated aggregate loss of state-shared revenues resulting from the reduction of the percentage of the state tax shared with counties and municipalities, which source of replacement revenues shall be subject to the same requirements for repeal or modification as provided herein for a state-shared tax source existing on February 1, 1989.

(d) Laws adopted to require funding of pension benefits existing on the effective date of this section, criminal laws, election laws, the general appropriations act, special appropriations acts, laws reauthorizing but not expanding then-existing statutory authority, laws having insignificant fiscal impact, and laws creating, modifying, or repealing noncriminal infractions, are exempt from the requirements of this section.

(e) The legislature may enact laws to assist in the implementation and enforcement of this section.

History.—Added, C.S. for C.S. for C.S. for C.S. for H.J.R.'s 139, 40, 1989; adopted 1990.

ARTICLE VIII

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Sec.

1. Counties.
2. Municipalities.
3. Consolidation.
4. Transfer of powers.
5. Local option.
6. Schedule to Article VIII.

SECTION 1. Counties.—

(a) POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS. The state shall be divided by law into political subdivisions called counties. Counties may be created, abolished or changed by law, with provision for payment or apportionment of the public debt.

(b) COUNTY FUNDS. The care, custody and method of disbursing county funds shall be provided by general law.

(c) GOVERNMENT. Pursuant to general or special law, a county government may be established by charter which shall be adopted, amended or repealed only upon vote of the electors of the county in a special election called for that purpose.

(d) COUNTY OFFICERS. There shall be elected by the electors of each county, for terms of four years, a sheriff, a tax collector, a property appraiser, a supervisor of elections, and a clerk of the circuit court; except, when provided by county charter or special law approved by vote of the electors of the county, any county officer may be chosen in another manner therein specified, or any county office may be abolished when all the duties of the office prescribed by general law are transferred to another office. When not otherwise provided by county charter or special law approved by vote of the electors, the clerk of the circuit court shall be ex officio clerk of the board of county commissioners, auditor, recorder and custodian of all county funds.

(e) COMMISSIONERS. Except when otherwise provided by county charter, the governing body of each county shall be a board of county commissioners composed of five or seven members serving staggered terms of four years. After each decennial census the board of county commissioners shall divide the county into districts of contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as practicable. One commissioner residing in each district shall be elected as provided by law.

(f) NON-CHARTER GOVERNMENT. Counties not operating under county charters shall have such power of self-government as is provided by general or special law. The board of county commissioners of a county not operating under a charter may enact, in a manner prescribed by general law, county ordinances not inconsistent with general or special law, but an ordinance in conflict with a municipal ordinance shall not be effective within the municipality to the extent of such conflict.

(g) CHARTER GOVERNMENT. Counties operating under county charters shall have all powers of local self-government not inconsistent with general law, or with special law approved by vote of the electors. The governing body of a county operating under a charter may enact county ordinances not inconsistent with general law. The charter shall provide which shall prevail in the event of conflict between county and municipal ordinances.

(h) TAXES; LIMITATION. Property situate within municipalities shall not be subject to taxation for services rendered by the county exclusively for the benefit of the property or residents in unincorporated areas.

(i) COUNTY ORDINANCES. Each county ordinance shall be filed with the custodian of state records and shall become effective at such time thereafter as is provided by general law.

(j) VIOLATION OF ORDINANCES. Persons violating county ordinances shall be prosecuted and punished as provided by law.

(k) COUNTY SEAT. In every county there shall be a county seat at which shall be located the principal offices and permanent records of all county offi-

cers. The county seat may not be moved except as provided by general law. Branch offices for the conduct of county business may be established elsewhere in the county by resolution of the governing body of the county in the manner prescribed by law. No instrument shall be deemed recorded until filed at the county seat, or a branch office designated by the governing body of the county for the recording of instruments, according to law.

History.—Am. H.J.R. 1907, 1973; adopted 1974; Am. H.J.R. 452, 1984; adopted 1984; Am. H.J.R. 125, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 2. Municipalities.—

(a) ESTABLISHMENT. Municipalities may be established or abolished and their charters amended pursuant to general or special law. When any municipality is abolished, provision shall be made for the protection of its creditors.

(b) POWERS. Municipalities shall have governmental, corporate and proprietary powers to enable them to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions and render municipal services, and may exercise any power for municipal purposes except as otherwise provided by law. Each municipal legislative body shall be elective.

(c) ANNEXATION. Municipal annexation of unincorporated territory, merger of municipalities, and exercise of extra-territorial powers by municipalities shall be as provided by general or special law.

SECTION 3. Consolidation.—The government of a county and the government of one or more municipalities located therein may be consolidated into a single government which may exercise any and all powers of the county and the several municipalities. The consolidation plan may be proposed only by special law, which shall become effective if approved by vote of the electors of the county, or of the county and municipalities affected, as may be provided in the plan. Consolidation shall not extend the territorial scope of taxation for the payment of pre-existing debt except to areas whose residents receive a benefit from the facility or service for which the indebtedness was incurred.

SECTION 4. Transfer of powers.—By law or by resolution of the governing bodies of each of the governments affected, any function or power of a county, municipality or special district may be transferred to or contracted to be performed by another county, municipality or special district, after approval by vote of the electors of the transferor and approval by vote of the electors of the transferee, or as otherwise provided by law.

SECTION 5. Local option.—

(a) Local option on the legality or prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors, wines or beers shall be preserved to each county. The status of a county with respect thereto shall be changed only by vote of the electors in a special election called upon the petition of twenty-five per cent of the electors of the county, and not sooner than two years after an earlier election on the same question. Where legal, the sale of intoxicating liquors, wines and beers shall be regulated by law.

(b) Each county shall have the authority to require a criminal history records check and a 3 to 5-day waiting period, excluding weekends and legal holidays, in connection with the sale of any firearm occurring within such county. For purposes of this subsection, the term “sale” means the transfer of money or other valuable consideration for any firearm when any part of the transaction is conducted on property to which the public has the right of access. Holders of a concealed weapons permit as prescribed by general law shall not be subject to the provisions of this subsection when purchasing a firearm.

History.—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 12, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 6. Schedule to Article VIII.—

(a) This article shall replace all of Article VIII of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, except those sections expressly retained and made a part of this article by reference.

(b) COUNTIES; COUNTY SEATS; MUNICIPALITIES; DISTRICTS. The status of the following items as they exist on the date this article becomes effective is recognized and shall be continued until changed in accordance with law: the counties of the state; their status with respect to the legality of the sale of intoxicating liquors, wines and beers; the method of selection of county officers; the performance of municipal functions by county officers; the county seats; and the municipalities and special districts of the state, their powers, jurisdiction and government.

(c) OFFICERS TO CONTINUE IN OFFICE. Every person holding office when this article becomes effective shall continue in office for the remainder of the term if that office is not abolished. If the office is abolished the incumbent shall be paid adequate compensation, to be fixed by law, for the loss of emoluments for the remainder of the term.

(d) ORDINANCES. Local laws relating only to unincorporated areas of a county on the effective date of this article may be amended or repealed by county ordinance.

(e) CONSOLIDATION AND HOME RULE. Article VIII, Sections [1]9, [2]10, [3]11 and [4]24, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, shall remain in full force and effect as to each county affected, as if this article had not been adopted, until that county shall expressly adopt a charter or home rule plan pursuant to this article. All provisions of the Metropolitan Dade County Home Rule Charter, heretofore or hereafter adopted by the electors of Dade County pursuant to [3]Article VIII, Section 11, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, shall be valid, and any amendments to such charter shall be valid; provided that the said provisions of such charter and the said amendments thereto are authorized under said [3]Article VIII, Section 11, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended.

(f) DADE COUNTY; POWERS CONFERRED UPON MUNICIPALITIES. To the extent not inconsistent with the powers of existing municipalities or general law, the Metropolitan Government of Dade County may exercise all the powers conferred now or hereafter by general law upon municipalities.

(g) DELETION OF OBSOLETE SCHEDULE ITEMS. The legislature shall have power, by joint resolution, to delete from this article any subsection of this Section 6, including this subsection, when all events to which the subsection to be deleted is or could become applicable have occurred. A legislative determination of fact made as a basis for application of this subsection shall be subject to judicial review.

[1]**Note.**—Section 9 of Art. VIII of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, reads as follows:

SECTION 9. Legislative power over city of Jacksonville and Duval County.—The Legislature shall have power to establish, alter or abolish, a Municipal corporation to be known as the City of Jacksonville, extending territorially throughout the present limits of Duval County, in the place of any or all county, district, municipal and local governments, boards, bodies and officers, constitutional or statutory, legislative, executive, judicial, or administrative, and shall prescribe the jurisdiction, powers, duties and functions of such municipal corporation, its legislative, executive, judicial and administrative departments and its boards, bodies and officers; to divide the territory included in such municipality into subordinate districts, and to prescribe a just and reasonable system of taxation for such municipality and districts; and to fix the liability of such municipality and districts. Bonded and other indebtedness, existing at the time of the establishment of such municipality, shall be enforceable only against property theretofore taxable therefor. The Legislature shall, from time to time, determine what portion of said municipality is a rural area, and a homestead in such rural area shall not be limited as if in a city or town. Such municipality may exercise all the powers of a municipal corporation and shall also be recognized as one of the legal political divisions of the State with the duties and obligations of a county and shall be entitled to all the powers, rights and privileges, including representation in the State Legislature, which would accrue to it if it were a county. All property of Duval County and of the municipalities in said county shall vest in such municipal corporation when established as herein provided. The offices of Clerk of the Circuit Court and Sheriff shall not be abolished but the Legislature may prescribe the time when, and the method by which, such offices shall be filled and the compensation to be paid to such officers and may vest in them additional powers and duties. No county office shall be abolished or consolidated with another office without making provision for the performance of all State duties now or hereafter prescribed by law to be performed by such county officer. Nothing contained herein shall affect Section 20 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Florida, except as to such provisions therein as relate to regulating the jurisdiction and duties of any class of officers, to summoning and impanelling grand and petit jurors, to assessing and collecting taxes for county purposes and to regulating the fees and compensation of county officers. No law authorizing the establishing or abolishing of such Municipal corporation pursuant to this Section, shall become operative or effective until approved by a majority of the qualified electors participating in an election held in said County, but so long as such Municipal corporation exists under this Section the Legislature may amend or extend the law authorizing the same without referendum to the qualified voters unless the Legislative act providing for such amendment or extension shall provide for such referendum.

History.—Added, S.J.R. 113, 1933; adopted 1934.

[2]**Note.**—Section 10, Art. VIII of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, reads as follows:

SECTION 10. Legislative power over city of Key West and Monroe county.—The Legislature shall have power to establish, alter or abolish, a Municipal corporation to be known as the City of Key West, extending territorially throughout the present limits of Monroe County, in the place of any or all county, district, municipal and local governments, boards, bodies and officers, constitutional or statutory, legislative, executive, judicial, or administrative, and shall prescribe the jurisdiction, powers, duties and functions of such municipal corporation, its legislative, executive, judicial and administrative departments and its boards, bodies and officers; to divide the territory included in such municipality into subordinate districts, and to prescribe a just and reasonable system of taxation for such municipality and districts; and to fix the liability of such municipality and districts. Bonded and other indebtedness, existing at the time of the establishment of such municipality, shall be enforceable only against property theretofore taxable therefor. The Legislature shall, from time to time, determine what portion of said municipality is a rural area, and a homestead in such rural area shall not be limited as if in a city or town. Such municipality may exercise all the powers of a municipal corporation and shall also be recognized as one of the legal political divisions of the State with the duties and obligations of a county and shall be entitled to all the powers, rights and privileges, including representation in the State Legislature, which would accrue to it if it were a county. All property of Monroe County and of the municipality in said county shall vest in such municipal corporation when established as herein provided. The offices of Clerk of the Circuit Court and Sheriff shall not be abolished but the Legislature may prescribe the time when, and the method by which, such offices shall be filled and the compensation to be paid to such officers and may vest in them additional powers and duties. No county office shall be abolished or consolidated with another office without making provision for the performance of all State duties now or hereafter prescribed by law to be performed by such county officer. Nothing contained herein shall affect Section 20 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Florida, except as to such provisions therein as relate to regulating the jurisdiction and duties of any class of officers, to summoning and impanelling grand and petit juries, to assessing and collecting taxes for county purposes and to regulating the fees and compensation of county officers. No law authorizing the establishing or abolishing of such Municipal corporation pursuant to this Section shall become operative or effective until approved by a majority of the qualified electors participating in an election held in said County, but so long as such Municipal corporation exists under this Section the Legislature may amend or extend the law authorizing the same without referendum to the qualified voters unless the Legislative Act providing for such amendment or extension shall provide for such referendum.

History.—Added, S.J.R. 429, 1935; adopted 1936.

[3]**Note.**—Section 11 of Art. VIII of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, reads as follows:

SECTION 11. Dade County, home rule charter.—(1) The electors of Dade County, Florida, are granted power to adopt, revise, and amend from time to time a home rule charter of government for Dade County, Florida, under which the Board of County Commissioners of Dade County shall be the governing body. This charter:

(a) Shall fix the boundaries of each county commission district, provide a method for changing them from time to time, and fix the number, terms and compensation of the commissioners, and their method of election.

(b) May grant full power and authority to the Board of County Commissioners of Dade County to pass ordinances relating to the affairs, property and government of Dade County and provide suitable penalties for the violation thereof; to levy and collect such taxes as may be authorized by general law and no other taxes, and to do everything necessary to carry on a central metropolitan government in Dade County.

(c) May change the boundaries of, merge, consolidate, and abolish and may provide a method for changing the boundaries of, merging, consolidating and abolishing from time to time all municipal corporations, county or district governments, special taxing districts, authorities, boards, or other governmental units whose jurisdiction lies wholly within Dade County, whether such governmental units are created by the Constitution or the Legislature or otherwise, except the Dade County Board of County Commissioners as it may be provided for from time to time by this home rule charter and the Board of Public Instruction of Dade County.

(d) May provide a method by which any and all of the functions or powers of any municipal corporation or other governmental unit in Dade County may be transferred to the Board of County Commissioners of Dade County.

