By Senator Detert

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A bill to be entitled An act relating to loan processing; amending s. 494.001, F.S.; creating and revising definitions; deleting a redundant definition; amending s. 494.0011, F.S.; specifying rulemaking powers; amending s. 494.0025, F.S.; prohibiting acting as an in-house loan processor without a specified license; amending s. 494.0018, F.S.; revising cross-references; amending s. 494.00255, F.S.; including licensed in-house loan processors in disciplinary provisions; creating s. 494.00314, F.S.; providing for licensing of in-house loan processors; providing application requirements; specifying when an application is considered received; providing grounds for denial of licensure; prohibiting issuance of licenses to applicants who have had certain licenses revoked in other jurisdictions; providing for annulment of licenses in certain circumstances; requiring annual renewal of licenses; providing that an in-house loan processor may not act as a loan originator without a loan originator license; providing that a licensed loan originator may act as an in-house loan processor without an in-house loan processor license; creating s. 494.00315, F.S.; providing for license renewals; amending s. 494.00312, F.S.; providing that a loan originator license may not be issued to a person who has had an in-house loan processor license or its equivalent revoked in any jurisdiction; amending s. 494.00331, F.S.; providing that specified provisions do not apply to a licensed

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contract loan processor who has on file with the office a declaration of intent to act solely as a contract loan processor; deleting a definition; providing restrictions on employment of persons licensed as in-house loan processors; amending s. 494.0035, F.S.; clarifying provisions concerning operation of mortgage brokers; amending s. 494.0038, F.S.; revising provisions relating to disclosure of settlement charges and loan terms; amending s. 494.00421, F.S.; revising an agency reference; amending s. 494.00611, F.S.; providing that a mortgage lender license may not be issued to an applicant if any of the applicant's control persons has ever had an in-house loan processor license or its equivalent revoked in any jurisdiction; amending s. 494.00612, F.S.; requiring that in order to renew a mortgage lender license a mortgage lender must authorize the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry to obtain an independent credit report on each of the mortgage lender's control persons; amending s. 494.0067, F.S.; requiring each mortgage lender to submit certain reports to the registry as may be required; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Subsections (5) through (9), (10) through (14), (15) through (24), and (26) through (34) of section 494.001, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6) through

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(10), (12) through (16), (18) through (27), and (28) through (36), respectively, new subsections (5), (11), and (17) are added to that section, and present subsections (14), (25), and (26) of that section are amended, to read:

494.001 Definitions.—As used in ss. 494.001-494.0077, the term:

- (5) "Contract loan processor" means an individual who is an independent contractor for a mortgage broker or a mortgage lender who engages only in loan processing.
- (11) "In-house loan processor" means an individual who is an employee of a mortgage broker or a mortgage lender who engages only in loan processing.
- (16) (14) "Loan originator" means an individual who, directly or indirectly, solicits or offers to solicit a mortgage loan, accepts or offers to accept an application for a mortgage loan, negotiates or offers to negotiate the terms or conditions of a new or existing mortgage loan on behalf of a borrower or lender, processes a mortgage loan application, or negotiates or offers to negotiate the sale of an existing mortgage loan to a noninstitutional investor for compensation or gain. The term includes an individual who is required to be licensed as a loan originator under the activities of a loan originator as that term is defined in the S.A.F.E. Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008, and an individual acting as a loan originator pursuant to that definition is acting as a loan originator for purposes of this definition. The term does not include an employee of a mortgage broker or mortgage lender whose duties are limited to who performs only administrative or clerical tasks, including quoting available interest rates, physically handling a

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completed application form, or transmitting a completed $\underline{application}$ form to a lender on behalf of a prospective borrower.

- (17) "Loan processing" means:
- (a) The receipt, collection, distribution, and analysis of information common for the processing of a mortgage loan; or
- (b) Communicating with a consumer to obtain the information necessary for the processing of a mortgage loan, to the extent that such communication does not include offering or negotiating loan rates or terms or counseling consumers about residential mortgage loan rates or terms.
 - (25) "Person" has the same meaning as in s. 1.01.
- (28) (26) "Principal loan originator" means the licensed loan originator in charge of, and responsible for, the operation of a mortgage lender or mortgage broker, including all of the activities of the mortgage lender's or mortgage broker's loan originators, in-house loan processors, and branch managers, whether employees or independent contractors.
- Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 494.0011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 494.0011 Powers and duties of the commission and office.-
- (2) To administer ss. 494.001-494.0077, the commission may adopt rules <u>pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement</u> parts I, II, and III of this chapter, including rules:
- (a) Requiring electronic submission of any forms, documents, or fees required by this act.
- (b) Relating to compliance with the S.A.F.E. Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008, including rules to:
 - 1. Require loan originators, mortgage brokers, mortgage

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117 lenders, and branch offices to register through the registry.

