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By the Committee on Community Affairs; and Senator Wise

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to affordable housing; amending s. 420.0003, F.S.; providing additional policy guidelines under the state housing strategy for the development of programs for housing production or rehabilitation; including the needs of persons with special needs in the strategy's periodic review and report; amending s. 420.0004, F.S.; defining the terms "disabling condition" and "person with special needs"; conforming cross-references; amending s. 420.507, F.S.; requiring certain rates of interest to be made available to sponsors of housing projects for persons with special needs; conforming a cross-reference; amending s. 420.5087, F.S.; limiting a portion of the reservation of funds within each notice of fund availability to sponsors of housing projects for the persons with special needs tenant group; including persons with special needs as a tenant group for specified purposes of the State Apartment Incentive Loan Program; requiring a specified review committee to include projects that reserve units for persons with special needs in its evaluation and competitive ranking of applications for the State Apartment Incentive Loan Program; conforming a cross-reference; amending ss. 163.31771, 196.1978, 212.08, 215.5586, and 420.503, F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Paragraph (e) of subsection (3) and paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section 420.0003, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

420.0003 State housing strategy.-

- (3) POLICIES.—
- (e) Housing production or rehabilitation programs.—New programs for housing production or rehabilitation shall be developed in accordance with the following general guidelines as appropriate for the purpose of the specific program:
- 1. State and local governments shall provide incentives to encourage the private sector to be the primary delivery vehicle for the development of affordable housing.
- 2. State funds should be heavily leveraged to achieve the maximum local and private commitment of funds while achieving the program objectives.
- 3. To the maximum extent possible, state funds should be expended to provide housing units rather than to support program administration.
- 4. State money should be used, when possible, as loans rather than grants.
- 5. State funds should be available only to local governments that provide incentives or financial assistance for housing.
- 6. State funds should be made available only for projects which are consistent with the local government comprehensive plan.
- 7. State funding for housing should not be made available to local governments whose comprehensive plans have been found

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not in compliance with chapter 163 and who have not entered into a stipulated settlement agreement with the Department of Community Affairs to bring the plan into compliance.

- 8. Mixed income projects should be encouraged, to avoid a concentration of low-income residents in one area or project.
- 9. Distribution of state housing funds should be flexible and consider the regional and local needs, resources, and capabilities of housing producers.
- 10. Distribution of housing funds for multifamily rental housing should be administered to address the housing needs of persons most in need of housing.
- $\underline{11.10.}$  Income levels used to determine program eligibility should be adjusted for family size in determining the eligibility of specific beneficiaries.
- $\underline{12.11.}$  To the maximum extent possible, state-owned lands that are appropriate for the development of affordable housing shall be made available for that purpose.
- (4) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Department of Community Affairs and the Florida Housing Finance Corporation in carrying out the strategy articulated herein shall have the following duties:
- (c) The Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing, in consultation with the Department of Community Affairs and the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, shall review and evaluate existing housing rehabilitation, production, and finance programs to determine their consistency with relevant policies in this section and identify the needs of specific populations, including, but not limited to, elderly persons, and handicapped persons, and persons with special needs, and shall recommend statutory modifications where appropriate. The Shimberg Center

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for Affordable Housing, in consultation with the Department of Community Affairs and the corporation, shall also evaluate the degree of coordination between state housing programs, and between state, federal, and local housing activities, and shall recommend improved program linkages. The recommendations required above and a report of any programmatic modifications made as a result of these policies shall be included in the housing report required by s. 420.6075, beginning December 31, 1991, and every 5 years thereafter.

Section 2. Section 420.0004, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

420.0004 Definitions.—As used in this part, unless the context otherwise indicates:

- (1) "Adjusted for family size" means adjusted in a manner which results in an income eligibility level which is lower for households with fewer than four people, or higher for households with more than four people, than the base income eligibility determined as provided in subsection (9) (8), subsection (11) (10), subsection (12) (11), or subsection (17) (15), based upon a formula as established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- (2) "Adjusted gross income" means all wages, assets, regular cash or noncash contributions or gifts from persons outside the household, and such other resources and benefits as may be determined to be income by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, adjusted for family size, less deductions allowable under s. 62 of the Internal Revenue Code.
- (3) "Affordable" means that monthly rents or monthly mortgage payments including taxes, insurance, and utilities do

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not exceed 30 percent of that amount which represents the percentage of the median adjusted gross annual income for the households as indicated in subsection (9) (8), subsection (11) (10), subsection (12) (11), or subsection (17) (15).