(e) May provide a method for establishing new municipal corporations, special taxing districts, and other governmental units in Dade County from time to time and provide for their government and prescribe their jurisdiction and powers.

(f) May abolish and may provide a method for abolishing from time to time all offices provided for by Article VIII, Section 6, of the Constitution or by the Legislature, except the Superintendent of Public Instruction and may provide for the consolidation and transfer of the functions of such offices, provided, however, that there shall be no power to abolish or impair the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court or to abolish any other court provided for by this Constitution or by general law, or the judges or clerks thereof although such charter may create new courts and judges and clerks thereof with jurisdiction to try all offenses against ordinances passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Dade County and none of the other courts provided for by this Constitution or by general law shall have original jurisdiction to try such offenses, although the charter may confer appellate jurisdiction on such courts, and provided further that if said home rule charter shall abolish any county office or offices as authorized herein, that said charter shall contain adequate provision for the carrying on of all functions of said office or offices as are now or may hereafter be prescribed by general law.

(g) Shall provide a method by which each municipal corporation in Dade County shall have the power to make, amend or repeal its own charter. Upon adoption of this home rule charter by the electors this method shall be exclusive and the Legislature shall have no power to amend or repeal the charter of any municipal corporation in Dade County.

(h) May change the name of Dade County.

(i) Shall provide a method for the recall of any commissioner and a method for initiative and referendum, including the initiation of and referendum on ordinances and the amendment or revision of the home rule charter, provided, however, that the power of the Governor and Senate relating to the suspension and removal of officers provided for in this Constitution shall not be impaired, but shall extend to all officers provided for in said home rule charter.

(2) Provision shall be made for the protection of the creditors of any governmental unit which is merged, consolidated, or abolished or whose boundaries are changed or functions or powers transferred.

(3) This home rule charter shall be prepared by a Metropolitan Charter Board created by the Legislature and shall be presented to the electors of Dade County for ratification or rejection in the manner provided by the Legislature. Until a home rule charter is adopted the Legislature may from time to time create additional Charter Boards to prepare charters to be presented to the electors of Dade County for ratification or rejection in the manner provided by the Legislature. Such Charter, once adopted by the electors, may be amended only by the electors of Dade County and this charter shall provide a method for submitting future charter revisions and amendments to the electors of Dade County.

(4) The County Commission shall continue to receive its pro rata share of all revenues payable by the state from whatever source to the several counties and the state of Florida shall pay to the Commission all revenues which would have been paid to any municipality in Dade County which may be abolished by or in the method provided by this home rule charter; provided, however, the Commission shall reimburse the comptroller of Florida for the expense incurred if any, in the keeping of separate records to determine the amounts of money which would have been payable to any such municipality.

(5) Nothing in this section shall limit or restrict the power of the Legislature to enact general laws which shall relate to Dade County and any other one or more counties in the state of Florida or to any municipality in Dade County and any other one or more municipalities of the State of Florida, and the home rule charter provided for herein shall not conflict with any provision of this Constitution nor of any applicable general laws now applying to Dade County and any other one or more counties of the State of Florida except as expressly authorized in this section nor shall any ordinance enact-

ed in pursuance to said home rule charter conflict with this Constitution or any such applicable general law except as expressly authorized herein, nor shall the charter of any municipality in Dade County conflict with this Constitution or any such applicable general law except as expressly authorized herein, provided however that said charter and said ordinances enacted in pursuance thereof may conflict with, modify or nullify any existing local, special or general law applicable only to Dade County.

(6) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or restrict the power of the Legislature to enact general laws which shall relate to Dade County and any other one or more counties of the state of Florida or to any municipality in Dade County and any other one or more municipalities of the State of Florida relating to county or municipal affairs and all such general laws shall apply to Dade County and to all municipalities therein to the same extent as if this section had not been adopted and such general laws shall supersede any part or portion of the home rule charter provided for herein in conflict therewith and shall supersede any provision of any ordinance enacted pursuant to said charter and in conflict therewith, and shall supersede any provision of any charter of any municipality in Dade County in conflict therewith.

(7) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or restrict the power and jurisdiction of the Railroad and Public Utilities Commission or of any other state agency, bureau or commission now or hereafter provided for in this Constitution or by general law and said state agencies, bureaus and commissions shall have the same powers in Dade County as shall be conferred upon them in regard to other counties.

(8) If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or provisions of this section is held invalid as violative of the provisions of Section 1 Article XVII of this Constitution the remainder of this section shall not be affected by such invalidity.

(9) It is declared to be the intent of the Legislature and of the electors of the State of Florida to provide by this section home rule for the people of Dade County in local affairs and this section shall be liberally construed to carry out such purpose, and it is further declared to be the intent of the Legislature and of the electors of the State of Florida that the provisions of this Constitution and general laws which shall relate to Dade County and any other one or more counties of the State of Florida or to any municipality in Dade County and any other one or more municipalities of the State of Florida enacted pursuant thereto by the Legislature shall be the supreme law in Dade County, Florida, except as expressly provided herein and this section shall be strictly construed to maintain such supremacy of this Constitution and of the Legislature in the enactment of general laws pursuant to this Constitution.

History.—Added, H.J.R. 858, 1941; adopted 1942; Am. S.J.R. 1046, 1955; adopted 1956.

[4]**Note.**—Section 24 of Art. VIII of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, reads as follows:

SECTION 24. Hillsborough County, home rule charter.—

(1) The electors of Hillsborough county are hereby granted the power to adopt a charter for a government which shall exercise any and all powers for county and municipal purposes which this constitution or the legislature, by general, special or local law, has conferred upon Hillsborough county or any municipality therein. Such government shall exercise these powers by the enactment of ordinances which relate to government of Hillsborough county and provide suitable penalties for the violation thereof. Such government shall have no power to create or abolish any municipality, except as otherwise provided herein.

(2) The method and manner by which the electors of Hillsborough county shall exercise this power shall be set forth in a charter for the government of Hillsborough county which charter shall be presented to said electors by any charter commission established by the legislature. The legislature may provide for the continuing existence of any charter commission or may establish a charter commission or commissions subsequent to any initial commission without regard to any election or elections held upon any charter or charters theretofore presented. A charter shall become effective only upon ratification by a majority of the electors of Hillsborough county voting in a general or special election as provided by law.

(3) The number, qualifications, terms of office and method of filling vacancies in the membership of any charter commission established pursuant to this section and the powers, functions and duties of any such commission shall be provided by law.

(4) A charter prepared by any commission established pursuant to this section shall provide that:

(a) The governments of the city of Tampa and the county of Hillsborough shall be consolidated, and the structure of the new local government shall include:

1. An executive branch, the chief officer of which shall be responsible for the administration of government.

2. An elected legislative branch, the election to membership, powers and duties of which shall be as provided by the charter.

3. A judicial branch, which shall only have jurisdiction in the enforcement of ordinances enacted by the legislative branch created by this section.

(b) Should the electors of the municipalities of Plant City or Temple Terrace wish to consolidate their governments with the government hereinabove created, they may do so by majority vote of the electors of said municipality voting in an election upon said issue.

(c) The creditors of any governmental unit consolidated or abolished under this section shall be protected. Bonded or other indebtedness existing at the effective date of any government established hereunder shall be enforceable only against the real and personal property theretofore taxable for such purposes.

(d) Such other provisions as might be required by law.

(5) The provisions of such charter and ordinances enacted pursuant thereto shall not conflict with any provision of this constitution nor with general, special or local laws now or hereafter applying to Hillsborough county.

(6) The government established hereunder shall be recognized as a county, that is one of the legal political subdivisions of the state with the powers, rights, privileges, duties and obligations of a county, and may also exercise all the powers of a municipality. Said government shall have the right to sue and be sued.

(7) Any government established hereunder shall be entitled to receive from the state of Florida or from the United States or from any other agency, public or private, funds and revenues to which a county is, or may hereafter be entitled, and also all funds and revenues to which an incorporated municipality is or may hereafter be entitled, and to receive the same without diminution or loss by reason of any such government as may be established. Nothing herein contained shall preclude such government as may be established hereunder from receiving all funds and revenues from whatever source now received, or hereinafter received provided by law.

(8) The board of county commissioners of Hillsborough county shall be abolished when the functions, duties, powers and responsibilities of said board shall be transferred in the manner to be provided by the charter to the government established pursuant to this section. No other office provided for by this constitution shall be abolished by or pursuant to this section.

(9) This section shall not restrict or limit the legislature in the enactment of general, special or local laws as otherwise provided in this constitution.

History.—Added, C.S. for H.J.R. 1987, 1965; adopted 1966.

ARTICLE IX

EDUCATION

Sec.

1. Public education.
2. State board of education.
3. Terms of appointive board members.
4. School districts; school boards.
5. Superintendent of schools.
6. State school fund.
7. State University System.

SECTION 1. Public education.—

(a) The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida. It is, therefore, a paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education of all children residing within its borders. Adequate provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high quality education and for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of institutions of higher learning and other public education programs that the needs of the people may require. To assure that children attending public schools obtain a high quality education, the legislature shall make adequate provision to ensure that, by the beginning of the 2010 school year, there are a sufficient number of classrooms so that:

(1) The maximum number of students who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for prekindergarten through grade 3 does not exceed 18 students;

(2) The maximum number of students who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for grades 4 through 8 does not exceed 22 students; and

(3) The maximum number of students who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for grades 9 through 12 does not exceed 25 students.

The class size requirements of this subsection do not apply to extracurricular classes. Payment of the costs associated with reducing class size to meet these requirements is the responsibility of the state and not of local schools districts. Beginning with the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the legislature shall provide sufficient funds to reduce the average number of students in each classroom by at least two students per year until

the maximum number of students per classroom does not exceed the requirements of this subsection.

(b) Every four-year old child in Florida shall be provided by the State a high quality pre-kindergarten learning opportunity in the form of an early childhood development and education program which shall be voluntary, high quality, free, and delivered according to professionally accepted standards. An early childhood development and education program means an organized program designed to address and enhance each child's ability to make age appropriate progress in an appropriate range of settings in the development of language and cognitive capabilities and emotional, social, regulatory and moral capacities through education in basic skills and such other skills as the Legislature may determine to be appropriate.

(c) The early childhood education and development programs provided by reason of subparagraph (b) shall be implemented no later than the beginning of the 2005 school year through funds generated in addition to those used for existing education, health, and development programs. Existing education, health, and development programs are those funded by the State as of January 1, 2002 that provided for child or adult education, health care, or development.

History.—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 6, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998; Ams. by Initiative Petitions filed with the Secretary of State July 30, 2002, and August 1, 2002; adopted 2002.

SECTION 2. State board of education.—The state board of education shall be a body corporate and have such supervision of the system of free public education as is provided by law. The state board of education shall consist of seven members appointed by the governor to staggered 4-year terms, subject to confirmation by the senate. The state board of education shall appoint the commissioner of education.

History.—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 3. Terms of appointive board members.—Members of any appointive board dealing with education may serve terms in excess of four years as provided by law.

SECTION 4. School districts; school boards.—

(a) Each county shall constitute a school district; provided, two or more contiguous counties, upon vote of the electors of each county pursuant to law, may be combined into one school district. In each school district there shall be a school board composed of five or more members chosen by vote of the electors in a nonpartisan election for appropriately staggered terms of four years, as provided by law.

(b) The school board shall operate, control and supervise all free public schools within the school district and determine the rate of school district taxes within the limits prescribed herein. Two or more school districts may operate and finance joint educational programs.

History.—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 11, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 5. Superintendent of schools.—In each school district there shall be a superintendent of schools who shall be elected at the general election in each year the number of which is a multiple of four for a term of four years; or, when provided by resolution of the district school board, or by special law, approved by vote of the electors, the district school superintendent in any school district shall be employed by the district school board as provided by general law. The resolution or special law may be rescinded or repealed by either procedure after four years.

History.—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 6. State school fund.—The income derived from the state school fund shall, and the principal of the fund may, be appropriated, but only to the support and maintenance of free public schools.

SECTION 7. State University System.—

(a) PURPOSES. In order to achieve excellence through teaching students, advancing research and providing public service for the benefit of Florida's citizens, their communities and economies, the people hereby establish a system of governance for the state university system of Florida.

(b) STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM. There shall be a single state university system comprised of all public universities. A board of trustees shall administer each public university and a board of governors shall govern the state university system.

(c) LOCAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES. Each local constituent university shall be administered by a board of trustees consisting of thirteen members dedicated to the purposes of the state university system. The board of governors shall establish the powers and duties of the boards of trustees. Each board of trustees shall consist of six citizen members appointed by the governor and five citizen members appointed by the board of governors. The appointed members shall be confirmed by the senate and serve staggered terms of five years as provided by law. The chair of the faculty senate, or the equivalent, and the president of the student body of the university shall also be members.

(d) STATEWIDE BOARD OF GOVERNORS. The board of governors shall be a body corporate consisting of seventeen members. The board shall operate, regulate, control, and be fully responsible for the management of the whole university system. These responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, defining the distinctive mission of each constituent university and its articulation with free public schools and community colleges, ensuring the well-planned coordination and operation of the system, and avoiding wasteful duplication of facilities or programs. The board's management shall be subject to the powers of the legislature to appropriate for the expenditure of funds, and the board shall account for such expenditures as provided by law. The governor shall appoint to the board fourteen citizens dedicated to the pur-

poses of the state university system. The appointed members shall be confirmed by the senate and serve staggered terms of seven years as provided by law. The commissioner of education, the chair of the advisory council of faculty senates, or the equivalent, and the president of the Florida student association, or the equivalent, shall also be members of the board.

History.—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State August 6, 2002; adopted 2002.

ARTICLE X

MISCELLANEOUS

Sec.

1. Amendments to United States Constitution.
2. Militia.
3. Vacancy in office.
4. Homestead; exemptions.
5. Coverture and property.
6. Eminent domain.
7. Lotteries.
8. Census.
9. Repeal of criminal statutes.
10. Felony; definition.
11. Sovereignty lands.
12. Rules of construction.
13. Suits against the state.
14. State retirement systems benefit changes.
15. State operated lotteries.
16. Limiting Marine Net Fishing.
17. Everglades Trust Fund.
18. Disposition of conservation lands.
19. High speed ground transportation system.
20. Workplaces without tobacco smoke.
21. Limiting cruel and inhumane confinement of pigs during pregnancy.