- 2. Require the use of uniform forms that have been approved by the registry, and any subsequent amendments to such forms if the forms are substantially in compliance with the provisions of this chapter. Uniform forms that the commission may adopt include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Uniform Mortgage Lender/Mortgage Broker Form, MU1.
- b. Uniform Mortgage Biographical Statement & Consent Form, $\ensuremath{\text{MU2}}\xspace.$
 - c. Uniform Mortgage Branch Office Form, MU3.
- d. Uniform Individual Mortgage License/Registration & Consent Form, MU4.
- 3. Require the filing of forms, documents, and fees in accordance with the requirements of the registry.
- 4. Prescribe requirements for amending or surrendering a license or other activities as the commission deems necessary for the office's participation in the registry.
- 5. Prescribe procedures that allow a licensee to challenge information contained in the registry.
- 6. Prescribe procedures for reporting violations of this chapter and disciplinary actions on licensees to the registry.
- (c) Establishing time periods during which a loan originator, mortgage broker, or mortgage lender license applicant under part II or part III is barred from licensure due to prior criminal convictions of, or guilty or nolo contendere pleas by, any of the applicant's control persons, regardless of adjudication.
 - 1. The rules must provide:
 - a. Permanent bars for felonies involving fraud, dishonesty,

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146 breach of trust, or money laundering;

- b. A 15-year disqualifying period for felonies involving moral turpitude;
 - c. A 7-year disqualifying period for all other felonies; and
 - d. A 5-year disqualifying period for misdemeanors involving fraud, dishonesty, or any other act of moral turpitude.
 - 2. The rules may provide for an additional waiting period due to dates of imprisonment or community supervision, the commitment of multiple crimes, and other factors reasonably related to the applicant's criminal history.
 - 3. The rules may provide for mitigating factors for crimes identified in sub-subparagraph 1.b. However, the mitigation may not result in a period of disqualification less than 7 years. The rule may not mitigate the disqualifying periods in subsubparagraphs 1.a., 1.c., and 1.d.
 - 4. An applicant is not eligible for licensure until the expiration of the disqualifying period set by rule.
 - 5. Section 112.011 is not applicable to eligibility for licensure under this part.
 - Section 3. Subsections (2) through (10) of section 494.0025, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (3) through (11), respectively, and a new subsection (2) is added to that section to read:
 - 494.0025 Prohibited practices.—It is unlawful for any person:
 - (2) To act as an in-house loan processor in this state without a current, active license issued by the office pursuant to part II of this chapter.

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Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 494.0018, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

494.0018 Penalties.-

(1) Whoever knowingly violates any provision of s. 494.00255(1) (a), (b), or (c) or s. 494.0025(1), (3), (4), (4), (5), (4), or (6), except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. Each such violation constitutes a separate offense.

Section 5. Paragraphs (n) and (p) of subsection (1), paragraph (f) of subsection (2), and subsections (3), (4), (5), (6), and (8) of section 494.00255, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

494.00255 Administrative penalties and fines; license violations.—

- (1) Each of the following acts constitutes a ground for which the disciplinary actions specified in subsection (2) may be taken against a person licensed or required to be licensed under part II or part III of this chapter:
- (n) Having a loan originator, an in-house loan processor, a mortgage broker, or \underline{a} mortgage lender license, or the equivalent of such license, revoked in any jurisdiction.
- (p) Acting as a loan originator, <u>an in-house loan</u> <u>processor</u>, <u>a</u> mortgage broker, or <u>a</u> mortgage lender without a current license issued under part II or part III of this chapter.
- (2) If the office finds a person in violation of any act specified in this section, it may enter an order imposing one or more of the following penalties:

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(f) An administrative fine of up to \$1,000 per day, but not to exceed \$25,000 cumulatively, for each day that:

