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A bill to be entitled An act relating to sales disclosures; creating s. 475.423, F.S.; specifying the transactions that are subject to the requirements of the act; providing definitions; requiring that certain disclosures be made by the transferor or his or her agent with respect to real property located within a flood hazard area, an area with severe constraints for development, an area having sinkhole activity, a wellhead protection area, a priority wetland zone, a habitat conservation area, an airport influence area, an environmental site, or a radon gas zone; providing that the waiver of such requirements is against public policy; providing certain exceptions; specifying the form to be used as the Property Identification Disclosure Statement; providing requirements for identifying information that accompanies the disclosure statement; prohibiting the use of the disclosure statement by certain entities other than the transferor, the transferor's agents, and the transferee; providing requirements for delivery of the required disclosure statement; providing a limitation with respect to liability for errors, inaccuracy, or omissions; requiring a third party that provides information with respect to the disclosure statement to maintain a specified amount of insurance protection; providing that certain subsequent inaccuracies

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units.

with respect to the information disclosed are not a violation of the act; requiring that disclosures be made in good faith; providing that the act does not limit or abridge other disclosures required by law; authorizing the amendment of a disclosure; providing for delivery of disclosures; providing requirements for the licensee or broker acting as an agent in a transaction subject to the act; providing an effective date. Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: Section 1. Section 475.423, Florida Statutes, is created to read: 475.423 Property identification disclosure statement.--(1)(a) Except as provided in subsection (2), this section applies to any transfer by sale, exchange, or installment land sale contract of residential, undeveloped, or commercial land, wherein one party agrees to convey title to real property to another party upon the satisfaction of specified conditions set forth in the contract and which does not require conveyance of title within 1 year after the date of formation of the contract, lease with an option to purchase, any other option to purchase, ground lease coupled with improvements of any real property described in paragraph (c), or residential stock cooperative, improved with or

consisting of not less than one or more than four dwelling

1 (b) Except as provided in subsection (2), this section applies to a resale transaction for a manufactured home 2 3 classified as personal property and intended for use as a residence and to a mobile home classified as personal property 4 5 intended for use as a residence if the real property on which the manufactured home or mobile home is located is real 6 7 property as described in paragraph (c). As used in this 8 section, the term "manufactured home" means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which, in the traveling 9 10 mode, is 8 body feet or more in width, or 40 body feet or more 11 in length, or, when erected on site, is 320 or more square feet, and which is built on a permanent chassis and designed 12 to be used as a dwelling with or without a permanent 13 foundation when connected to the required utilities, and 14 includes the plumbing, heating, air conditioning, and 15 electrical systems contained therein. In addition, the term 16 17 includes any structure that meets all the requirements of this paragraph except for the size requirements and with respect to 18 19 which the manufacturer voluntarily files a certification and complies with the standards established under this section. 20 The term "manufactured home" also includes a mobile home that 21 is subject to the National Manufactured Housing Construction 22 and Safety Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C., Sec. 5401, et seq. The term 23 24 mobile home" does not include a commercial coach, factory-built housing, or a recreational vehicle. 25 This section applies to the transactions described 26 27 in paragraphs (a) and (b). The transferor or his or her agent is required by one or more of the following to disclose the 28 29 property's location within an applicable zone: 30 1. A person who is either acting as an agent for a 31 transferor of real property that is located within a special

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flood hazard area, which is any type Zone "A" or "V" as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or is the transferor, if he or she is acting without an agent, shall disclose to any prospective transferee the fact that the property is located within a special flood hazard area if:

- <u>a. The transferor, or the transferor's agent, has</u>

 <u>actual knowledge that the property is within a special flood</u>

 hazard area; or
- b. The local jurisdiction has compiled a list, by parcel, of properties that are within the special flood hazard area and a notice has been posted at the office of the county planning agency which identifies the location of the parcel list.
- 2. A person who is acting as an agent for a transferor of real property that is located on soils with very severe constraints for development, or the transferor, if he or she is acting without an agent, shall disclose to any prospective transferee the fact that the property is located on soils with very severe constraints for development pursuant to maps issued by the United States Department of Agriculture or other readily available and officially adopted governmental maps and information if:
- a. The transferor, or the transferor's agent, has actual knowledge that the property is on soils with very severe constraints for development; or
- b. The local jurisdiction has maps that identify properties that are located on soils with very severe constraints for development.
- 3. A person who is acting as an agent for a transferor of real property that is located in an area impacted by sinkhole activity, or the transferor if he or she is acting