SECTION 1. Amendments to United States Constitution.—The legislature shall not take action on any proposed amendment to the constitution of the United States unless a majority of the members thereof have been elected after the proposed amendment has been submitted for ratification.

SECTION 2. Militia.—

(a) The militia shall be composed of all ablebodied inhabitants of the state who are or have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States; and no person because of religious creed or opinion shall be exempted from military duty except upon conditions provided by law.

(b) The organizing, equipping, housing, maintaining, and disciplining of the militia, and the safekeeping of public arms may be provided for by law.

(c) The governor shall appoint all commissioned officers of the militia, including an adjutant general who shall be chief of staff. The appointment of all general officers shall be subject to confirmation by the senate.

(d) The qualifications of personnel and officers of the federally recognized national guard, including the adjutant general, and the grounds and proceedings for their discipline and removal shall conform to the appropriate United States army or air force regulations and usages.

SECTION 3. Vacancy in office.—Vacancy in office shall occur upon the creation of an office, upon the death, removal from office, or resignation of the incumbent or the incumbent's succession to another office, unexplained absence for sixty consecutive days, or failure to maintain the residence required when elected or appointed, and upon failure of one elected or appointed to office to qualify within thirty days from the commencement of the term.

History.—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 4. Homestead; exemptions.—

(a) There shall be exempt from forced sale under process of any court, and no judgment, decree or execution shall be a lien thereon, except for the payment of taxes and assessments thereon, obligations contracted for the purchase, improvement or repair thereof, or obligations contracted for house, field or other labor performed on the realty, the following property owned by a natural person:

(1) a homestead, if located outside a municipality, to the extent of one hundred sixty acres of contiguous land and improvements thereon, which shall not be reduced without the owner's consent by reason of subsequent inclusion in a municipality; or if located within a municipality, to the extent of one-half acre of contiguous land, upon which the exemption shall be limited to the residence of the owner or the owner's family;

(2) personal property to the value of one thousand dollars.

(b) These exemptions shall inure to the surviving spouse or heirs of the owner.

(c) The homestead shall not be subject to devise if the owner is survived by spouse or minor child, except the homestead may be devised to the owner's spouse if there be no minor child. The owner of homestead real estate, joined by the spouse if married, may alienate the homestead by mortgage, sale or gift and, if married, may by deed transfer the title to an estate by the entirety with the spouse. If the owner or spouse is incompetent, the method of alienation or encumbrance shall be as provided by law.

History.—Am. H.J.R. 4324, 1972; adopted 1972; Am. H.J.R. 40, 1983; adopted 1984; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 5. Coverture and property.—There shall be no distinction between married women and married men in the holding, control, disposition, or encumbering of their property, both real and personal;

except that dower or curtesy may be established and regulated by law.

SECTION 6. Eminent domain.—

(a) No private property shall be taken except for a public purpose and with full compensation therefor paid to each owner or secured by deposit in the registry of the court and available to the owner.

(b) Provision may be made by law for the taking of easements, by like proceedings, for the drainage of the land of one person over or through the land of another.

SECTION 7. Lotteries.—Lotteries, other than the types of pari-mutuel pools authorized by law as of the effective date of this constitution, are hereby prohibited in this state.

SECTION 8. Census.—

(a) Each decennial census of the state taken by the United States shall be an official census of the state.

(b) Each decennial census, for the purpose of classifications based upon population, shall become effective on the thirtieth day after the final adjournment of the regular session of the legislature convened next after certification of the census.

SECTION 9. Repeal of criminal statutes.—Repeal or amendment of a criminal statute shall not affect prosecution or punishment for any crime previously committed.

SECTION 10. Felony; definition.—The term "felony" as used herein and in the laws of this state shall mean any criminal offense that is punishable under the laws of this state, or that would be punishable if committed in this state, by death or by imprisonment in the state penitentiary.

SECTION 11. Sovereignty lands.—The title to lands under navigable waters, within the boundaries of the state, which have not been alienated, including beaches below mean high water lines, is held by the state, by virtue of its sovereignty, in trust for all the people. Sale of such lands may be authorized by law, but only when in the public interest. Private use of portions of such lands may be authorized by law, but only when not contrary to the public interest.

History.—Am. H.J.R. 792, 1970; adopted 1970.

SECTION 12. Rules of construction.—Unless qualified in the text the following rules of construction shall apply to this constitution.

(a) "Herein" refers to the entire constitution.

(b) The singular includes the plural.

(c) The masculine includes the feminine.

(d) "Vote of the electors" means the vote of the majority of those voting on the matter in an election, general or special, in which those participating are limited to the electors of the governmental unit referred to in the text.

(e) Vote or other action of a legislative house or other governmental body means the vote or action of a majority or other specified percentage of those members voting on the matter. "Of the membership" means "of all members thereof."

(f) The terms "judicial office," "justices" and "judges" shall not include judges of courts established solely for the trial of violations of ordinances.

(g) "Special law" means a special or local law.

(h) Titles and subtitles shall not be used in construction.

SECTION 13. Suits against the state.—Provision may be made by general law for bringing suit against the state as to all liabilities now existing or hereafter originating.

SECTION 14. State retirement systems benefit changes.—A governmental unit responsible for any retirement or pension system supported in whole or in part by public funds shall not after January 1, 1977, provide any increase in the benefits to the members or beneficiaries of such system unless such unit has made or concurrently makes provision for the funding of the increase in benefits on a sound actuarial basis.

History.—Added, H.J.R. 291, 1975; adopted 1976.

SECTION 15. State operated lotteries.—

(a) Lotteries may be operated by the state.

(b) If any subsection or subsections of the amendment to the Florida Constitution are held unconstitutional for containing more than one subject, this amendment shall be limited to subsection (a) above.

(c) This amendment shall be implemented as follows:

(1) Schedule—On the effective date of this amendment, the lotteries shall be known as the Florida Education Lotteries. Net proceeds derived from the lotteries shall be deposited to a state trust fund, to be designated The State Education Lotteries Trust Fund, to be appropriated by the Legislature. The schedule may be amended by general law.

History.—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State June 10, 1985; adopted 1986.

SECTION 16. Limiting Marine Net Fishing.—

(a) The marine resources of the State of Florida belong to all of the people of the state and should be conserved and managed for the benefit of the state, its people, and future generations. To this end the people hereby enact limitations on marine net fishing in Florida waters to protect saltwater finfish, shellfish, and other marine animals from unnecessary killing, overfishing and waste.

(b) For the purpose of catching or taking any saltwater finfish, shellfish or other marine animals in Florida waters:

(1) No gill nets or other entangling nets shall be used in any Florida waters; and

(2) In addition to the prohibition set forth in (1), no other type of net containing more than 500 square feet

of mesh area shall be used in nearshore and inshore Florida waters. Additionally, no more than two such nets, which shall not be connected, shall be used from any vessel, and no person not on a vessel shall use more than one such net in nearshore and inshore Florida waters.

(c) For purposes of this section:

(1) "gill net" means one or more walls of netting which captures saltwater finfish by ensnaring or entangling them in the meshes of the net by the gills, and "entangling net" means a drift net, trammell net, stab net, or any other net which captures saltwater finfish, shellfish, or other marine animals by causing all or part of heads, fins, legs, or other body parts to become entangled or ensnared in the meshes of the net, but a hand thrown cast net is not a gill net or an entangling net;

(2) "mesh area" of a net means the total area of netting with the meshes open to comprise the maximum square footage. The square footage shall be calculated using standard mathematical formulas for geometric shapes. Seines and other rectangular nets shall be calculated using the maximum length and maximum width of the netting. Trawls and other bag type nets shall be calculated as a cone using the maximum circumference of the net mouth to derive the radius, and the maximum length from the net mouth to the tail end of the net to derive the slant height. Calculations for any other nets or combination type nets shall be based on the shapes of the individual components;

(3) "coastline" means the territorial sea base line for the State of Florida established pursuant to the laws of the United States of America;

(4) "Florida waters" means the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, the Straits of Florida, and any other bodies of water under the jurisdiction of the State of Florida, whether coastal, intracoastal or inland, and any part thereof; and

(5) "nearshore and inshore Florida waters" means all Florida waters inside a line three miles seaward of the coastline along the Gulf of Mexico and inside a line one mile seaward of the coastline along the Atlantic Ocean.

(d) This section shall not apply to the use of nets for scientific research or governmental purposes.

(e) Persons violating this section shall be prosecuted and punished pursuant to the penalties provided in section 370.021(2)(a),(b),(c)6. and 7., and (e), Florida Statutes (1991), unless and until the legislature enacts more stringent penalties for violations hereof. On and after the effective date of this section, law enforcement officers in the state are authorized to enforce the provisions of this section in the same manner and authority as if a violation of this section constituted a violation of Chapter 370, Florida Statutes (1991).

(f) It is the intent of this section that implementing legislation is not required for enforcing any violations hereof, but nothing in this section prohibits the establishment by law or pursuant to law of more restrictions on the use of nets for the purpose of catching or taking any saltwater finfish, shellfish, or other marine animals.

(g) If any portion of this section is held invalid for any reason, the remaining portion of this section, to the fullest extent possible, shall be severed from the void portion and given the fullest possible force and application.

(h) This section shall take effect on the July 1 next occurring after approval hereof by vote of the electors.

History.—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State October 2, 1992; adopted 1994.

SECTION 17. Everglades Trust Fund.—

(a) There is hereby established the Everglades Trust Fund, which shall not be subject to termination pursuant to Article III, Section 19(f). The purpose of the Everglades Trust Fund is to make funds available to assist in conservation and protection of natural resources and abatement of water pollution in the Everglades Protection Area and the Everglades Agricultural Area. The trust fund shall be administered by the South Florida Water Management District, or its successor agency, consistent with statutory law.

(b) The Everglades Trust Fund may receive funds from any source, including gifts from individuals, corporations or other entities; funds from general revenue as determined by the Legislature; and any other funds so designated by the Legislature, by the United States Congress or by any other governmental entity.

(c) Funds deposited to the Everglades Trust Fund shall be expended for purposes of conservation and protection of natural resources and abatement of water pollution in the Everglades Protection Area and Everglades Agricultural Area.

(d) For purposes of this subsection, the terms "Everglades Protection Area," "Everglades Agricultural Area" and "South Florida Water Management District" shall have the meanings as defined in statutes in effect on January 1, 1996.

History.—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State March 26, 1996; adopted 1996.

SECTION 18. Disposition of conservation lands.—The fee interest in real property held by an entity of the state and designated for natural resources conservation purposes as provided by general law shall be managed for the benefit of the citizens of this state and may be disposed of only if the members of the governing board of the entity holding title determine the property is no longer needed for conservation purposes and only upon a vote of two-thirds of the governing board.

History.—Proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 5, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 19. High speed ground transportation system.—To reduce traffic congestion and provide alternatives to the traveling public, it is hereby declared to be in the public interest that a high speed ground transportation system consisting of a monorail, fixed guideway or magnetic levitation system, capable of speeds in excess of 120 miles per hour, be developed and operated in the State of Florida to pro-

vide high speed ground transportation by innovative, efficient and effective technologies consisting of dedicated rails or guideways separated from motor vehicular traffic that will link the five largest urban areas of the State as determined by the Legislature and provide for access to existing air and ground transportation facilities and services. The Legislature, the Cabinet and the Governor are hereby directed to proceed with the development of such a system by the State and/or by a private entity pursuant to state approval and authorization, including the acquisition of right-of-way, the financing of design and construction of the system, and the operation of the system, as provided by specific appropriation and by law, with construction to begin on or before November 1, 2003.

History.—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State September 3, 1999; adopted 2000.

SECTION 20. Workplaces without tobacco smoke.—

(a) PROHIBITION. As a Florida health initiative to protect people from the health hazards of second-hand tobacco smoke, tobacco smoking is prohibited in enclosed indoor workplaces.

(b) EXCEPTIONS. As further explained in the definitions below, tobacco smoking may be permitted in private residences whenever they are not being used commercially to provide child care, adult care, or health care, or any combination thereof; and further may be permitted in retail tobacco shops, designated smoking guest rooms at hotels and other public lodging establishments; and stand-alone bars. However, nothing in this section or in its implementing legislation or regulations shall prohibit the owner, lessee, or other person in control of the use of an enclosed indoor workplace from further prohibiting or limiting smoking therein.

(c) DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this section, the following words and terms shall have the stated meanings:

(1) "Smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning, carrying, or possessing any lighted tobacco product, including cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, and any other lighted tobacco product.

(2) "Second-hand smoke," also known as environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), means smoke emitted from lighted, smoldering, or burning tobacco when the smoker is not inhaling; smoke emitted at the mouthpiece during puff drawing; and smoke exhaled by the smoker.

(3) "Work" means any person's providing any employment or employment-type service for or at the request of another individual or individuals or any public or private entity, whether for compensation or not, whether full or part-time, whether legally or not. "Work" includes, without limitation, any such service performed by an employee, independent contractor, agent, partner, proprietor, manager, officer, director, apprentice, trainee, associate, servant, volunteer, and the like.

(4) "Enclosed indoor workplace" means any place where one or more persons engages in work, and which place is predominantly or totally bounded on all sides and above by physical barriers, regardless of whether such barriers consist of or include uncovered openings, screened or otherwise partially covered openings; or open or closed windows, jalousies, doors, or the like. This section applies to all such enclosed indoor workplaces without regard to whether work is occurring at any given time.

(5) "Commercial" use of a private residence means any time during which the owner, lessee, or other person occupying or controlling the use of the private residence is furnishing in the private residence, or causing or allowing to be furnished in the private residence, child care, adult care, or health care, or any combination thereof, and receiving or expecting to receive compensation therefor.

(6) "Retail tobacco shop" means any enclosed indoor workplace dedicated to or predominantly for the retail sale of tobacco, tobacco products, and accessories for such products, in which the sale of other products or services is merely incidental.