- 1. A mortgage broker or mortgage lender conducts business at an unlicensed branch office.
- 2. An unlicensed person acts as a loan originator, an inhouse loan processor, a mortgage broker, or a mortgage lender.
- (3) A mortgage broker or mortgage lender, as applicable, is subject to the disciplinary actions specified in subsection (2) for a violation of subsection (1) by:
- (a) A control person of the mortgage broker or mortgage lender; $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$
- (b) A loan originator employed by or contracting with the mortgage broker or mortgage lender; or
- (c) An in-house loan processor who is an employee of the mortgage broker or mortgage lender.
- (4) A principal loan originator of a mortgage broker is subject to the disciplinary actions specified in subsection (2) for violations of subsection (1) by a loan originator or an inhouse loan processor in the course of an association with the mortgage broker if there is a pattern of repeated violations by the loan originator or an inhouse loan processor or if the principal loan originator has knowledge of the violations.
- (5) A principal loan originator of a mortgage lender is subject to the disciplinary actions specified in subsection (2) for violations of subsection (1) by a loan originator or an inhouse loan processor in the course of an association with a mortgage lender if there is a pattern of repeated violations by the loan originator or an inhouse loan processor or if the principal loan originator has knowledge of the violations.

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(6) A branch manager is subject to the disciplinary actions specified in subsection (2) for violations of subsection (1) by a loan originator or an in-house loan processor in the course of an association with the mortgage broker or mortgage lender if there is a pattern of repeated violations by the loan originator or an in-house loan processor or if the branch manager has knowledge of the violations.

- (8) Pursuant to s. 120.60(6), the office may summarily suspend the license of a loan originator, an in-house loan processor, a mortgage broker, or a mortgage lender if the office has reason to believe that a licensee poses an immediate, serious danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare. The arrest of the licensee, or the mortgage broker or the mortgage lender's control person, for any felony or any crime involving fraud, dishonesty, breach of trust, money laundering, or any other act of moral turpitude is deemed sufficient to constitute an immediate danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare. Any proceeding for the summary suspension of a license must be conducted by the commissioner of the office, or designee, who shall issue the final summary order.
- Section 6. Section 494.00314, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
 - 494.00314 In-house loan processor license.-
- (1) An individual acting as an in-house loan processor must be licensed under this section.
- (2) In order to apply for an in-house loan processor license, an applicant must:
- (a) Be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or its equivalent.

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(b) Submit a completed license application form as prescribed by commission rule.

- (c) Submit a nonrefundable application fee of \$100. Application fees may not be prorated for partial years of licensure.
- (d) Submit fingerprints in accordance with rules adopted by the commission.
- 1. The fingerprints must be submitted to a live-scan vendor authorized by the Department of Law Enforcement.
- 2. A state criminal history background check must be conducted through the Department of Law Enforcement, and a federal criminal history check must be conducted through the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- 3. All fingerprints submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement must be submitted electronically and entered into the statewide automated fingerprint identification system established in s. 943.05(2)(b) and available for use in accordance with s. 943.05(2)(g) and (h). The office shall pay an annual fee to the department to participate in the system and inform the department of any person whose fingerprints are no longer required to be retained.
- 4. The costs of fingerprint processing, including the cost of retaining fingerprints, shall be borne by the person subject to the background check.
- 5. The office is responsible for reviewing the results of the state and federal criminal history checks and determining whether the applicant meets licensure requirements.
- (e) Submit additional information or documentation requested by the office and required by rules concerning the

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applicant. Additional information may include documentation of pending or prior disciplinary or criminal history events, including arrest reports and certified copies of charging documents, plea agreements, judgments and sentencing documents, documents relating to pretrial intervention, orders terminating probation or supervised release, final administrative agency orders, or other comparable documents that may provide the office with the appropriate information to determine eligibility for licensure.

- (f) Submit any other information required by the registry for the processing of the application.
- (3) An application is considered received for the purposes of s. 120.60 upon the office's receipt of all documentation from the registry, including the completed application form, criminal history information, and license application fee.
- (4) The office shall issue an in-house loan processor license to each person who is not otherwise ineligible and who meets the requirements of this section. However, it is a ground for denial of licensure if the applicant:
- (a) Has committed any violation specified in ss. 494.001-494.0077; or
- (b) Is the subject of a pending felony criminal prosecution or a prosecution or an administrative enforcement action in any jurisdiction that involves fraud, dishonesty, breach of trust, money laundering, or any other act of moral turpitude.
- (5) The office may not issue a license to an applicant who has had an in-house loan processor or loan originator license or its equivalent revoked in any jurisdiction.
 - (6) An in-house loan processor license shall be annulled

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pursuant to s. 120.60 if it was issued by the office by mistake.