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without an agent, shall disclose to any prospective transferee the fact that the property is located in an area impacted by sinkhole activity pursuant to readily available and officially adopted governmental maps and information if:

- a. The transferor, or the transferor's agent, has actual knowledge that the property is in an area impacted by sinkhole activity; or
- b. The local jurisdiction has maps that identify properties that are located in an area impacted by sinkhole activity.
- 4. A person who is acting as an agent for a transferor of real property that is located within one quarter of a mile of a wellhead protection area, or the transferor if he or she is acting without an agent, shall disclose to any prospective transferee the fact that the property is located within one quarter of a mile of a wellhead protection area according to maps issued by the Department of Environmental Protection or a water management district or other readily available and officially adopted governmental maps and information if:
- a. The transferor, or the transferor's agent, has actual knowledge that the property is located within one quarter of a mile of a wellhead protection area; or
- b. The local jurisdiction has maps that identify properties that are located within one quarter of a mile of a wellhead protection area.
- 5. A person who is acting as an agent for a transferor of real property that is located in a priority wetland zone, or the transferor if he or she is acting without an agent, shall disclose to any prospective transferee the fact that the property is located in a priority wetland zone pursuant to maps issued by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

or other readily available and officially adopted governmental maps and information if:

- <u>a. The transferor, or the transferor's agent, has</u>

 <u>actual knowledge that the property is located in a priority</u>

 wetland zone; or
- b. The local jurisdiction has maps that identify properties that are located in a priority wetland zone.
- 6. A person who is acting as an agent for a transferor of real property that is located in a strategic habitat conservation area, or the transferor if he or she is acting without an agent, shall disclose to any prospective transferee the fact that the property is located in a strategic habitat conservation area pursuant to maps issued by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission or other readily available and officially adopted governmental maps and information if:
- <u>a. The transferor, or the transferor's agent, has</u>
 actual knowledge that the property is located in a strategic
 habitat conservation area; or
- b. The local jurisdiction has maps that identify properties that are located in a strategic habitat conservation area.
- 7. A person who is acting as an agent for a transferor of real property that is located within 2 statute miles of an airport influence area or a landing facility approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, or the transferor if he or she is acting without an agent, shall disclose to any prospective transferee the fact that the property is located within 2 statute miles of an airport influence area or a landing facility approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, the Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics, and local land use commission if:

- a. The transferor, or the transferor's agent, has actual knowledge that the property is located within 2 statute miles of an airport influence area or a landing facility approved by the Federal Aviation Administration; or

 b. The local jurisdiction has maps that identify
- b. The local jurisdiction has maps that identify properties that are located within 2 statute miles of an airport influence area or a landing facility approved by the Federal Aviation Administration.
- 8. A person who is acting as an agent for a transferor of real property that is located within a quarter of a mile of an environmental site, limited to filed governmental reports, or the transferor if he or she is acting without an agent, shall disclose to any prospective transferee the fact that the property is located within a quarter of a mile of an environmental site, including leaking underground storage tanks, solid waste landfills, incinerators or transfer stations, national priority list sites, or CERCLIS sites under review by the United States Environmental Protection Agency if:
- <u>a. The transferor, or the transferor's agent, has</u>

 <u>actual knowledge that the property is located within a quarter</u>

 of a mile of an environmental site; or
- b. The local jurisdiction has maps that identify properties that are within a quarter of a mile of an environmental site.
- 9. A person who is acting as an agent for a transferor of real property that is located within a mapped radon gas potential zone pursuant to maps issued by the United States

 Environmental Protection Agency or other readily available and officially adopted governmental maps and information shall disclose to any prospective transferee the fact that the

property is located within a mapped radon gas potential zone
if:

- <u>a.</u> The transferor, or the transferor's agent, has actual knowledge that the property is located in a mapped radon gas potential zone; or
- <u>b.</u> The local jurisdiction has maps that identify properties that are mapped in a radon gas potential zone.
- (d) Any waiver of the requirements of this section is void as against public policy.
- (2)(a) This section does not apply to the following transfers:
- 1. Transfers pursuant to court order, including, but not limited to, transfers ordered by a probate court in administration of an estate, transfers pursuant to a writ of execution, transfers by any foreclosure sale, transfers by a trustee in bankruptcy, transfers by eminent domain, and transfers resulting from a decree for specific performance.
- 2. Transfers to a mortgagee by a mortgagor or successor in interest who is in default, transfers to a beneficiary of a deed of trust by a trustor or successor in interest who is in default, transfers by any foreclosure sale after default in an obligation secured by a mortgage, transfers by a sale under a power of sale or any foreclosure sale under a decree of foreclosure after default in an obligation secured by a deed of trust or secured by any other instrument containing a power of sale, or transfers by a mortgagee or a beneficiary under a deed of trust who has acquired the real property at a sale conducted pursuant to a power of sale under a mortgage or deed of trust or a sale pursuant to a decree of foreclosure or