(7) "Designated smoking guest rooms at public lodging establishments" means the sleeping rooms and directly associated private areas, such as bathrooms, living rooms, and kitchen areas, if any, rented to guests for their exclusive transient occupancy in public lodging establishments including hotels, motels, resort condominiums, transient apartments, transient lodging establishments, rooming houses, boarding houses, resort dwellings, bed and breakfast inns, and the like; and designated by the person or persons having management authority over such public lodging establishment as rooms in which smoking may be permitted.

(8) "Stand-alone bar" means any place of business devoted during any time of operation predominantly or totally to serving alcoholic beverages, intoxicating beverages, or intoxicating liquors, or any combination thereof, for consumption on the licensed premises; in which the serving of food, if any, is merely incidental to the consumption of any such beverage; and that is not located within, and does not share any common entryway or common indoor area with, any other enclosed indoor workplace including any business for which the sale of food or any other product or service is more than an incidental source of gross revenue.

(d) LEGISLATION. In the next regular legislative session occurring after voter approval of this amendment, the Florida Legislature shall adopt legislation to implement this amendment in a manner consistent with its broad purpose and stated terms, and having an effective date no later than July 1 of the year following voter approval. Such legislation shall include, without limitation, civil penalties for violations of this section; provisions for administrative enforcement; and the requirement and authorization of agency rules for implementation and enforcement. Nothing herein shall preclude the Legislature from enacting any law constituting or allowing a more

restrictive regulation of tobacco smoking than is provided in this section.

History.—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State May 10, 2002; adopted 2002.

[1]**SECTION 21. Limiting cruel and inhumane confinement of pigs during pregnancy.**—Inhumane treatment of animals is a concern of Florida citizens. To prevent cruelty to certain animals and as recommended by The Humane Society of the United States, the people of the State of Florida hereby limit the cruel and inhumane confinement of pigs during pregnancy as provided herein.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to confine a pig during pregnancy in an enclosure, or to tether a pig during pregnancy, on a farm in such a way that she is prevented from turning around freely.

(b) This section shall not apply:

(1) when a pig is undergoing an examination, test, treatment or operation carried out for veterinary purposes, provided the period during which the animal is confined or tethered is not longer than reasonably necessary.

(2) during the prebirthing period.

(c) For purposes of this section:

(1) "enclosure" means any cage, crate or other enclosure in which a pig is kept for all or the majority of any day, including what is commonly described as the "gestation crate."

(2) "farm" means the land, buildings, support facilities, and other appurtenances used in the production of animals for food or fiber.

(3) "person" means any natural person, corporation and/or business entity.

(4) "pig" means any animal of the porcine species.

(5) "turning around freely" means turning around without having to touch any side of the pig's enclosure.

(6) "prebirthing period" means the seven day period prior to a pig's expected date of giving birth.

(d) A person who violates this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082(4)(a), Florida Statutes (1999), as amended, or by a fine of not more than $5000, or by both imprisonment and a fine, unless and until the legislature enacts more stringent penalties for violations hereof. On and after the effective date of this section, law enforcement officers in the state are authorized to enforce the provisions of this section in the same manner and authority as if a violation of this section constituted a violation of Section 828.13, Florida Statutes (1999). The confinement or tethering of each pig shall constitute a separate offense. The knowledge or acts of agents and employees of a person in regard to a pig owned, farmed or in the custody of a person, shall be held to be the knowledge or act of such person.

(e) It is the intent of this section that implementing legislation is not required for enforcing any violations hereof.

(f) If any portion of this section is held invalid for any reason, the remaining portion of this section, to the fullest extent possible, shall be severed from the void portion and given the fullest possible force and application.

(g) This section shall take effect six years after approval by the electors.

History.—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State August 5, 2002; adopted 2002.

[1]**Note.**—This section, originally designated section 19 by Amendment No. 10, 2002, proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State August 5, 2002, adopted 2002, was redesignated section 21 by the editors in order to avoid confusion with already existing section 19, relating to the high speed ground transportation system, and section 20, relating to prohibiting workplace smoking, as contained in Amendment No. 6, proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State May 10, 2002, and adopted in 2002.

ARTICLE XI

AMENDMENTS

Sec.

1. Proposal by legislature.
2. Revision commission.
3. Initiative.
4. Constitutional convention.
5. Amendment or revision election.
6. Taxation and budget reform commission.
7. Tax or fee limitation.

SECTION 1. Proposal by legislature.—Amendment of a section or revision of one or more articles, or the whole, of this constitution may be proposed by joint resolution agreed to by three-fifths of the membership of each house of the legislature. The full text of the joint resolution and the vote of each member voting shall be entered on the journal of each house.

SECTION 2. Revision commission.—

(a) Within thirty days before the convening of the 2017 regular session of the legislature, and each twentieth year thereafter, there shall be established a constitution revision commission composed of the following thirty-seven members:

(1) the attorney general of the state;

(2) fifteen members selected by the governor;

(3) nine members selected by the speaker of the house of representatives and nine members selected by the president of the senate; and

(4) three members selected by the chief justice of the supreme court of Florida with the advice of the justices.

(b) The governor shall designate one member of the commission as its chair. Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

(c) Each constitution revision commission shall convene at the call of its chair, adopt its rules of procedure, examine the constitution of the state, hold public hearings, and, not later than one hundred eighty days prior to the next general election, file with

the custodian of state records its proposal, if any, of a revision of this constitution or any part of it.

History.—Am. H.J.R. 1616, 1988; adopted 1988; Am. S.J.R. 210, 1996; adopted 1996; Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 8 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 3. Initiative.—The power to propose the revision or amendment of any portion or portions of this constitution by initiative is reserved to the people, provided that, any such revision or amendment, except for those limiting the power of government to raise revenue, shall embrace but one subject and matter directly connected therewith. It may be invoked by filing with the custodian of state records a petition containing a copy of the proposed revision or amendment, signed by a number of electors in each of one half of the congressional districts of the state, and of the state as a whole, equal to eight percent of the votes cast in each of such districts respectively and in the state as a whole in the last preceding election in which presidential electors were chosen.

History.—Am. H.J.R. 2835, 1972; adopted 1972; Am. by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State August 3, 1993; adopted 1994; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 4. Constitutional convention.—

(a) The power to call a convention to consider a revision of the entire constitution is reserved to the people. It may be invoked by filing with the custodian of state records a petition, containing a declaration that a constitutional convention is desired, signed by a number of electors in each of one half of the congressional districts of the state, and of the state as a whole, equal to fifteen per cent of the votes cast in each such district respectively and in the state as a whole in the last preceding election of presidential electors.

(b) At the next general election held more than ninety days after the filing of such petition there shall be submitted to the electors of the state the question: "Shall a constitutional convention be held?" If a majority voting on the question votes in the affirmative, at the next succeeding general election there shall be elected from each representative district a member of a constitutional convention. On the twenty-first day following that election, the convention shall sit at the capital, elect officers, adopt rules of procedure, judge the election of its membership, and fix a time and place for its future meetings. Not later than ninety days before the next succeeding general election, the convention shall cause to be filed with the custodian of state records any revision of this constitution proposed by it.

History.—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 5. Amendment or revision election.—

(a) A proposed amendment to or revision of this constitution, or any part of it, shall be submitted to the electors at the next general election held more than ninety days after the joint resolution, initiative petition or report of revision commission, constitutional convention or taxation and budget reform commission proposing it is filed with the custodian of state records, unless, pursuant to law enacted by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the membership of each house of the legislature and limited to a single amendment or revision, it is submitted at an earlier special election held more than ninety days after such filing.

(b) The legislature shall provide by general law, prior to the holding of an election pursuant to this section, for the provision of a statement to the public regarding the probable financial impact of any amendment proposed by initiative pursuant to section 3.

(c) Once in the tenth week, and once in the sixth week immediately preceding the week in which the election is held, the proposed amendment or revision, with notice of the date of election at which it will be submitted to the electors, shall be published in one newspaper of general circulation in each county in which a newspaper is published.

(d) If the proposed amendment or revision is approved by vote of the electors, it shall be effective as an amendment to or revision of the constitution of the state on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January following the election, or on such other date as may be specified in the amendment or revision.

History.—Am. H.J.R. 1616, 1988; adopted 1988; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. H.J.R. 571, 2001; adopted 2002.

SECTION 6. Taxation and budget reform commission.—

(a) Beginning in 2007 and each twentieth year thereafter, there shall be established a taxation and budget reform commission composed of the following members:

(1) eleven members selected by the governor, none of whom shall be a member of the legislature at the time of appointment.

(2) seven members selected by the speaker of the house of representatives and seven members selected by the president of the senate, none of whom shall be a member of the legislature at the time of appointment.

(3) four non-voting ex officio members, all of whom shall be members of the legislature at the time of appointment. Two of these members, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party in the house of representatives, shall be selected by the speaker of the house of representatives, and two of these members, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party in the senate, shall be selected by the president of the senate.

(b) Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

(c) At its initial meeting, the members of the commission shall elect a member who is not a member of the legislature to serve as chair and the commission shall adopt its rules of procedure. Thereafter, the commission shall convene at the call of the chair. An affirmative vote of two thirds of the full commission shall

be necessary for any revision of this constitution or any part of it to be proposed by the commission.

(d) The commission shall examine the state budgetary process, the revenue needs and expenditure processes of the state, the appropriateness of the tax structure of the state, and governmental productivity and efficiency; review policy as it relates to the ability of state and local government to tax and adequately fund governmental operations and capital facilities required to meet the state's needs during the next twenty year period; determine methods favored by the citizens of the state to fund the needs of the state, including alternative methods for raising sufficient revenues for the needs of the state; determine measures that could be instituted to effectively gather funds from existing tax sources; examine constitutional limitations on taxation and expenditures at the state and local level; and review the state's comprehensive planning, budgeting and needs assessment processes to determine whether the resulting information adequately supports a strategic decisionmaking process.

(e) The commission shall hold public hearings as it deems necessary to carry out its responsibilities under this section. The commission shall issue a report of the results of the review carried out, and propose to the legislature any recommended statutory changes related to the taxation or budgetary laws of the state. Not later than one hundred eighty days prior to the general election in the second year following the year in which the commission is established, the commission shall file with the custodian of state records its proposal, if any, of a revision of this constitution or any part of it dealing with taxation or the state budgetary process.

History.—Added, H.J.R. 1616, 1988; adopted 1988; Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 8 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 7. Tax or fee limitation.—Notwithstanding Article X, Section 12(d) of this constitution, no new State tax or fee shall be imposed on or after November 8, 1994 by any amendment to this constitution unless the proposed amendment is approved by not fewer than two-thirds of the voters voting in the election in which such proposed amendment is considered. For purposes of this section, the phrase "new State tax or fee" shall mean any tax or fee which would produce revenue subject to lump sum or other appropriation by the Legislature, either for the State general revenue fund or any trust fund, which tax or fee is not in effect on November 7, 1994 including without limitation such taxes and fees as are the subject of proposed constitutional amendments appearing on the ballot on November 8, 1994. This section shall apply to proposed constitutional amendments relating to State taxes or fees which appear on the November 8, 1994 ballot, or later ballots, and any such proposed amendment which fails to gain the two-thirds vote required hereby shall be null, void and without effect.

History.—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State March 11, 1994; adopted 1996.

ARTICLE XII

SCHEDULE

Sec.

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SECTION 1. Constitution of 1885 superseded.—Articles I through IV, VII, and IX through XX of the Constitution of Florida adopted in 1885, as amended from time to time, are superseded by this revision except those sections expressly retained and made a part of this revision by reference.

SECTION 2. Property taxes; millages.—Tax millages authorized in counties, municipalities and special districts, on the date this revision becomes effective, may be continued until reduced by law.

SECTION 3. Officers to continue in office.—Every person holding office when this revision becomes effective shall continue in office for the remainder of the term if that office is not abolished. If the office is abolished the incumbent shall be paid adequate compensation, to be fixed by law, for the loss of emoluments for the remainder of the term.

SECTION 4. State commissioner of education.—The state superintendent of public instruction in office on the effective date of this revision shall become and, for the remainder of the term being served, shall be the commissioner of education.

SECTION 5. Superintendent of schools.—

(a) On the effective date of this revision the county superintendent of public instruction of each county

shall become and, for the remainder of the term being served, shall be the superintendent of schools of that district.

(b) The method of selection of the county superintendent of public instruction of each county, as provided by or under the Constitution of 1885, as amended, shall apply to the selection of the district superintendent of schools until changed as herein provided.

SECTION 6. Laws preserved.—

(a) All laws in effect upon the adoption of this revision, to the extent not inconsistent with it, shall remain in force until they expire by their terms or are repealed.

(b) All statutes which, under the Constitution of 1885, as amended, apply to the state superintendent of public instruction and those which apply to the county superintendent of public instruction shall under this revision apply, respectively, to the state commissioner of education and the district superintendent of schools.

SECTION 7. Rights reserved.—

(a) All actions, rights of action, claims, contracts and obligations of individuals, corporations and public bodies or agencies existing on the date this revision becomes effective shall continue to be valid as if this revision had not been adopted. All taxes, penalties, fines and forfeitures owing to the state under the Constitution of 1885, as amended, shall inure to the state under this revision, and all sentences as punishment for crime shall be executed according to their terms.

(b) This revision shall not be retroactive so as to create any right or liability which did not exist under the Constitution of 1885, as amended, based upon matters occurring prior to the adoption of this revision.

SECTION 8. Public debts recognized.—All bonds, revenue certificates, revenue bonds and tax anticipation certificates issued pursuant to the Constitution of 1885, as amended by the state, any agency, political subdivision or public corporation of the state shall remain in full force and effect and shall be secured by the same sources of revenue as before the adoption of this revision, and, to the extent necessary to effectuate this section, the applicable provisions of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, are retained as a part of this revision until payment in full of these public securities.

SECTION 9. Bonds.—

(a) ADDITIONAL SECURITIES.

(1) [1]Article IX, Section 17, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, as it existed immediately before this Constitution, as revised in 1968, became effective, is adopted by this reference as a part of this revision as completely as though incorporated herein verbatim, except revenue bonds, revenue certificates or other evidences of indebtedness hereafter issued thereunder may be issued by the agency of the state so authorized by law.