A license must be reinstated if the applicant demonstrates that

the requirements for obtaining the license have been satisfied.

- annually by December 31, pursuant to s. 494.00315. If a person holding an active in-house loan processor license has not applied to renew the license on or before December 31, the in-house loan processor license expires on December 31. If a person holding an active in-house loan processor license has applied to renew on or before December 31, the in-house loan processor license has applied to renew on or before December 31, the in-house loan processor license remains active until the renewal application is approved or denied. An in-house loan processor is not precluded from reapplying for licensure upon expiration of a previous license.
- (8) An in-house loan processor licensed under this section may not act as a loan originator without a loan originator license issued under this part.
- (9) A loan originator licensed under this part may also act as an in-house loan processor without an in-house loan processor license.
- Section 7. Section 494.00315, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
- 494.00315 In-house loan processor license renewal.—In order to renew an in-house loan processor license, an in-house loan processor must:
- (1) Submit a completed license renewal form as prescribed by commission rule.
- (2) Submit a nonrefundable renewal fee of \$75 and nonrefundable fees to cover the costs of further fingerprint processing and retention as set forth in commission rule.

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(3) Submit any additional information or documentation requested by the office and required by rule concerning the licensee. Additional information may include documentation of pending and prior disciplinary and criminal history events, including arrest reports and certified copies of charging documents, plea agreements, judgments and sentencing documents, documents relating to pretrial intervention, orders terminating probation or supervised release, final administrative agency orders, or other comparable documents that may provide the office with the appropriate information to determine eligibility for renewal of licensure.

Section 8. Subsection (5) of section 494.00312, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

494.00312 Loan originator license.-

(5) The office may not issue a license to an applicant who has had a loan originator or an in-house loan processor license or its equivalent revoked in any jurisdiction.

Section 9. Section 494.00331, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

494.00331 Loan originator and loan processor employment.

- (1) LOAN ORIGINATORS.—An individual may not act as a loan originator unless he or she is an employee of, or an independent contractor for, a mortgage broker or a mortgage lender, and may not be employed by or contract with more than one mortgage broker or mortgage lender, or either simultaneously.
- (2) CONTRACT LOAN PROCESSORS.—Subsection (1) However, this provision does not apply to a contract loan processor who is licensed as a loan originator under this part and has on file with the office a declaration of intent to act solely as a

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contract loan processor. The declaration of intent must be on a form prescribed by the commission by rule any licensed loan originator who acts solely as a loan processor and contracts with more than one mortgage broker or mortgage lender, or either simultaneously.

- (2) For purposes of this section, the term "loan processor" means an individual who is licensed as a loan originator who engages only in:
- (a) The receipt, collection, distribution, and analysis of information common for the processing or underwriting of a residential mortgage loan; or
- (b) Communication with consumers to obtain the information necessary for the processing or underwriting of a loan, to the extent that such communication does not include offering or negotiating loan rates or terms or does not include counseling consumers about residential mortgage loan rates or terms.
- (3) A person may not act as a loan processor unless the person is licensed as a loan originator under this chapter and has on file with the office a declaration of intent to engage solely in loan processing. The declaration of intent must be on such form as prescribed by the commission by rule.
- (a) (4) A loan originator who that currently has a declaration of intent to engage solely in loan processing on file with the office may withdraw his or her declaration of intent to engage solely in loan processing. The withdrawal of declaration of intent must be on such form as prescribed by commission rule.
- $\underline{\text{(b)}}$ (5) A declaration of intent or a withdrawal of declaration of intent is effective upon receipt by the office.

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 $\underline{\text{(c)}}$ The fee earned by a <u>contract</u> loan processor may be paid to the company that employs the loan processor without violating the restriction in s. $494.0025\underline{\text{(8)}}$ (7) requiring fees or commissions to be paid to a licensed mortgage broker or mortgage lender or a person exempt from licensure under this chapter.

(3) IN-HOUSE LOAN PROCESSORS.—An individual may not act as an in-house loan processor unless he or she is an employee of a mortgage broker or a mortgage lender and may not be employed by more than one mortgage broker or mortgage lender, or either, simultaneously. An in-house loan processor is required to work at the direction of and subject to the supervision and instruction of a loan originator licensed under this part.