1	has acquired the real property by a deed in lieu of
2	foreclosure.
3	3. Transfers by a fiduciary in the course of the
4	administration of a decedent's estate, guardianship,
5	conservatorship, or trust.
6	4. Transfers from one coowner to one or more other
7	coowners.
8	5. Transfers made to a spouse, or to a person or
9	persons in the lineal line of consanguinity of one or more of
10	the transferors.
11	6. Transfers between spouses resulting from a judgment
12	of dissolution of marriage or of legal separation of the
13	parties or from a property settlement agreement incidental to
14	that judgment.
15	7. Transfers or exchanges to or from any governmental
16	entity.
17	(b) Transfers not subject to this section may be
18	subject to other disclosure requirements. In transfers that
19	are not subject to this section, agents may make required
20	disclosures in a separate writing.
21	(3)(a) The disclosures required by this section are
22	set forth in, and shall be made on a copy of, the following
23	Property Identification Disclosure Statement:
24	
25	PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
26	
27	This statement applies to the following property:
28	
29	
30	The transferor and his or her agent(s) disclose the following

31 information with the knowledge that even though this is not a

1	warranty, prospective transferees may rely on this information
2	in deciding whether and on what terms to purchase the subject
3	property.
4	
5	Transferor hereby authorizes any agent(s) representing any
6	principal(s) in this action to provide a copy of this
7	statement to any person or entity in connection with any
8	actual or anticipated sale of the property.
9	
10	The following are representations made by the transferor and
11	his or her agent(s) based on their knowledge and official maps
12	and information prepared by the state and federal governments.
13	This information is a disclosure and is not intended to be
14	part of any contract between the transferee and transferor.
15	
16	THIS REAL PROPERTY LIES WITHIN THE FOLLOWING AREA(S):
17	
18	(1) A SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA (Any type Zone "A" or
19	"V") designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
20	Yes No Do not know and information not
21	available from local jurisdiction Pending
22	
23	(2) ON SOILS WITH VERY SEVERE CONSTRAINTS FOR
24	DEVELOPMENT, pursuant to maps issued by the United States
25	Department of Agriculture or other readily available and
26	officially adopted governmental maps and information.
27	Yes No Do not know and information not
28	available from local jurisdiction Pending
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1	(3) AN AREA IMPACTED BY SINKHOLE ACTIVITY pursuant to
2	readily available and officially adopted governmental maps and
3	information.
4	Yes No Do not know and information not
5	available from local jurisdiction Pending
6	
7	(5) A PRIORITY WETLAND ZONE pursuant to maps issued by
8	the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission or other readily
9	available and officially adopted governmental maps and
10	information.
11	Yes No Do not know and information not
12	available from local jurisdiction Pending
13	
14	(6) A STRATEGIC HABITAT CONSERVATION AREA pursuant to
15	maps issued by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
16	or other readily available and officially adopted governmental
17	maps and information.
18	Yes No Do not know and information not
19	available from local jurisdiction Pending
20	
21	(7) WITHIN A QUARTER MILE OF AN AIRPORT INFLUENCE AREA
22	approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, the
23	Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics, and
24	local land use commission or other readily available and
25	officially adopted governmental maps and information.
26	Yes No Do not know and information not
27	available from local jurisdiction Pending
28	
29	(8) WITHIN A QUARTER OF A MILE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL
30	HAZARD SITE including Leaking Underground Storage Tanks, Solid
31	Waste Landfills, Incinerators or Transfer Stations, National