(2) That portion of [2]Article XII, Section 9, Subsection (a) of this Constitution, as amended, which by reference adopted [3]Article XII, Section 19 of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, as the same existed immediately before the effective date of this amendment is adopted by this reference as part of this revision as completely as though incorporated herein verbatim, for the purpose of providing that after the effective date of this amendment all of the proceeds of the revenues derived from the gross receipts taxes, as therein defined, collected in each year shall be applied as provided therein to the extent necessary to comply with all obligations to or for the benefit of holders of bonds or certificates issued before the effective date of this amendment or any refundings thereof which are secured by such gross receipts taxes. No bonds or other obligations may be issued pursuant to the provisions of [3]Article XII, Section 19, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, but this provision shall not be construed to prevent the refunding of any such outstanding bonds or obligations pursuant to the provisions of this subsection (a)(2).

Subject to the requirements of the first paragraph of this subsection (a)(2), beginning July 1, 1975, all of the proceeds of the revenues derived from the gross receipts taxes collected from every person, including municipalities, as provided and levied pursuant to the provisions of chapter 203, Florida Statutes, as such chapter is amended from time to time, shall, as collected, be placed in a trust fund to be known as the "public education capital outlay and debt service trust fund" in the state treasury (hereinafter referred to as "capital outlay fund"), and used only as provided herein.

The capital outlay fund shall be administered by the state board of education as created and constituted by Section 2 of Article IX of the Constitution of Florida as revised in 1968 (hereinafter referred to as "state board"), or by such other instrumentality of the state which shall hereafter succeed by law to the powers, duties and functions of the state board, including the powers, duties and functions of the state board provided in this subsection (a)(2). The state board shall be a body corporate and shall have all the powers provided herein in addition to all other constitutional and statutory powers related to the purposes of this subsection (a)(2) heretofore or hereafter conferred by law upon the state board, or its predecessor created by the Constitution of 1885, as amended.

State bonds pledging the full faith and credit of the state may be issued, without a vote of the electors, by the state board pursuant to law to finance or refinance capital projects theretofore authorized by the legislature, and any purposes appurtenant or incidental thereto, for the state system of public education provided for in Section 1 of Article IX of this Constitution (hereinafter referred to as "state system"), including but not limited to institutions of higher learning, community colleges, vocational technical schools, or public schools, as now defined or as may hereafter be defined by law. All such bonds shall mature not later

than thirty years after the date of issuance thereof. All other details of such bonds shall be as provided by law or by the proceedings authorizing such bonds; provided, however, that no bonds, except refunding bonds, shall be issued, and no proceeds shall be expended for the cost of any capital project, unless such project has been authorized by the legislature.

Bonds issued pursuant to this subsection (a)(2) shall be primarily payable from such revenues derived from gross receipts taxes, and shall be additionally secured by the full faith and credit of the state. No such bonds shall ever be issued in an amount exceeding ninety percent of the amount which the state board determines can be serviced by the revenues derived from the gross receipts taxes accruing thereafter under the provisions of this subsection (a)(2), and such determination shall be conclusive.

The moneys in the capital outlay fund in each fiscal year shall be used only for the following purposes and in the following order of priority:

a. For the payment of the principal of and interest on any bonds due in such fiscal year;

b. For the deposit into any reserve funds provided for in the proceedings authorizing the issuance of bonds of any amounts required to be deposited in such reserve funds in such fiscal year;

c. For direct payment of the cost or any part of the cost of any capital project for the state system theretofore authorized by the legislature, or for the purchase or redemption of outstanding bonds in accordance with the provisions of the proceedings which authorized the issuance of such bonds, or for the purpose of maintaining, restoring, or repairing existing public educational facilities.

(b) REFUNDING BONDS. Revenue bonds to finance the cost of state capital projects issued prior to the date this revision becomes effective, including projects of the Florida state turnpike authority or its successor but excluding all portions of the state highway system, may be refunded as provided by law without vote of the electors at a lower net average interest cost rate by the issuance of bonds maturing not later than the obligations refunded, secured by the same revenues only.

(c) MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL TAXES.

(1) A state tax, designated "second gas tax," of two cents per gallon upon gasoline and other like products of petroleum and an equivalent tax upon other sources of energy used to propel motor vehicles as levied by [4]Article IX, Section 16, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, is hereby continued. The proceeds of said tax shall be placed monthly in the state roads distribution fund in the state treasury.

(2) [4]Article IX, Section 16, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, is adopted by this reference as a part of this revision as completely as though incorporated herein verbatim for the purpose of providing that after the effective date of this revision the proceeds of the "second gas tax" as referred to therein shall be allocated among the several counties in accordance with the formula stated therein to the extent necessary to comply with all obligations to or for the benefit of holders of bonds, revenue certificates and tax anticipation certificates or any refundings thereof secured by any portion of the "second gas tax."

(3) No funds anticipated to be allocated under the formula stated in [4]Article IX, Section 16, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, shall be pledged as security for any obligation hereafter issued or entered into, except that any outstanding obligations previously issued pledging revenues allocated under said [4]Article IX, Section 16, may be refunded at a lower average net interest cost rate by the issuance of refunding bonds, maturing not later than the obligations refunded, secured by the same revenues and any other security authorized in paragraph (5) of this subsection.

(4) Subject to the requirements of paragraph (2) of this subsection and after payment of administrative expenses, the "second gas tax" shall be allocated to the account of each of the several counties in the amounts to be determined as follows: There shall be an initial allocation of one-fourth in the ratio of county area to state area, one-fourth in the ratio of the total county population to the total population of the state in accordance with the latest available federal census, and one-half in the ratio of the total "second gas tax" collected on retail sales or use in each county to the total collected in all counties of the state during the previous fiscal year. If the annual debt service requirements of any obligations issued for any county, including any deficiencies for prior years, secured under paragraph (2) of this subsection, exceeds the amount which would be allocated to that county under the formula set out in this paragraph, the amounts allocated to other counties shall be reduced proportionately.

(5) Funds allocated under paragraphs (2) and (4) of this subsection shall be administered by the state board of administration created under Article IV, Section 4. The board shall remit the proceeds of the "second gas tax" in each county account for use in said county as follows: eighty per cent to the state agency supervising the state road system and twenty per cent to the governing body of the county. The percentage allocated to the county may be increased by general law. The proceeds of the "second gas tax" subject to allocation to the several counties under this paragraph (5) shall be used first, for the payment of obligations pledging revenues allocated pursuant to [4]Article IX, Section 16, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, and any refundings thereof; second, for the payment of debt service on bonds issued as provided by this paragraph (5) to finance the acquisition and construction of roads as defined by law; and third, for the acquisition and construction of roads and for road maintenance as authorized by law. When authorized by law, state bonds pledging the full faith and credit of the state may be issued without any election: (i) to refund obligations secured by any portion of the "second gas tax" allocated to a county under [4]Article IX, Section 16, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended; (ii) to finance the acquisition and construction of roads in a county when approved by the governing body of the county and the state agency supervising the state

road system; and (iii) to refund obligations secured by any portion of the "second gas tax" allocated under paragraph 9(c)(4). No such bonds shall be issued unless a state fiscal agency created by law has made a determination that in no state fiscal year will the debt service requirements of the bonds and all other bonds secured by the pledged portion of the "second gas tax" allocated to the county exceed seventy-five per cent of the pledged portion of the "second gas tax" allocated to that county for the preceding state fiscal year, of the pledged net tolls from existing facilities collected in the preceding state fiscal year, and of the annual average net tolls anticipated during the first five state fiscal years of operation of new projects to be financed, and of any other legally available pledged revenues collected in the preceding state fiscal year. Bonds issued pursuant to this subsection shall be payable primarily from the pledged tolls, the pledged portions of the "second gas tax" allocated to that county, and any other pledged revenue, and shall mature not later than forty years from the date of issuance.

(d) SCHOOL BONDS.

(1) [5]Article XII, Section 9, Subsection (d) of this constitution, as amended, (which, by reference, adopted [6]Article XII, Section 18, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended) as the same existed immediately before the effective date of this amendment is adopted by this reference as part of this amendment as completely as though incorporated herein verbatim, for the purpose of providing that after the effective date of this amendment the first proceeds of the revenues derived from the licensing of motor vehicles as referred to therein shall be distributed annually among the several counties in the ratio of the number of instruction units in each county, the same being coterminus with the school district of each county as provided in Article IX, Section 4, Subsection (a) of this constitution, in each year computed as provided therein to the extent necessary to comply with all obligations to or for the benefit of holders of bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates issued before the effective date of this amendment or any refundings thereof which are secured by any portion of such revenues derived from the licensing of motor vehicles.

(2) No funds anticipated to be distributed annually among the several counties under the formula stated in [5]Article XII, Section 9, Subsection (d) of this constitution, as amended, as the same existed immediately before the effective date of this amendment shall be pledged as security for any obligations hereafter issued or entered into, except that any outstanding obligations previously issued pledging such funds may be refunded by the issuance of refunding bonds.

(3) Subject to the requirements of paragraph (1) of this subsection (d) beginning July 1, 1973, the first proceeds of the revenues derived from the licensing of motor vehicles (hereinafter called "motor vehicle license revenues") to the extent necessary to comply with the provisions of this amendment, shall, as collected, be placed monthly in the school district and community college district capital outlay and debt service fund in the state treasury and used only as provided in this amendment. Such revenue shall be distributed annually among the several school districts and community college districts in the ratio of the number of instruction units in each school district or community college district in each year computed as provided herein. The amount of the first motor vehicle license revenues to be so set aside in each year and distributed as provided herein shall be an amount equal in the aggregate to the product of six hundred dollars ($600) multiplied by the total number of instruction units in all the school districts of Florida for the school fiscal year 1967-68, plus an amount equal in the aggregate to the product of eight hundred dollars ($800) multiplied by the total number of instruction units in all the school districts of Florida for the school fiscal year 1972-73 and for each school fiscal year thereafter which is in excess of the total number of such instruction units in all the school districts of Florida for the school fiscal year 1967-68, such excess units being designated "growth units." The amount of the first motor vehicle license revenues to be so set aside in each year and distributed as provided herein shall additionally be an amount equal in the aggregate to the product of four hundred dollars ($400) multiplied by the total number of instruction units in all community college districts of Florida. The number of instruction units in each school district or community college district in each year for the purposes of this amendment shall be the greater of (1) the number of instruction units in each school district for the school fiscal year 1967-68 or community college district for the school fiscal year 1968-69 computed in the manner heretofore provided by general law, or (2) the number of instruction units in such school district, including growth units, or community college district for the school fiscal year computed in the manner heretofore or hereafter provided by general law and approved by the state board of education (hereinafter called the state board), or (3) the number of instruction units in each school district, including growth units, or community college district on behalf of which the state board has issued bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates under this amendment which will produce sufficient revenues under this amendment to equal one and twelve-hundredths (1.12) times the aggregate amount of principal of and interest on all bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates issued under this amendment which will mature and become due in such year, computed in the manner heretofore or hereafter provided by general law and approved by the state board.

(4) Such funds so distributed shall be administered by the state board as now created and constituted by Section 2 of Article IX of the State Constitution as revised in 1968, or by such other instrumentality of the state which shall hereafter succeed by law to the powers, duties and functions of the

state board, including the powers, duties and functions of the state board provided in this amendment. For the purposes of this amendment, said state board shall be a body corporate and shall have all the powers provided in this amendment in addition to all other constitutional and statutory powers related to the purposes of this amendment heretofore or hereafter conferred upon said state board.

(5) The state board shall, in addition to its other constitutional and statutory powers, have the management, control and supervision of the proceeds of the first motor vehicle license revenues provided for in this subsection (d). The state board shall also have power, for the purpose of obtaining funds for the use of any school board of any school district or board of trustees of any community college district in acquiring, building, constructing, altering, remodeling, improving, enlarging, furnishing, equipping, maintaining, renovating, or repairing of capital outlay projects for school purposes to issue bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates, and also to issue such bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates to pay, fund or refund any bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates theretofore issued by said state board. All such bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates shall bear interest at not exceeding the rate provided by general law and shall mature not later than thirty years after the date of issuance thereof. The state board shall have power to determine all other details of the bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates and to sell in the manner provided by general law, or exchange the bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates, upon such terms and conditions as the state board shall provide.

(6) The state board shall also have power to pledge for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates, including refunding bonds or refunding motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates, all or any part from the motor vehicle license revenues provided for in this amendment and to enter into any covenants and other agreements with the holders of such bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates at the time of the issuance thereof concerning the security thereof and the rights of the holders thereof, all of which covenants and agreements shall constitute legally binding and irrevocable contracts with such holders and shall be fully enforceable by such holders in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(7) No such bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates shall ever be issued by the state board, except to refund outstanding bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates, until after the adoption of a resolution requesting the issuance thereof by the school board of the school district or board of trustees of the community college district on behalf of which the obligations are to be issued. The state board of education shall limit the amount of such bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates which can be issued on behalf of any school district or community college district to ninety percent (90%) of the amount which it determines can be serviced by the revenue accruing to the school district or community college district under the provisions of this amendment, and shall determine the reasonable allocation of the interest savings from the issuance of refunding bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates, and such determinations shall be conclusive. All such bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates shall be issued in the name of the state board of education but shall be issued for and on behalf of the school board of the school district or board of trustees of the community college district requesting the issuance thereof, and no election or approval of qualified electors shall be required for the issuance thereof.