- (4) "Corporation" means the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.
- (5) "Community-based organization" or "nonprofit organization" means a private corporation organized under chapter 617 to assist in the provision of housing and related services on a not-for-profit basis and which is acceptable to federal and state agencies and financial institutions as a sponsor of low-income housing.
  - (6) "Department" means the Department of Community Affairs.
- (7) "Disabling condition" means a diagnosable substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability, or the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions, and a determination that the condition is:
- (a) Expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration; and
- (b) Not expected to impair the ability of the person with special needs to live independently with appropriate supports.
- (8) "Elderly" describes persons 62 years of age or older.
- (9) (8) "Extremely-low-income persons" means one or more natural persons or a family whose total annual household income does not exceed 30 percent of the median annual adjusted gross income for households within the state. The Florida Housing Finance Corporation may adjust this amount annually by rule to

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provide that in lower income counties, extremely low income may exceed 30 percent of area median income and that in higher income counties, extremely low income may be less than 30 percent of area median income.

- (10) (9) "Local public body" means any county, municipality, or other political subdivision, or any housing authority as provided by chapter 421, which is eligible to sponsor or develop housing for farmworkers and very-low-income and low-income persons within its jurisdiction.
- (11) (10) "Low-income persons" means one or more natural persons or a family, the total annual adjusted gross household income of which does not exceed 80 percent of the median annual adjusted gross income for households within the state, or 80 percent of the median annual adjusted gross income for households within the metropolitan statistical area (MSA) or, if not within an MSA, within the county in which the person or family resides, whichever is greater.
- (12) (11) "Moderate-income persons" means one or more natural persons or a family, the total annual adjusted gross household income of which is less than 120 percent of the median annual adjusted gross income for households within the state, or 120 percent of the median annual adjusted gross income for households within the metropolitan statistical area (MSA) or, if not within an MSA, within the county in which the person or family resides, whichever is greater.
- (13) "Person with special needs" means an adult person requiring independent living services in order to maintain housing or develop independent living skills and who has a disabling condition; a young adult formerly in foster care who

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is eligible for services under s. 409.1451(5); a survivor of
domestic violence as defined in s. 741.28; or a person receiving
benefits under the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
program or the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program or
from veterans' disability benefits.

(14) (12) "Student" means any person not living with his or her parent or guardian who is eligible to be claimed by his or her parent or guardian as a dependent under the federal income tax code and who is enrolled on at least a half-time basis in a secondary school, career center, community college, college, or university.

## $(15) \frac{(13)}{(13)}$ "Substandard" means:

- (a) Any unit lacking complete plumbing or sanitary facilities for the exclusive use of the occupants;
- (b) A unit which is in violation of one or more major sections of an applicable housing code and where such violation poses a serious threat to the health of the occupant; or
- (c) A unit that has been declared unfit for human habitation but that could be rehabilitated for less than 50 percent of the property value.
- $\underline{\text{(16)}}$  "Substantial rehabilitation" means repair or restoration of a dwelling unit where the value of such repair or restoration exceeds 40 percent of the value of the dwelling.
- (17) (15) "Very-low-income persons" means one or more natural persons or a family, not including students, the total annual adjusted gross household income of which does not exceed 50 percent of the median annual adjusted gross income for households within the state, or 50 percent of the median annual adjusted gross income for households within the metropolitan

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statistical area (MSA) or, if not within an MSA, within the county in which the person or family resides, whichever is greater.

Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (22) and subsection (46) of section 420.507, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

420.507 Powers of the corporation.—The corporation shall have all the powers necessary or convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of this part, including the following powers which are in addition to all other powers granted by other provisions of this part:

- (22) To develop and administer the State Apartment Incentive Loan Program. In developing and administering that program, the corporation may:
- (a) Make first, second, and other subordinated mortgage loans including variable or fixed rate loans subject to contingent interest for all State Apartment Incentive Loans provided for in this chapter based upon available cash flow of the projects. The corporation shall make loans exceeding 25 percent of project cost available only to nonprofit organizations and public bodies which are able to secure grants, donations of land, or contributions from other sources and to projects meeting the criteria of subparagraph 1. Mortgage loans shall be made available at the following rates of interest:
- 1. Zero to 3 percent interest for sponsors of projects that set aside at least 80 percent of their total units for residents qualifying as farmworkers as defined in this part, or commercial fishing workers as defined in this part, or the homeless as defined in s. 420.621(4), or persons with special needs as defined in s. 420.0004(13) over the life of the loan.

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2. Zero to 3 percent interest based on the pro rata share of units set aside for homeless residents or persons with special needs if the total of such units is less than 80 percent of the units in the borrower's project.

- 3. One to 9 percent interest for sponsors of projects targeted at populations other than farmworkers, commercial fishing workers, and the homeless, and persons with special needs.
- (46) To require, as a condition of financing a multifamily rental project, that an agreement be recorded in the official records of the county where the real property is located, which requires that the project be used for housing defined as affordable in s. 420.0004(3) by persons defined in s. 420.0004(9)(8), (11)(10), (12)(11), and (17)(15). Such an agreement is a state land use regulation that limits the highest and best use of the property within the meaning of s. 193.011(2).

Section 4. Subsection (3) of section 420.5087, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

420.5087 State Apartment Incentive Loan Program.—There is hereby created the State Apartment Incentive Loan Program for the purpose of providing first, second, or other subordinated mortgage loans or loan guarantees to sponsors, including forprofit, nonprofit, and public entities, to provide housing affordable to very-low-income persons.

(3) During the first 6 months of loan or loan guarantee availability, program funds shall be reserved for use by sponsors who provide the housing set-aside required in subsection (2) for the tenant groups designated in this

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subsection. The reservation of funds to each of these groups shall be determined using the most recent statewide very-lowincome rental housing market study available at the time of publication of each notice of fund availability required by paragraph (6)(b). The reservation of funds within each notice of fund availability to the tenant groups in paragraphs (a), (b), and (e) (d) may not be less than 10 percent of the funds available at that time. Any increase in funding required to reach the 10-percent minimum must be taken from the tenant group that has the largest reservation. The reservation of funds within each notice of fund availability to the tenant group in paragraph (c) may not be less than 5 percent of the funds available at that time. The reservation of funds within each notice of fund availability to the tenant group in paragraph (d) may not be more than 10 percent of the funds available at that time. The tenant groups are:

- (a) Commercial fishing workers and farmworkers;
- (b) Families;
- (c) Persons who are homeless;
- (d) Persons with special needs; and

(e) (d) Elderly persons. Ten percent of the amount reserved for the elderly shall be reserved to provide loans to sponsors of housing for the elderly for the purpose of making building preservation, health, or sanitation repairs or improvements which are required by federal, state, or local regulation or code, or lifesafety or security-related repairs or improvements to such housing. Such a loan may not exceed \$750,000 per housing community for the elderly. In order to receive the loan, the sponsor of the housing community must make a commitment to match

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at least 5 percent of the loan amount to pay the cost of such repair or improvement. The corporation shall establish the rate of interest on the loan, which may not exceed 3 percent, and the term of the loan, which may not exceed 15 years; however, if the lien of the corporation's encumbrance is subordinate to the lien of another mortgagee, then the term may be made coterminous with the longest term of the superior lien. The term of the loan shall be based on a credit analysis of the applicant. The corporation may forgive indebtedness for a share of the loan attributable to the units in a project reserved for extremelylow-income elderly by nonprofit organizations, as defined in s. 420.0004(5), where the project has provided affordable housing to the elderly for 15 years or more. The corporation shall establish, by rule, the procedure and criteria for receiving, evaluating, and competitively ranking all applications for loans under this paragraph. A loan application must include evidence of the first mortgagee's having reviewed and approved the sponsor's intent to apply for a loan. A nonprofit organization or sponsor may not use the proceeds of the loan to pay for administrative costs, routine maintenance, or new construction.

