A bill to be entitled
An act relating to trust funds; amending s. 20.605, F.S.; creating the Foreclosure and Eviction Prevention Trust Fund within the Department of Economic Opportunity as a depository for funds appropriated to provide payment assistance for housing accommodations for certain state residents who become unemployed; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 20.605, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20.605 Administrative Trust Fund of the Department of Economic Opportunity; trust funds.—The following trust funds are administered by the Department of Economic Opportunity:

(1) The Administrative Trust Fund is created within the Department of Economic Opportunity.

(a)(2) Funds shall be used to support for the purpose of supporting the administrative functions of the department as required by law, pursuant to legislative appropriation or an approved amendment to the department’s operating budget pursuant to the provisions of chapter 216.

(b)(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year shall remain in the trust fund at the end of the year and shall be available for carrying out the purposes of the trust fund.

(2) The Foreclosure and Eviction Prevention Trust Fund.
(a) The trust fund is established for use as a depository for all moneys to be used to assist state residents who became unemployed within 1 year before July 1, 2012, and who are unable to pay any portion of their housing costs at the time of their application for assistance. Moneys to be credited to the trust fund shall consist of funds appropriated by the Legislature, including funds received from any other source which the Legislature directs be used for this purpose, and all proceeds derived from the use of such moneys.

(b) Such funds may be expended only to provide payment assistance to state residents who demonstrate that they have become unemployed through no fault of their own and are unable to pay for their current housing accommodations if the cost of such housing has not increased due to the resident’s voluntary change in housing accommodations following the resident’s loss of employment. Preference for assistance granted shall be given to a resident who is a veteran as defined in s. 1.01.

(c) Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year shall remain in the trust fund at the end of the year and be available for carrying out the purposes of the trust fund.

(d) In accordance with s. 19(f)(2), Art. III of the State Constitution, the trust fund shall, unless terminated sooner, be terminated on July 1, 2016. Before its scheduled termination, the trust fund shall be reviewed as provided in s. 215.3206(1) and (2).

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.