(8) The state board shall in each year use the funds distributable pursuant to this amendment to the credit of each school district or community college district only in the following manner and in order of priority:

a. To comply with the requirements of paragraph (1) of this subsection (d).

b. To pay all amounts of principal and interest due in such year on any bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates issued under the authority hereof, including refunding bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates, issued on behalf of the school board of such school district or board of trustees of such community college district; subject, however, to any covenants or agreements made by the state board concerning the rights between holders of different issues of such bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates, as herein authorized.

c. To establish and maintain a sinking fund or funds to meet future requirements for debt service or reserves therefor, on bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates issued on behalf of the school board of such school district or board of trustees of such community college district under the authority hereof, whenever the state board shall deem it necessary or advisable, and in such amounts and under such terms and conditions as the state board shall in its discretion determine.

d. To distribute annually to the several school boards of the school districts or the boards of trustees of the community college districts for use in payment of debt service on bonds heretofore or hereafter issued by any such school boards of the school districts or boards of trustees of the community college districts where the proceeds of the bonds were used, or are to be used, in the acquiring, building, constructing, altering, remodeling, improving, enlarging, furnishing, equipping, maintaining, renovating, or repairing of capital outlay projects in such school districts or community college districts and which capital outlay projects have been approved by the school board of the school district or board of trustees of the community college district, pursuant to the most

recent survey or surveys conducted under regulations prescribed by the state board to determine the capital outlay needs of the school district or community college district. The state board shall have power at the time of issuance of any bonds by any school board of any school district or board of trustees of any community college district to covenant and agree with such school board or board of trustees as to the rank and priority of payments to be made for different issues of bonds under this subparagraph d., and may further agree that any amounts to be distributed under this subparagraph d. may be pledged for the debt service on bonds issued by any school board of any school district or board of trustees of any community college district and for the rank and priority of such pledge. Any such covenants or agreements of the state board may be enforced by any holders of such bonds in any court of competent jurisdiction.

e. To pay the expenses of the state board in administering this subsection (d), which shall be prorated among the various school districts and community college districts and paid out of the proceeds of the bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates or from the funds distributable to each school district and community college district on the same basis as such motor vehicle license revenues are distributable to the various school districts and community college districts.

f. To distribute annually to the several school boards of the school districts or boards of trustees of the community college districts for the payment of the cost of acquiring, building, constructing, altering, remodeling, improving, enlarging, furnishing, equipping, maintaining, renovating, or repairing of capital outlay projects for school purposes in such school district or community college district as shall be requested by resolution of the school board of the school district or board of trustees of the community college district.

g. When all major capital outlay needs of a school district or community college district have been met as determined by the state board, on the basis of a survey made pursuant to regulations of the state board and approved by the state board, all such funds remaining shall be distributed annually and used for such school purposes in such school district or community college district as the school board of the school district or board of trustees of the community college district shall determine, or as may be provided by general law.

(9) Capital outlay projects of a school district or community college district shall be eligible to participate in the funds accruing under this amendment and derived from the proceeds of bonds and motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates and from the motor vehicle license revenues, only in the order of priority of needs, as shown by a survey or surveys conducted in the school district or community college district under regulations prescribed by the state board, to determine the capital outlay needs of the school district or community college district and approved by the state board; provided that the priority of such projects may be changed from time to time upon the request of the school board of the school district or board of trustees of the community college district and with the approval of the state board; and provided, further, that this paragraph (9) shall not in any manner affect any covenant, agreement or pledge made by the state board in the issuance by said state board of any bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates, or in connection with the issuance of any bonds of any school board of any school district or board of trustees of any community college district.

(10) The state board shall have power to make and enforce all rules and regulations necessary to the full exercise of the powers herein granted and no legislation shall be required to render this amendment of full force and operating effect. The legislature shall not reduce the levies of said motor vehicle license revenues during the life of this amendment to any degree which will fail to provide the full amount necessary to comply with the provisions of this amendment and pay the necessary expenses of administering the laws relating to the licensing of motor vehicles, and shall not enact any law having the effect of withdrawing the proceeds of such motor vehicle license revenues from the operation of this amendment and shall not enact any law impairing or materially altering the rights of the holders of any bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates issued pursuant to this amendment or impairing or altering any covenant or agreement of the state board, as provided in such bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates.

(11) Bonds issued by the state board pursuant to this subsection (d) shall be payable primarily from said motor vehicle license revenues as provided herein, and if heretofore or hereafter authorized by law, may be additionally secured by pledging the full faith and credit of the state without an election. When heretofore or hereafter authorized by law, bonds issued pursuant to [6]Article XII, Section 18 of the Constitution of 1885, as amended prior to 1968, and bonds issued pursuant to Article XII, Section 9, subsection (d) of the Constitution as revised in 1968, and bonds issued pursuant to this subsection (d), may be refunded by the issuance of bonds additionally secured by the full faith and credit of the state.

(e) DEBT LIMITATION. Bonds issued pursuant to this Section 9 of Article XII which are payable primarily from revenues pledged pursuant to this section shall not be included in applying the limits upon the amount of state bonds contained in Section 11, Article VII, of this revision.

History.—Am. H.J.R. 1851, 1969; adopted 1969; Am. C.S. for S.J.R. 292, 1972, and Am. C.S. for H.J.R. 3576, 1972; adopted 1972; Am. C.S. for H.J.R.'s 2289, 2984, 1974; adopted 1974; Am. S.J.R. 824, 1980; adopted 1980; Am. S.J.R. 1157, 1984; adopted 1984; Am. proposed by Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, Revision No. 1, 1992, filed with the Secretary of State May 7, 1992; adopted 1992; Am. S.J.R. 2-H, 1992; adopted 1992; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

[1]**Note.**—Section 17 of Art. IX of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, reads as follows:

SECTION 17. Bonds; land acquisition for outdoor recreation development.—The outdoor recreational development council, as created by the 1963 legislature, may issue revenue bonds, revenue certificates or other evidences of indebtedness to acquire lands, water areas and related resources and to construct, improve, enlarge and extend capital improvements and facilities thereon in furtherance of outdoor recreation, natural resources conservation and related facilities in this state; provided, however, the legislature with respect to such revenue bonds, revenue certificates or other evidences of indebtedness shall designate the revenue or tax sources to be deposited in or credited to the land acquisition trust fund for their repayment and may impose restrictions on their issuance, including the fixing of maximum interest rates and discounts.

The land acquisition trust fund, created by the 1963 legislature for these multiple public purposes, shall continue from the date of the adoption of this amendment for a period of fifty years.

In the event the outdoor recreational development council shall determine to issue bonds for financing acquisition of sites for multiple purposes the state board of administration shall act as fiscal agent, and the attorney general shall handle the validation proceedings.

All bonds issued under this amendment shall be sold at public sale after public advertisement upon such terms and conditions as the outdoor recreational development council shall provide and as otherwise provided by law and subject to the limitations herein imposed.

History.—S.J.R. 727, 1963; adopted 1963.

[2]**Note.**—Prior to its amendment by C.S. for H.J.R.'s 2289, 2984, 1974, subsection (a) read as follows:

(a) ADDITIONAL SECURITIES. Article IX, Section 17, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, as it existed immediately before this Constitution, as revised in 1968, became effective, is adopted by this reference as a part of this revision as completely as though incorporated herein verbatim, except revenue bonds, revenue certificates or other evidences of indebtedness hereafter issued thereunder may be issued by the agency of the state so authorized by law.

Article XII, Section 19, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, as it existed immediately before this revision becomes effective, is adopted by this reference as a part of this revision as completely as though incorporated herein verbatim, except bonds or tax anticipation certificates hereafter issued thereunder may bear interest not in excess of five percent (5%) per annum or such higher interest as may be authorized by statute passed by a three-fifths ($^3/_5$) vote of each house of the legislature. No revenue bonds or tax anticipation certificates shall be issued pursuant thereto after June 30, 1975.

[3]**Note.**—Section 19 of Art. XII of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, reads as follows:

SECTION 19. Institutions of higher learning and junior college capital outlay trust fund bonds.—(a) That beginning January 1, 1964, and for fifty years thereafter, all of the proceeds of the revenues derived from the gross receipts taxes collected from every person, including municipalities, receiving payment for electricity for light, heat or power, for natural or manufactured gas for light, heat or power, for use of telephones and for the sending of telegrams and telegraph messages, as now provided and levied as of the time of adoption of this amendment in Chapter 203, Florida Statutes (hereinafter called "Gross Receipts Taxes"), shall, as collected be placed in a trust fund to be known as the "Institutions of Higher Learning and Junior Colleges Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund" in the State Treasury (hereinafter referred to as "Capital Outlay Fund"), and used only as provided in this Amendment.

Said fund shall be administered by the State Board of Education, as now created and constituted by Section 3 of Article XII [now s. 2, Article IX] of the Constitution of Florida (hereinafter referred to as "State Board"). For the purpose of this Amendment, said State Board, as now constituted, shall continue as a body corporate during the life of this Amendment and shall have all the powers provided in this Amendment in addition to all other constitutional and statutory powers related to the purposes of this Amendment heretofore or hereafter conferred by law upon said State Board.

(b) The State Board shall have power, for the purpose of obtaining funds for acquiring, building, constructing, altering, improving, enlarging, furnishing or equipping capital outlay projects theretofore authorized by the legislature and any purposes appurtenant or incidental thereto, for Institutions of Higher Learning or Junior Colleges, as now defined or as may be hereafter defined by law, and for the purpose of constructing buildings and other permanent facilities for vocational technical schools as provided in chapter 230 Florida Statutes, to issue bonds or certificates, including refunding bonds or certificates to fund or refund any bonds or certificates theretofore issued. All such bonds or certificates shall bear interest at not exceeding four and one-half per centum per annum, and shall mature at such time or times as the State Board shall determine not exceeding, in any event, however, thirty years from the date of issuance thereof. The State Board shall have power to determine all other details of such bonds or certificates and to sell at public sale, after public advertisement, such bonds or certificates, provided, however, that no bonds or certificates shall ever be issued hereunder to finance, or the proceeds thereof expended for, any part of the cost of any capital outlay project unless the construction or acquisition of such capital outlay project has been theretofore authorized by the Legislature of Florida. None of said bonds or certificates shall be sold at less than ninety-eight per centum of the par value thereof, plus accrued interest, and said bonds or certificates shall be awarded at the public sale thereof to the bidder offering the lowest net interest cost for such bonds or certificates in the manner to be determined by the State Board.

The State Board shall also have power to pledge for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds or certificates, and reserves therefor, including refunding bonds or certificates, all or any part of the revenue to be derived from the said Gross Receipts Taxes provided for in this Amendment, and to enter into any covenants and other agreements with the holders of such bonds or certificates concerning the security thereof and the rights of the holders thereof, all of which covenants and agreements shall constitute legally binding and irrevocable contracts with such holders and shall be fully enforceable by such holders in any court of competent jurisdiction.

No such bonds or certificates shall ever be issued by the State Board in an amount exceeding seventy-five per centum of the amount which it determines, based upon the average annual amount of the revenues derived from said Gross Receipts Taxes during the immediately preceding two fiscal years, or the amount of the revenues derived from said Gross Receipts Taxes during the immediately preceding fiscal year, as shown in a certificate filed by the State Comptroller with the State Board prior to the issuance of such bonds or certificates, whichever is the lesser, can be serviced by the revenues accruing thereafter under the provisions of this Amendment; nor shall the State Board, during the first year following the ratification of this amendment, issue bonds or certificates in excess of seven times the anticipated revenue from said Gross Receipts Taxes during said year, nor during each succeeding year, more than four times the anticipated revenue from said Gross Receipts Taxes during such year. No election or approval of qualified electors or freeholder electors shall be required for the issuance of bonds or certificates hereunder.

After the initial issuance of any bonds or certificates pursuant to this Amendment, the State Board may thereafter issue additional bonds or certificates which will rank equally and on a parity, as to lien on and source of security for payment from said Gross Receipts Taxes, with any bonds or certificates theretofore issued pursuant to this Amendment, but such additional parity bonds or certificates shall not be issued unless the average annual amount of the revenues derived from said Gross Receipts Taxes during the immediately preceding two fiscal years, or the amount of the revenues derived from said Gross Receipts Taxes during the immediately preceding fiscal year, as shown in a certificate filed by the State Comptroller with the State Board prior to the issuance of such bonds or certificates, whichever is the lesser, shall have been equal to one and one-third times the aggregate amount of principal and interest which will become due in any succeeding fiscal year on all bonds or certificates theretofore issued pursuant to this Amendment and then outstanding, and the additional parity bonds or certificates then proposed to be issued. No bonds, certificates or other obligations whatsoever shall at any time be issued under the provisions of this Amendment, except such bonds or certificates initially issued hereunder, and such additional parity bonds or certificates as provided in this paragraph. Notwithstanding any other provision herein no such bonds or certificates shall be authorized or validated during any biennium in excess of fifty million dollars, except by two-thirds vote of the members elected to each house of the legislature; provided further that during the biennium 1963-1965 seventy-five million dollars may be authorized and validated pursuant hereto.

(c) Capital outlay projects theretofore authorized by the legislature for any Institution of Higher Learning or Junior College shall be eligible to participate in the funds accruing under this Amendment derived from the proceeds of bonds or certificates and said Gross Receipts Taxes under such regulations and in such manner as shall be determined by the State Board, and the State Board shall use or transmit to the State Board of Control or to the Board of Public Instruction of any County authorized by law to construct or acquire such capital outlay projects, the amount of the proceeds of such bonds or certificates or Gross Receipts Taxes to be applied to or used for such capital outlay projects. If for any reason any of the proceeds of any bonds or certificates issued for any capital outlay project shall not be expended for such capital outlay project, the State Board may use such unexpended proceeds for any other capital outlay project for Institutions of Higher Learning or Junior Colleges and vocational technical schools, as defined herein, as now defined or as may be hereafter defined by law, theretofore authorized by the State Legislature. The holders of bonds or certificates issued hereunder shall not have any responsibility whatsoever for the application or use of any of the proceeds derived from the sale of said bonds or certificates, and the rights and remedies of the holders of such bonds or certificates and their right to payment from said Gross Receipts Taxes in the manner provided herein shall not be affected or impaired by the application or use of such proceeds.

The State Board shall use the moneys in said Capital Outlay Fund in each fiscal year only for the following purposes and in the following order of priority:

(1) For the payment of the principal of and interest on any bonds or certificates maturing in such fiscal year.

(2) For the deposit into any reserve funds provided for in the proceedings authorizing the issuance of said bonds or certificates, of any amounts required to be deposited in such reserve funds in such fiscal year.

(3) After all payments required in such fiscal year for the purposes provided for in (1) and (2) above, including any deficiencies for required payments in prior fiscal years, any moneys remaining in said Capital Outlay Fund at the end of such fiscal year may be used by the State Board for direct payment of the cost or any part of the cost of any capital outlay project theretofore authorized by the legislature or for the purchase of any bonds or certificates issued hereunder then outstanding upon such terms and conditions as the State Board shall deem proper, or for the prior redemption of outstanding bonds or certificates in accordance with the provisions of the proceedings which authorized the issuance of such bonds or certificates.