1	Priority List Sites, and/or CERCLIS Sites under review by the
2	United States Environmental Protection Agency.
3	Yes No Do not know and information not
4	available from local jurisdiction Pending
5	
6	(9) WITHIN A MAPPED RADON GAS POTENTIAL ZONE pursuant
7	to maps issued by the US Environmental Protection Agency or
8	other readily available and officially adopted governmental
9	maps and information.
10	Yes No Do not know and information not
11	available from local jurisdiction Pending
12	
13	THESE ZONES MAY LIMIT YOUR ABILITY TO DEVELOP THE REAL
14	PROPERTY, TO OBTAIN INSURANCE, OR TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE AFTER
15	A DISASTER.
16	
17	THE MAPS AND INFORMATION ON WHICH THESE DISCLOSURES ARE BASED
18	ESTIMATE WHERE THE APPLICABLE ZONES AND PROTECTED LANDS EXIST.
19	THEY ARE NOT DEFINITIVE INDICATORS OF WHETHER OR NOT A
20	PROPERTY WILL BE AFFECTED BY A NATURAL OR ENVIRONMENTAL
21	DISASTER. TRANSFEREE(S) AND TRANSFEROR(S) MAY WISH TO OBTAIN
22	PROFESSIONAL ADVICE REGARDING THESE AND OTHER HAZARDS AND
23	PROTECTION ZONES THAT MAY AFFECT THE PROPERTY.
24	
25	Transferor represents that the information herein is true and
26	correct to the best of the transferor's knowledge as of the
27	date signed by the transferor.
28	
29	Signature of Transferor Date
30	
31	Signature of Transferor Date

1	
2	Agent represents that the information herein is true and
3	correct to the best of the agent's knowledge as of the date
4	signed by the agent.
5	
6	Signature of Transferor's Agent Date
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9	Signature of Transferor's Agent Date
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12	Transferee represents that he or she has read and understands
13	this document.
14	
15	Signature of Transferee Date
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18	Signature of Transferee Date
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20	(b) If a map or accompanying information is not of
21	sufficient accuracy or scale that a reasonable person can
22	determine if the subject real property is included in an
23	applicable area, the transferor or transferor's agent shall
24	mark "Yes" on the Property Identification Disclosure
25	Statement. The transferor or transferor's agent may mark "No"
26	on the Property Identification Disclosure Statement if he or
27	she attaches a report prepared pursuant to paragraph (5)(c)
28	which verifies that the property is not in the applicable
29	zone. This paragraph does not limit or abridge any existing
30	duty of the transferor or the transferor's agents to exercise
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reasonable care in making a determination under this subsection.

- (c) If the Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued a Letter of Map Revision confirming that a property is no longer within a special flood hazard area, the transferor or transferor's agent may mark "No" on the Property Identification Disclosure Statement, even if the map has not yet been updated.
- issued a Letter of Map Revision confirming that a property is within a special flood hazard area and the location of the letter has been posted then the transferor or transferor's agent shall mark "Yes" on the Property Identification Disclosure Statement, even if the map has not yet been updated.
- (f) The disclosure required by this section is a disclosure only between the transferor, the transferor's agents, and the transferee, and may not be used by any other party, including, but not limited to, insurance companies, lenders, or governmental agencies, for any purpose.
- (g) In any transaction in which a transferor has accepted, prior to the effective date of this section, an offer to purchase, the transferor, or his or her agent, shall be deemed to have complied with the requirement of paragraph (a) if the transferor or agent delivers to the prospective transferee a statement that includes substantially the same information and warning as the Property Identification Disclosure Statement.
 - (4)(a) The transferor of any real property subject to this section shall deliver to the prospective transferee the written statement required by this section, as follows:

- 1. In the case of a sale, as soon as practicable before transfer of title.
- 2. In the case of transfer by a real property sales contract or by a lease together with an option to purchase, or a ground lease coupled with improvements, as soon as practicable before execution of the contract. For the purpose of this subparagraph, "execution" means the making or acceptance of an offer.
- (b) The transferor shall indicate compliance with this section either on the receipt for deposit, the real property sales contract, the lease, any addendum attached thereto, or on a separate document.
- (c) If any disclosure, or any material amendment of any disclosure, required to be made pursuant to this section is delivered after the execution of an offer to purchase, the transferee shall have 3 days after delivery in person or 5 days after delivery by deposit in the mail to terminate his or her offer by delivery of a written notice of termination to the transferor or the transferor's agent.
- (5)(a) Neither the transferor nor any listing or selling agent shall be liable for any error, inaccuracy, or omission of any information delivered pursuant to this section if the error, inaccuracy, or omission was not within the personal knowledge of the transferor or the listing or selling agent, and was based on information timely provided by public agencies or by other persons providing information as specified in paragraph (c) which is required to be disclosed pursuant to this section, and ordinary care was exercised in obtaining and transmitting the information.
- (b) The delivery of any information required to be disclosed by this section to a prospective transferee by a

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third party providing information required to be disclosed pursuant to this section shall be deemed to comply with the requirements of this section and shall relieve the transferor or any listing or selling agent of any further duty under this section with respect to that item of information.