Section 10. Subsection (1) of section 494.0035, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

494.0035 Principal loan originator and branch manager for mortgage broker.—

(1) Each mortgage broker must be operated by a principal loan originator who shall have full charge, control, and supervision of the mortgage broker business. The principal loan originator must have been licensed as a loan originator for at least 1 year before being designated as the principal loan originator, or must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the office that he or she has been actively engaged as in a mortgage broker broker-related business for at least 1 year before being designated as a principal loan originator. Each mortgage broker must keep the office informed of the person designated as the principal loan originator as prescribed by commission rule. If the designation is inaccurate, the mortgage broker business shall be deemed to be operated under the full charge, control,

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and supervision of each officer, director, or ultimate equitable owner of a 10-percent or greater interest in the mortgage broker, or any other person in a similar capacity. A loan originator may not be a principal loan originator for more than one mortgage broker at any given time.

Section 11. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 494.0038, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

494.0038 Loan origination and mortgage broker fees and disclosures.—

- (3) At the time a written mortgage broker agreement is signed by the borrower or forwarded to the borrower for signature, or at the time the mortgage broker business accepts an application fee, credit report fee, property appraisal fee, or any other third-party fee, but at least 3 business days before execution of the closing or settlement statement, the mortgage broker shall disclose in writing to any applicant for a mortgage loan the following information:
- (c) A good faith estimate that discloses settlement charges and loan terms, signed and dated by the borrower, which discloses the total amount of each of the fees the borrower may reasonably expect to pay if the loan is closed, including, but not limited to, fees earned by the mortgage broker, lender fees, third-party fees, and official fees, together with the terms and conditions for obtaining a refund of such fees, if any.
- 1. Any amount collected in excess of the actual cost shall be returned within 60 days after rejection, withdrawal, or closing.
- 2. At the time a good faith estimate is provided to the borrower, the loan originator must identify in writing \underline{an}

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itemized list that provides the recipient of all payments charged the borrower, which, except for all fees to be received by the mortgage broker, may be disclosed in generic terms, such as, but not limited to, paid to lender, appraiser, officials, title company, or any other third-party service provider. This requirement does not supplant or is not a substitute for the written mortgage broker agreement described in subsection (1). The disclosure required under this subparagraph must be signed and dated by the borrower.

Section 12. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 494.00421, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

494.00421 Fees earned upon obtaining a bona fide commitment.—Notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 494.001-494.0077, any mortgage broker which contracts to receive a loan origination fee from a borrower upon obtaining a bona fide commitment shall accurately disclose in the mortgage broker agreement:

(7)(a) The following statement, in at least 12-point boldface type immediately above the signature lines for the borrowers:

"You are entering into a contract with a mortgage broker to obtain a bona fide mortgage loan commitment under the same terms and conditions as stated hereinabove or in a separate executed good faith estimate form. If the mortgage broker obtains a bona fide commitment under the same terms and conditions, you will be obligated to pay the loan origination fees even if you choose not to complete the loan transaction. If the provisions of s. 494.00421, Florida Statutes, are not met, the loan origination fee can only be earned upon the funding of the mortgage loan.

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The borrower may contact the Office of Financial Regulation

Department of Financial Services, Tallahassee, Florida,

regarding any complaints that the borrower may have against the

loan originator. The telephone number of the office department

is: ... (insert telephone number)..."

Section 13. Subsection (5) of section 494.00611, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

494.00611 Mortgage lender license.-

(5) The office may not issue a license if the applicant has had a mortgage lender license or its equivalent revoked in any jurisdiction, or any of the applicant's control persons has ever had a loan originator or an in-house loan processor license or its equivalent revoked in any jurisdiction.

Section 14. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section 494.00612, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

494.00612 Mortgage lender license renewal.-

- (1) In order to renew a mortgage lender license, a mortgage lender must:
- (e) Authorize the registry to obtain an independent credit report on <u>each of</u> the mortgage <u>lender's control persons lender</u> from a consumer reporting agency, and transmit or provide access to the report to the office. The cost of the credit report shall be borne by the licensee.

Section 15. Subsection (13) is added to section 494.0067, Florida Statutes, to read:

494.0067 Requirements of mortgage lenders.-

(13) Each mortgage lender shall submit to the registry reports of condition that must be in a form and contain such information as the registry may require.

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523		Section	16.	This	act	shall	take	effect	July	1,	2011.		
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