The State Board may invest the moneys in said Capital Outlay Fund or in any sinking fund or other funds created for any issue of bonds or certificates, in direct obligations of the United States of America or in the other securities referred to in Section 344.27, Florida Statutes.

(d) The State Board shall have the power to make and enforce all rules and regulations necessary to the full exercise of the powers herein granted and no legislation shall be required to render this Amendment of full force and operating effect on and after January 1, 1964. The Legislature, during the period this Amendment is in effect, shall not reduce the rate of said Gross Receipts Taxes now provided in said Chapter 203, Florida Statutes, or eliminate, exempt or remove any of the persons, firms or corporations, including municipal corporations, or any of the utilities, businesses or services now or hereafter subject to said Gross Receipts Taxes, from the levy and collection of said Gross Receipts Taxes as now provided in said Chapter 203, Florida Statutes, and shall not enact any law impairing or materially altering the rights of the

holders of any bonds or certificates issued pursuant to this Amendment or impairing or altering any covenants or agreements of the State Board made hereunder, or having the effect of withdrawing the proceeds of said Gross Receipts Taxes from the operation of this Amendment.

The State Board of Administration shall be and is hereby constituted as the Fiscal Agent of the State Board to perform such duties and assume such responsibilities under this Amendment as shall be agreed upon between the State Board and such State Board of Administration. The State Board shall also have power to appoint such other persons and fix their compensation for the administration of the provisions of this Amendment as it shall deem necessary, and the expenses of the State Board in administering the provisions of this Amendment shall be paid out of the proceeds of bonds or certificates issued hereunder or from said Gross Receipts Taxes deposited in said Capital Outlay Fund.

(e) No capital outlay project or any part thereof shall be financed hereunder unless the bill authorizing such project shall specify it is financed hereunder and shall be approved by a vote of three-fifths of the elected members of each house.

History.—S.J.R. 264, 1963; adopted 1963.

[4]**Note.**—Section 16 of Art. IX of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, reads as follows:

SECTION 16. Board of administration; gasoline and like taxes, distribution and use; etc.—(a) That beginning January 1st, 1943, and for fifty (50) years thereafter, the proceeds of two (2¢) cents per gallon of the total tax levied by state law upon gasoline and other like products of petroleum, now known as the Second Gas Tax, and upon other fuels used to propel motor vehicles, shall as collected be placed monthly in the 'State Roads Distribution Fund' in the State Treasury and divided into three (3) equal parts which shall be distributed monthly among the several counties as follows: one part according to area, one part according to population, and one part according to the counties' contributions to the cost of state road construction in the ratio of distribution as provided in Chapter 15659, Laws of Florida, Acts of 1931, and for the purposes of the apportionment based on the counties' contributions for the cost of state road construction, the amount of the contributions established by the certificates made in 1931 pursuant to said Chapter 15659, shall be taken and deemed conclusive in computing the monthly amounts distributable according to said contributions. Such funds so distributed shall be administered by the State Board of Administration as hereinafter provided.

(b) The Governor as chairman, the State Treasurer, and the State Comptroller shall constitute a body corporate to be known as the 'State Board of Administration,' which board shall succeed to all the power, control and authority of the statutory Board of Administration. Said Board shall have, in addition to such powers as may be conferred upon it by law, the management, control and supervision of the proceeds of said two (2¢) cents of said taxes and all moneys and other assets which on the effective date of this amendment are applicable or may become applicable to the bonds of the several counties of this state, or any special road and bridge district, or other special taxing district thereof, issued prior to July 1st, 1931, for road and bridge purposes. The word 'bonds' as used herein shall include bonds, time warrants, notes and other forms of indebtedness issued for road and bridge purposes by any county or special road and bridge district or other special taxing district, outstanding on July 1st, 1931, or any refunding issues thereof. Said Board shall have the statutory powers of Boards of County Commissioners and Bond Trustees and of any other authority of special road and bridge districts, and other special taxing districts thereof with regard to said bonds, (except that the power to levy ad valorem taxes is expressly withheld from said Board), and shall take over all papers, documents and records concerning the same. Said Board shall have the power from time to time to issue refunding bonds to mature within the said fifty (50) year period, for any of said outstanding bonds or interest thereon, and to secure them by a pledge of anticipated receipts from such gasoline or other fuel taxes to be distributed to such county as herein provided, but not at a greater rate of interest than said bonds now bear; and to issue, sell or exchange on behalf of any county or unit for the sole purpose of retiring said bonds issued by such county, or special road and bridge district, or other special taxing district thereof, gasoline or other fuel tax anticipation certificates bearing interest at not more than three (3) per cent per annum in such denominations and maturing at such time within the fifty (50) year period as the board may determine. In addition to exercising the powers now provided by statute for the investment of sinking funds, said Board may use the sinking funds created for said bonds of any county or special road and bridge district, or other unit hereunder, to purchase the matured or maturing bonds participating herein of any other county or any other special road and bridge district, or other special taxing district thereof, provided that as to said matured bonds, the value thereof as an investment shall be the price paid therefor, which shall not exceed the par value plus accrued interest, and that said investment shall bear interest at the rate of three (3) per cent per annum.

(c) The said board shall annually use said funds in each county account, first, to pay current principal and interest maturing, if any, of said bonds and gasoline or other fuel tax anticipation certificates of such county or special road and bridge district, or other special taxing district thereof; second, to establish a sinking fund account to meet future requirements of said bonds and gasoline or other fuel tax anticipation certificates where it appears the anticipated income for any year or years will not equal scheduled payments thereon; and third, any remaining balance out of the proceeds of said two (2¢) cents of said taxes shall monthly during the year be remitted by said board as follows: Eighty (80%) per cent to the State Road Department for the construction or reconstruction of state roads and bridges within the county, or for the lease or purchase of bridges connecting state highways within the county, and twenty (20%) per cent to the Board of County Commissioners of such county for use on roads and bridges therein.

(d) Said board shall have the power to make and enforce all rules and regulations necessary to the full exercise of the powers hereby granted and no legislation shall be required to render this amendment of full force and operating effect from and after January 1st, 1943. The Legislature shall continue the levies of said taxes during the life of this Amendment, and shall not enact any law having the effect of withdrawing the proceeds of said two (2¢) cents of said taxes from the operation of this amendment. The board shall pay refunding expenses and other expenses for services rendered specifically for, or which are properly chargeable to, the account of any county from funds distributed to such county; but general expenses of the board for services rendered all the counties alike shall be prorated among them and paid out of said funds on the same basis said tax proceeds are distributed among the several counties; provided, report of said expenses shall be made to each Regular Session of the Legislature, and the Legislature may limit the expenses of the board.

History.—Added, S.J.R. 324, 1941; adopted 1942.

[5]**Note.**—Prior to its amendment by C.S. for H.J.R. 3576, 1972, subsection (d) read as follows:

(d) SCHOOL BONDS. Article XII, Section 18, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, as it existed immediately before this revision becomes effective is adopted by this reference as part of this revision as completely as though incorporated herein verbatim, except bonds or tax anticipation certificates hereafter issued thereunder may bear interest not in excess of five per cent per annum or such higher interest as may be authorized by statute passed by a three-fifths vote of each house of the legislature. Bonds issued pursuant to this subsection (d) shall be payable primarily from revenues as provided in Article XII, Section 18, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, and if authorized by law, may be additionally secured by pledging the full faith and credit of the state without an election. When authorized by law, bonds issued pursuant to Article XII, Section 18, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, and bonds issued pursuant to this subsection (d), may be refunded by the issuance of bonds additionally secured by the full faith and credit of the state only at a lower net average interest cost rate.

[6]**Note.**—Section 18, Art. XII of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, reads as follows:

SECTION 18. School bonds for capital outlay, issuance.—

(a) Beginning January 1, 1965 and for thirty-five years thereafter, the first proceeds of the revenues derived from the licensing of motor vehicles to the extent necessary to comply with the provisions of this amendment, shall, as collected, be placed monthly in the county capital outlay and debt service school fund in the state treasury, and used only as provided in this amendment. Such revenue shall be distributed annually among the several counties in the ratio of the number of instruction units in each county in each year computed as provided herein. The amount of the first revenues derived from the licensing of motor vehicles to be so set aside in each year and distributed as provided herein shall be an amount equal in the aggregate to the product of four hundred dollars multiplied by the total number of instruction units in all the counties of Florida. The number of instruction units in each county in each year for the purposes of this amendment shall be the greater of (1) the number of instruction units in each county for the school fiscal year 1951-52 computed in the manner heretofore provided by general law, or (2) the number of instruction units in such county for the school fiscal year computed in the manner heretofore or hereafter provided by general law and approved by the state board of education (hereinafter called the state board), or (3) the number of instruction units in each county on behalf of which the state board of education has issued bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates under this amendment which will produce sufficient revenues under this amendment to equal one and one-third times the aggregate amount of principal of and interest on such bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates which will mature and become due in such year, computed in the manner heretofore or hereafter provided by general law and approved by the state board.

Such funds so distributed shall be administered by the state board as now created and constituted by Section 3 of Article XII [now s. 2, Article IX] of the Constitution of Florida. For the purposes of this amendment, said state board, as now constituted, shall continue as a body corporate during the life of this amendment and shall have all the powers provided in this amendment in addition to all other constitutional and statutory powers related to the purposes of this amendment heretofore or hereafter conferred upon said board.

(b) The state board shall, in addition to its other constitutional and statutory powers, have the management, control and supervision of the proceeds of the first part of the revenues derived from the licensing of motor vehicles provided for in subsection (a). The state board shall also have power, for the purpose of obtaining funds for the use of any county board of public instruction in acquiring, building, constructing, altering, improving, enlarging, furnishing, or equipping capital outlay projects for school purposes, to issue bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates, and also to issue such bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates to pay, fund or refund any bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates theretofore issued by said state board. All such bonds shall bear interest at not exceeding four and one-half per centum per annum and shall mature serially in annual installments commencing not more than three years from the date of issuance thereof and ending not later than thirty years from the date of issuance or January 1, 2000, A.D., whichever is earlier. All such motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates shall bear interest at not exceeding four and one-half per centum per annum and shall mature prior to January 1, 2000, A.D. The state board shall have power to determine all other details of said bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates and to sell at public sale after public advertisement, or exchange said bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates, upon such terms and conditions as the state board shall provide.

The state board shall also have power to pledge for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates, including refunding bonds or refunding motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates, all or any part from the anticipated revenues to be derived from the licensing of motor vehicles provided for in this amendment and to enter into any covenants and other agreements with the holders of such bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates at the time of the issuance thereof concerning the security thereof and the rights of the holders thereof, all of which covenants and agreements shall constitute legally binding and irrevocable contracts with such holders and shall be fully enforceable by such holders in any court of competent jurisdiction.

No such bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates shall ever be issued by the state board until after the adoption of a resolution requesting the issuance thereof by the county board of public instruction of the county on behalf of which such obligations are to be issued. The state board of education shall limit the amount of such bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates which can be issued on behalf of any county to seventy-five per cent of the amount which it determines can be serviced by the revenue accruing to the county under the provisions of this amendment, and such determination shall be conclusive. All such bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates shall be issued in the name of the state board of education but shall be

issued for and on behalf of the county board of public instruction requesting the issuance thereof, and no election or approval of qualified electors or freeholders shall be required for the issuance thereof.

(c) The State Board shall in each year use the funds distributable pursuant to this Amendment to the credit of each county only in the following manner and order of priority:

(1) To pay all amounts of principal and interest maturing in such year on any bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates issued under the authority hereof, including refunding bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates, issued on behalf of the Board of Public Instruction of such county; subject, however, to any covenants or agreements made by the State Board concerning the rights between holders of different issues of such bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates, as herein authorized.

(2) To establish and maintain a sinking fund or funds to meet future requirements for debt service, or reserves therefor, on bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates issued on behalf of the Board of Public Instruction of such county, under the authority hereof, whenever the State Board shall deem it necessary or advisable, and in such amounts and under such terms and conditions as the State Board shall in its discretion determine.

(3) To distribute annually to the several Boards of Public Instruction of the counties for use in payment of debt service on bonds heretofore or hereafter issued by any such Board where the proceeds of the bonds were used, or are to be used, in the construction, acquisition, improvement, enlargement, furnishing, or equipping of capital outlay projects in such county, and which capital outlay projects have been approved by the Board of Public Instruction of the county, pursuant to a survey or surveys conducted subsequent to July 1, 1947 in the county, under regulations prescribed by the State Board to determine the capital outlay needs of the county.

The State Board shall have power at the time of issuance of any bonds by any Board of Public Instruction to covenant and agree with such Board as to the rank and priority of payments to be made for different issues of bonds under this Subsection (3), and may further agree that any amounts to be distributed under this Subsection (3) may be pledged for the debt service on bonds issued by any Board of Public Instruction and for the rank and priority of such pledge. Any such covenants or agreements of the State Board may be enforced by any holders of such bonds in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(4) To distribute annually to the several Boards of Public Instruction of the counties for the payment of the cost of the construction, acquisition, improvement, enlargement, furnishing, or equipping of capital outlay projects for school purposes in such county as shall be requested by resolution of the County Board of Public Instruction of such county.

(5) When all major capital outlay needs of a county have been met as determined by the State Board, on the basis of a survey made pursuant to regulations of the State Board and approved by the State Board, all such funds remaining shall be distributed annually and used for such school purposes in such county as the Board of Public Instruction of the county shall determine, or as may be provided by general law.

(d) Capital outlay projects of a county shall be eligible to participate in the funds accruing under this Amendment and derived from the proceeds of bonds and motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates and from the motor vehicle license taxes, only in the order of priority of needs, as shown by a survey or surveys conducted in the county under regulations prescribed by the State Board, to determine the capital outlay needs of the county and approved by the State Board; provided, that the priority of such projects may be changed from time to time upon the request of the Board of Public Instruction of the county and with the approval of the State Board; and provided further, that this Subsection (d) shall not in any manner affect any covenant, agreement, or pledge made by the State Board in the issuance by said State Board of any bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates, or in connection with the issuance of any bonds of any Board of Public Instruction of any county.