- (c) The delivery of a report or opinion prepared by a licensed engineer, land surveyor, or expert in locating the applicable zones on readily available official governmental maps and information concerning matters within the scope of the professional's license or expertise is sufficient compliance for application of the exemption provided by paragraph (a) if the information is provided to the prospective transferee pursuant to a request therefore, whether written or oral. In responding to that request, an expert may indicate, in writing, an understanding that the information provided will be used in fulfilling the requirements of subsection (3) and, if so, shall indicate the required disclosures, or parts thereof, to which the information being furnished is applicable. If that statement is furnished, the expert is not responsible for any items of information, or parts thereof, other than those expressly set forth in the statement.
- (d) A third party providing the information on behalf of the transferor and the transferor's agent fulfilling the requirements of subsection (3) to be disclosed by this section shall maintain a minimum of \$20 million of insurance protection to protect the transferor and the agents for any errors or omissions made by the third party.
- (6)(a) After a transferor and his or her agent comply with subsection (3), they are relieved of further duty under this section with respect to those items of information. The

transferor and his or her agent are not required to provide
notice to the transferee if the information provided
subsequently becomes inaccurate as a result of any
governmental action, map revision, changed information, or
other act or occurrence, unless the transferor or agent has
actual knowledge that the information has become inaccurate.

- (b) If information disclosed in accordance with this section is subsequently rendered inaccurate as a result of any governmental action, map revision, changed information, or other act or occurrence subsequent to the delivery of the required disclosures, the inaccuracy resulting therefrom does not constitute a violation of this section.
- (7) Each disclosure required by this section and each act that may be performed in making the disclosure shall be made in good faith. For purposes of this section, "good faith" means honesty in fact in the conduct of the transaction.
- (8) The specification of items for disclosure in this section does not limit or abridge any obligation for disclosure created by any other provision of law or that may exist in order to avoid fraud, misrepresentation, or deceit in the transfer transaction. The Legislature does not intend to affect the existing obligations of the parties to a real estate contract, or their agents, or to disclose any fact materially affecting the value and desirability of the property, including, but not limited to, the physical condition of the property and previously received reports of physical inspection.
- (9) Any disclosure made pursuant to this section may be amended in writing by the transferor or his or her agent, but the amendment shall be subject to subsection (4).

(10) Delivery of disclosures required by this section shall be by personal delivery to the transferee or by mail to the prospective transferee. For the purposes of this section, delivery to the spouse of a transferee shall be deemed delivery to the transferee, unless provided otherwise by contract.

(11) Any person or entity, other than a real estate licensee licensed in this state and acting in the capacity of an escrow agent for the transfer of real property subject to this section, shall not be deemed the agent of the transferor or transferee for purposes of the disclosure requirements of this section unless the person or entity is empowered to so act by an express written agreement to that effect. The extent of that agency shall be governed by the written agreement.

is acting as an agent in a transaction subject to this section, the broker who has obtained the offer made by the transferee shall, except as otherwise provided in this section, deliver the disclosure required by this section to the transferee, unless the transferor has given other written instructions for delivery.

(b) If a licensed real estate broker responsible for delivering the disclosures under this section cannot obtain the disclosure document required and does not have written assurance from the transferee that the disclosure has been received, the broker shall advise the transferee in writing of his or her rights to the disclosure. A licensed real estate broker responsible for delivering disclosures under this section shall maintain a record of the action taken to effect compliance of the transaction.

1	(13) A transfer subject to this section may not be
2	invalidated solely because of the failure of any person to
3	comply with any provision of this section. However, any person
4	who willfully or negligently violates or fails to perform any
5	duty prescribed by any provision of this section shall be
6	liable in the amount of actual damages suffered by a
7	transferee.
8	(14)(a) As used in this section, the term "listing
9	agent" means an individual who has obtained a listing of
10	property of the kind in respect of which he or she is
11	authorized by law to act as an agent for compensation.
12	(b) As used in this section, the term "selling agent"
13	means an individual who acts in cooperation with a listing
14	agent and who sells, or finds and obtains a buyer for, the
15	property.
16	Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.
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18	******************
19	SENATE SUMMARY
20	Requires that a transferor or his or her agent make certain disclosures with respect to the sale or transfer
21	of real property and certain manufactured homes and mobile homes. Requires that property located within a
22	flood hazard area, an area with severe constraints for development, an area having sinkhole activity, a wellhead
23	protection area, a priority wetland zone, a habitat conservation area, an airport influence area, an
24	environmental site, or a radon gas zone be identified by use of a Property Identification Disclosure Statement.
25	Provides requirements for the form. Requires that third parties providing information for purposes of such
26	disclosures maintain a minimum of \$20 million in insurance protection. (See bill for details.)
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