Section 5. Paragraphs (d), (e), (f), and (g) of subsection

- (2) of section 163.31771, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 163.31771 Accessory dwelling units.—
  - (2) As used in this section, the term:
- 315 (d) "Low-income persons" has the same meaning as in s. 316  $420.0004(11)\frac{(10)}{}$ .
  - (e) "Moderate-income persons" has the same meaning as in s.  $420.0004(12)\frac{(11)}{.}$ 
    - (f) "Very-low-income persons" has the same meaning as in s.

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320  $420.0004(17) \frac{(15)}{(15)}$ . 321 (g) "Extremely-low-income persons" has the same meaning as 322 in s. 420.0004(9)(8). Section 6. Section 196.1978, Florida Statutes, is amended 323 324 to read: 325 196.1978 Affordable housing property exemption.—Property 326 used to provide affordable housing serving eligible persons as 327 defined by s. 159.603(7) and persons meeting income limits 328 specified in s.  $420.0004(9)\frac{(8)}{(11)}$ ,  $(11)\frac{(10)}{(11)}$ , and 329 (17) <del>(15)</del>, which property is owned entirely by a nonprofit entity which is qualified as charitable under s. 501(c)(3) of the 330 331 Internal Revenue Code and which complies with Rev. Proc. 96-32, 332 1996-1 C.B. 717, shall be considered property owned by an exempt 333 entity and used for a charitable purpose, and those portions of 334 the affordable housing property which provide housing to 335 individuals with incomes as defined in s.  $420.0004(11)\frac{(10)}{(10)}$  and 336  $(17) \frac{(15)}{(15)}$  shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation to the extent 337 authorized in s. 196.196. All property identified in this section shall comply with the criteria for determination of 338 339 exempt status to be applied by property appraisers on an annual basis as defined in s. 196.195. The Legislature intends that any 340 341 property owned by a limited liability company which is 342 disregarded as an entity for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Treasury Regulation 301.7701-3(b)(1)(ii) shall be 343 344 treated as owned by its sole member. 345 Section 7. Paragraph (o) of subsection (5) of section 346 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 347 212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and 348 storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the

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rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.

- (5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.-
- (o) Building materials in redevelopment projects.-
- 1. As used in this paragraph, the term:
- a. "Building materials" means tangible personal property that becomes a component part of a housing project or a mixed-use project.
- b. "Housing project" means the conversion of an existing manufacturing or industrial building to housing units in an urban high-crime area, enterprise zone, empowerment zone, Front Porch Community, designated brownfield area, or urban infill area and in which the developer agrees to set aside at least 20 percent of the housing units in the project for low-income and moderate-income persons or the construction in a designated brownfield area of affordable housing for persons described in s. 420.0004(9)(8), (11)(10), (12)(11), or (17)(15) or in s. 159.603(7).
- c. "Mixed-use project" means the conversion of an existing manufacturing or industrial building to mixed-use units that include artists' studios, art and entertainment services, or other compatible uses. A mixed-use project must be located in an urban high-crime area, enterprise zone, empowerment zone, Front Porch Community, designated brownfield area, or urban infill area, and the developer must agree to set aside at least 20 percent of the square footage of the project for low-income and moderate-income housing.

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d. "Substantially completed" has the same meaning as provided in s. 192.042(1).

- 2. Building materials used in the construction of a housing project or mixed-use project are exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter upon an affirmative showing to the satisfaction of the department that the requirements of this paragraph have been met. This exemption inures to the owner through a refund of previously paid taxes. To receive this refund, the owner must file an application under oath with the department which includes:
  - a. The name and address of the owner.
- b. The address and assessment roll parcel number of the project for which a refund is sought.
  - c. A copy of the building permit issued for the project.
- d. A certification by the local building code inspector that the project is substantially completed.
- e. A sworn statement, under penalty of perjury, from the general contractor licensed in this state with whom the owner contracted to construct the project, which statement lists the building materials used in the construction of the project and the actual cost thereof, and the amount of sales tax paid on these materials. If a general contractor was not used, the owner shall provide this information in a sworn statement, under penalty of perjury. Copies of invoices evidencing payment of sales tax must be attached to the sworn statement.
- 3. An application for a refund under this paragraph must be submitted to the department within 6 months after the date the project is deemed to be substantially completed by the local building code inspector. Within 30 working days after receipt of

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the application, the department shall determine if it meets the requirements of this paragraph. A refund approved pursuant to this paragraph shall be made within 30 days after formal approval of the application by the department.