(e) The State Board may invest any sinking fund or funds created pursuant to this Amendment in direct obligations of the United States of America or in the bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates, matured or to mature, issued by the State Board on behalf of the Board of Public Instruction of any county.

(f) The State Board shall have power to make and enforce all rules and regulations necessary to the full exercise of the powers herein granted and no legislation shall be required to render this Amendment of full force and operating effect from and after January 1, 1953. The Legislature shall not reduce the levies of said motor vehicle license taxes during the life of this Amendment to any degree which will fail to provide the full amount necessary to comply with the provisions of this Amendment and pay the necessary expenses of administering the laws relating to the licensing of motor vehicles, and shall not enact any law having the effect of withdrawing the proceeds of such motor vehicle license taxes from the operation of this Amendment and shall not enact any law impairing or materially altering the rights of the holders of any bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates issued pursuant to this Amendment or impairing or altering any covenant or agreement of the State Board, as provided in such bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates.

The State Board shall have power to appoint such persons and fix their compensation for the administration of the provisions of this Amendment as it shall deem necessary, and the expenses of the State Board in administering the provisions of this Amendment shall be prorated among the various counties and paid out of the proceeds of the bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates or from the funds distributable to each county on the same basis as such motor vehicle license taxes are distributable to the various counties under the provisions of this Amendment. Interest or profit on sinking fund investments shall accrue to the counties in proportion to their respective equities in the sinking fund or funds.

History.—Added, S.J.R. 106, 1951; adopted 1952; (a), (b) Am. S.J.R. 218, 1963; adopted 1964.

[1]**SECTION 10. Preservation of existing government.**—All provisions of Articles I through IV, VII and IX through XX of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, not embraced herein which are not inconsistent with this revision shall become statutes subject to modification or repeal as are other statutes.

[1]**Note.**—See table in Volume 6 of the Florida Statutes tracing various provisions of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, into the Florida Statutes.

SECTION 11. Deletion of obsolete schedule items.—The legislature shall have power, by joint resolution, to delete from this revision any section of this Article XII, including this section, when all events to which the section to be deleted is or could become applicable have occurred. A legislative determination of fact made as a basis for application of this section shall be subject to judicial review.

SECTION 12. Senators.—The requirements of staggered terms of senators in Section 15(a), of Article III of this revision shall apply only to senators elected in November, 1972, and thereafter.

SECTION 13. Legislative apportionment.—The requirements of legislative apportionment in Section 16 of Article III of this revision shall apply only to the apportionment of the legislature following the decennial census of 1970, and thereafter.

SECTION 14. Representatives; terms.—The legislature at its first regular session following the ratification of this revision, by joint resolution, shall propose to the electors of the state for ratification or rejection in the general election of 1970 an amendment to Article III, Section 15(b), of the constitution providing staggered terms of four years for members of the house of representatives.

SECTION 15. Special district taxes.—Ad valorem taxing power vested by law in special districts existing when this revision becomes effective shall not be abrogated by Section 9(b) of Article VII herein, but such powers, except to the extent necessary to pay outstanding debts, may be restricted or withdrawn by law.

SECTION 16. Reorganization.—The requirement of Section 6, Article IV of this revision shall not apply until July 1, 1969.

SECTION 17. Conflicting provisions.—This schedule is designed to effect the orderly transition of government from the Constitution of 1885, as amended, to this revision and shall control in all cases of conflict with any part of Article I through IV, VII, and IX through XI herein.

SECTION 18. Bonds for housing and related facilities.—Section 16 of Article VII, providing for bonds for housing and related facilities, shall take effect upon approval by the electors.

History.—Added, S.J.R. 6-E, 1980; adopted 1980.

[1]**SECTION 19. Renewable energy source property.**—The amendment to Section 3 of Article VII, relating to an exemption for a renewable energy

source device and real property on which such device is installed, if adopted at the special election in October 1980, shall take effect January 1, 1981.

History.—Added, S.J.R. 15-E, 1980; adopted 1980.

[1]**Note.**—This section, originally designated section 18 by S.J.R. 15-E, 1980, was redesignated section 19 by the editors in order to avoid confusion with section 18 as contained in S.J.R. 6-E, 1980.

SECTION 20. Access to public records.—Section 24 of Article I, relating to access to public records, shall take effect July 1, 1993.

History.—Added, C.S. for C.S. for H.J.R.'s 1727, 863, 2035, 1992; adopted 1992.

SECTION 21. State revenue limitation.—The amendment to Section 1 of Article VII limiting state revenues shall take effect January 1, 1995, and shall first be applicable to state fiscal year 1995-1996.

History.—Added, H.J.R. 2053, 1994; adopted 1994.

SECTION 22. Historic property exemption and assessment.—The amendments to Sections 3 and 4 of Article VII relating to ad valorem tax exemption for, and assessment of, historic property shall take effect January 1, 1999.

History.—Added, H.J.R. 969, 1997; adopted 1998.

[1]**SECTION 23. Fish and wildlife conservation commission.**—

(a) The initial members of the commission shall be the members of the game and fresh water fish commission and the marine fisheries commission who are serving on those commissions on the effective date of this amendment, who may serve the remainder of their respective terms. New appointments to the commission shall not be made until the retirement, resignation, removal, or expiration of the terms of the initial members results in fewer than seven members remaining.

(b) The jurisdiction of the marine fisheries commission as set forth in statutes in effect on March 1, 1998, shall be transferred to the fish and wildlife conservation commission. The jurisdiction of the marine fisheries commission transferred to the commission shall not be expanded except as provided by general law. All rules of the marine fisheries commission and game and fresh water fish commission in effect on the effective date of this amendment shall become rules of the fish and wildlife conservation commission until superseded or amended by the commission.

(c) On the effective date of this amendment, the marine fisheries commission and game and fresh water fish commission shall be abolished.

(d) This amendment shall take effect July 1, 1999.

History.—Proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 5, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

[1]**Note.**—This section, originally designated section 22 by Revision No. 5 of the Constitution Revision Commission, 1998, was redesignated section 23 by the editors in order to avoid confusion with section 22 as created in H.J.R. 969, 1997.

[1]**SECTION 24. Executive branch reform.**—

(a) The amendments contained in this revision shall take effect January 7, 2003, but shall govern with respect to the qualifying for and the holding of primary elections in 2002. The office of chief financial officer shall be a new office as a result of this revision.

(b) In the event the secretary of state is removed as a cabinet office in the 1998 general election, the term "custodian of state records" shall be substituted for the term "secretary of state" throughout the constitution and the duties previously performed by the secretary of state shall be as provided by law.

History.—Proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

[1]**Note.**—This section, originally designated section 22 by Revision No. 8 of the Constitution Revision Commission, 1998, was redesignated section 24 by the editors in order to avoid confusion with section 22 as created in H.J.R. 969, 1997.

[1]**SECTION 25. Schedule to Article V amendment.**—

(a) Commencing with fiscal year 2000-2001, the legislature shall appropriate funds to pay for the salaries, costs, and expenses set forth in the amendment to Section 14 of Article V pursuant to a phase-in schedule established by general law.

(b) Unless otherwise provided herein, the amendment to Section 14 shall be fully effectuated by July 1, 2004.

History.—Proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 7, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

[1]**Note.**—This section, originally designated section 22 by Revision No. 7 of the Constitution Revision Commission, 1998, was redesignated section 25 by the editors in order to avoid confusion with section 22 as created in H.J.R. 969, 1997.

INDEX

FOREWORD

In the index to the Florida Constitution, "A" refers to the Article of the Constitution and "S" refers to the Section within the Article. This index includes references to the Constitution of 1885 when that Constitution is incorporated by reference in the present Constitution.

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SENATE RULES

Two-thirds (2/3) Vote of the Members Present:

Chamber

To amend a bill on third (3rd) reading (except title or technical amendment) *[Rule 7.2]*

To amend a report of the Committee on Rules and Calendar relating to action on the Rules and Order of Business in the Senate *[Rule 11.3]*

To consider a bill upon which an unfavorable committee report has been filed *[Rule 4.7]*

To consider a late filed amendment *[Rule 7.1]*

To consider or to favorably report a bill in a Committee of the Whole upon which standing committee action has been taken, or upon which an unfavorable committee report has been filed *[Rule 4.4]*

To establish, strike a bill from, or add a bill to the Special Order Calendar *[Rule 4.17]*

To immediately certify any bill or joint resolution to the House *[Rule 6.8]*

To introduce a claim bill after the deadline for filing claim bills or to consider a House claim bill without a Senate companion *[Rule 4.81]*

To limit debate *[Rule 8.6]*

To recommit a bill that has been reported by a committee *[Rule 2.15]*

To refer a bill to a different committee or remove from a committee *[Rules 2.14, 3.8, and 4.10]*

To refer, commit, or amend a bill on third (3rd) reading *[Rule 4.15]*

To substitute a House companion measure not on same reading *[Rule 3.11]*

To waive or suspend Senate Rules *[Rule 11.2]*

To waive readings of a bill or a joint resolution on three (3) separate days *[Rule 4.12]*

To waive readings of a concurrent resolution or a memorial on two (2) separate days *[Rule 4.13]*

Committee
To limit debate *[Rule 2.50]*

To receive additional testimony in full committee on bill reported favorably by subcommittee *[Rule 2.16]*

To remove a bill from the table that was reported unfavorably by a subcommittee *[Rule 2.16]*

Two-thirds (2/3) Vote of the Membership of 40:

Chamber
To censure, reprimand, or expel a Senator determined to have violated the requirements of the Rule regulating ethics and conduct *[Rule 1.42]*

Unanimous Consent of the Members Present:

Chamber
To adopt a motion to waive a Rule requiring unanimous consent *[Rule 11.2]*

To change a vote after the results have been announced *[Rule 5.2]*

To consider a bill after the fiftieth (50th) day of a regular session which has not been reported favorably by at least one Senate committee *[Rule 2.14]*

To consider a bill out of order on a Senate calendar *[Rule 4.16]*

To reconsider a bill after the Senate has refused to reconsider or confirmed its first action *[Rule 6.4]*

<u>Committee</u>

To change a vote after the results have been announced *[Rule 2.28]*

To consider a bill out of order on committee agenda *[Rule 2.12]*

To reconsider a bill after the committee has refused to reconsider or confirmed its first action *[Rule 2.35]*

Show of Hands:

Five (5) Senators may immediately question a vote declared by the President, requiring an electronic roll call *[Rule 5.1]*

Two (2) committee members may request a roll call vote on any matter properly before the committee *[Rule 2.15]*

Two (2) committee members may question a vote declared by the chair, requiring a roll call vote *[Rule 2.28]*

FLORIDA CONSTITUTION

Two-thirds (2/3) Vote of the Members Present:

To convict impeached officer *[Art. III, s. 17(c)]*

To override veto *[Art. III, s. 8(c)]*

To waive readings of a bill on three (3) separate days *[Art. III, s. 7]*

To provide an exemption from public records or public meetings requirements *[Art. III, s. 24]*

Two-thirds (2/3) Vote of the Membership of 40:

To enact a bill increasing state revenues *[Art. VII, s. 1(e)]*

To enact general bill reducing authority of counties or municipalities to raise aggregate revenues above 2-1-1989 level (exceptions apply) *[Art. VII, s. 18(b)]*

To enact general bill reducing the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities below 2-1-1989 level (exceptions apply) *[Art. VII, s. 18(c)]*

To enact general bill requiring expenditure of money (exceptions apply) *[Art. VII, s. 18(a)]*

To expel a member *[Art. III, s. 4(d)]*

To increase or decrease number of judgeships recommended by Supreme Court *[Art. V, s. 9]*

To introduce, during special session, business not within purview of proclamation *[Art. III, s. 3(c)(1)]*

To repeal court rule *[Art. V, s. 2(a)]*

To take up new business during extended session *[Art. III, s. 3(d)]*

Three-fourths (3/4) Vote of the Membership of 40:

To enact bill for special election on constitutional amendment *[Art. XI, s. 5(a)]*

Three-fifths (3/5) Vote of the Members Present:

To extend session *[Art. III, s. 3(d)]*

Three-fifths (3/5) Vote of the Membership of 40:

To create a trust fund *[Art. III, s. 19(f)(1)]*

To exceed limit on corporate income tax *[Art. VII, s. 5(b)]*

To prohibit special law pertaining to specified subject *[Art. III, s. 11(a)(21)]*

To propose constitutional amendment (Joint Resolution) *[Art. XI, s. 1]*

Show of Hands:

Five (5) Senators may immediately question a vote declared by the President, requiring an electronic roll call *[Art. III, s. 4(c)]*

Two (2) committee members may question a vote declared by the chair, requiring a roll call vote *[Art. III, s. 4(c)]*

Two (2) committee members may request a roll call vote on any matter properly before the committee *[Art. III, s. 4(c)]*

CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

FLORIDA CONSTITUTION

Financial Impact Statement Required

A statement regarding the probable financial impact of any amendment proposed by initiative must be given to the public prior to the holding of an election *[Art. XI, s. 5(b)]*

Public Review Period

Bills Increasing State Revenues

Seventy-two (72) hour period after third (3rd) reading before final passage *[Art. VII, s. 1(e)]*

General Appropriations Bills

Seventy-two (72) hour public review period required before final passage *[Art. III, s. 19(d)]*

Ratification of Proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the United States

To ratify proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution; majority of members in each house must have been elected after the proposed amendment was submitted for ratification *[Art. X, s. 1]*

TABLE OF VOTES

Two-thirds (2/3) of Membership—27 Yeas
Three-fifths (3/5) of Membership—24 Yeas
Three-fourths (3/4) of Membership—30 Yeas

Total Votes Cast	Necessary two-thirds (2/3)
21	14
22	15
23	16
24	16
25	17
26	18
27	18
28	19
29	20
30	20
31	21
32	22
33	22
34	23
35	24
36	24
37	25
38	26
39	26
40	27

(Quorum = 21)