- 4. The department shall establish by rule an application form and criteria for establishing eligibility for exemption under this paragraph.
- 5. The exemption shall apply to purchases of materials on or after July 1, 2000.

Section 8. Paragraphs (a) and (g) of subsection (2) of section 215.5586, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

215.5586 My Safe Florida Home Program.—There is established within the Department of Financial Services the My Safe Florida Home Program. The department shall provide fiscal accountability, contract management, and strategic leadership for the program, consistent with this section. This section does not create an entitlement for property owners or obligate the state in any way to fund the inspection or retrofitting of residential property in this state. Implementation of this program is subject to annual legislative appropriations. It is the intent of the Legislature that the My Safe Florida Home Program provide inspections for at least 400,000 site-built, single-family, residential properties and provide grants to at least 35,000 applicants before June 30, 2009. The program shall develop and implement a comprehensive and coordinated approach for hurricane damage mitigation that shall include the following:

(2) MITIGATION GRANTS.—Financial grants shall be used to encourage single-family, site-built, owner-occupied, residential

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property owners to retrofit their properties to make them less vulnerable to hurricane damage.

- (a) To be eligible for a grant for persons who have obtained a completed inspection after May 1, 2007, a residential property must:
- 1. Have been granted a homestead exemption under chapter 196.
- 2. Be a dwelling with an insured value of \$300,000 or less. Homeowners who are low-income persons, as defined in s.  $420.0004(11)\frac{(10)}{(10)}$ , are exempt from this requirement.
- 3. Have undergone an acceptable hurricane mitigation inspection.
- 4. Be located in the "wind-borne debris region" as that term is defined in s. 1609.2, International Building Code (2006).
- 5. Be a home for which the building permit application for initial construction was made before March 1, 2002.

An application for a grant must contain a signed or electronically verified statement made under penalty of perjury that the applicant has submitted only a single application and must have attached documents demonstrating the applicant meets the requirements of this paragraph.

(g) Low-income homeowners, as defined in s. 420.0004(11)(10), who otherwise meet the requirements of paragraphs (a), (c), (e), and (f) are eligible for a grant of up to \$5,000 and are not required to provide a matching amount to receive the grant. Additionally, for low-income homeowners, grant funding may be used for repair to existing structures

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leading to any of the mitigation improvements provided in paragraph (e), limited to 20 percent of the grant value. The program may accept a certification directly from a low-income homeowner that the homeowner meets the requirements of s. 420.0004(11)(10) if the homeowner provides such certification in a signed or electronically verified statement made under penalty of perjury.

Section 9. Subsection (19) of section 420.503, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

420.503 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

(19) "Housing for the elderly" means, for purposes of s. 420.5087(3) (e)  $\frac{(d)}{(d)}$ , any nonprofit housing community that is financed by a mortgage loan made or insured by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development under s. 202, s. 202 with a s. 8 subsidy, s. 221(d)(3) or (4), or s. 236 of the National Housing Act, as amended, and that is subject to income limitations established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, or any program funded by the Rural Development Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture and subject to income limitations established by the United States Department of Agriculture. A project which qualifies for an exemption under the Fair Housing Act as housing for older persons as defined by s. 760.29(4) shall qualify as housing for the elderly for purposes of s.  $420.5087(3)(e)\frac{(d)}{(d)}$  and for purposes of any loans made pursuant to s. 420.508. In addition, if the corporation adopts a qualified allocation plan pursuant to s. 42(m)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code or any other rules that prioritize projects targeting the elderly for purposes of allocating tax credits pursuant to s. 420.5099 or

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for purposes of the HOME program under s. 420.5089, a project which qualifies for an exemption under the Fair Housing Act as housing for older persons as defined by s. 760.29(4) shall qualify as a project targeted for the elderly, if the project satisfies the other requirements set forth in this part.

Section 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.

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