A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to the administration of property 3 taxes; amending s. 192.001, F.S.; revising the 4 definitions of the terms "assessed value of property" 5 and "complete submission of the rolls"; amending s. 6 192.0105, F.S.; providing that a taxpayer has a right 7 to have a hearing before the value adjustment board 8 rescheduled if the hearing is not commenced within a 9 certain period after the scheduled time; repealing s. 10 192.117, F.S., relating to the Property Tax 11 Administration Task Force; amending s. 193.114, F.S.; revising the information that must be included on a 12 real property assessment roll relating to the transfer 13 of ownership of property; defining the term "ownership 14 15 transfer date"; deleting a requirement to include 16 information relating to a fiduciary on a real property assessment roll; amending s. 193.155, F.S.; providing 17 for designation of the ownership share to be 18 19 attributed to certain persons who abandon a homestead 20 property for purposes of determining the assessed 21 value of a newly established homestead under certain 22 circumstances; amending s. 193.1554, F.S.; deleting 23 obsolete provisions; providing for the apportionment of increases in the value of combined and divided 24 25 parcels of nonhomestead residential property; 26 providing for the application of an assessment 27 limitation to a combined or divided parcel of 28 nonhomestead residential property; amending s. Page 1 of 37

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193.1555, F.S.; redefining the term "nonresidential 29 30 real property" to conform a cross-reference to the 31 State Constitution; deleting obsolete provisions; 32 providing for the apportionment of increases in the value of combined and divided parcels of property; 33 34 providing for the application of an assessment 35 limitation to a combined or divided parcel of 36 property; amending ss. 193.501, 193.503, and 193.505, 37 F.S.; deleting provisions requiring that the tax 38 collector report amounts of deferred tax liability to 39 the Department of Revenue; amending s. 194.032, F.S.; requiring that certain information be included in, or 40 provided along with, the notice provided to a 41 42 petitioner concerning the time scheduled for an 43 appearance before a value adjustment board; requiring 44 that a hearing before the value adjustment board be 45 rescheduled if the hearing on the petitioner's petition is not commenced within a certain time after 46 47 the scheduled time; making technical and grammatical changes; amending s. 194.034, F.S.; deleting an 48 49 exception to a requirement that a value adjustment 50 board render a written decision relating to the 51 petitioner's failure to make a required payment; 52 deleting a requirement that the Department of Revenue 53 be notified of decisions by the value adjustment 54 board; requiring that the clerk notify the Department 55 of Revenue of a decision of the value adjustment board 56 or information relating to the tax impact of the Page 2 of 37

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57 decision upon request; making technical and 58 grammatical changes; amending s. 195.096, F.S.; 59 authorizing the measures in the findings resulting 60 from an in-depth review of an assessment roll of a county to be based on a ratio that is generally 61 62 accepted by professional appraisal organizations in 63 developing a statistically valid sampling plan under 64 certain circumstances; revising the requirements for 65 the Department of Revenue to provide certain 66 information concerning its review of assessment rolls 67 to the Legislature, the appropriate property appraiser, and county commissions; requiring that 68 69 copies of the review data and findings be provided 70 upon request; repealing s. 195.0985, F.S., relating to 71 a requirement that the department publish annual ratio 72 studies; amending s. 195.099, F.S.; allowing the 73 department discretion in determining whether to review 74 the assessments of certain businesses; amending s. 75 196.031, F.S.; requiring that specified ad valorem tax 76 exemptions be applied before other homestead 77 exemptions are applied in the order that results in 78 the lowest taxable value of a homestead; amending s. 79 196.081, F.S.; authorizing an applicant for an ad 80 valorem tax exemption for a disabled veteran or for a 81 surviving spouse to apply for the exemption before 82 receiving certain documentation from the Federal 83 Government; requiring refunds of excess taxes paid 84 under certain circumstances; amending s. 196.082,

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85 F.S.; authorizing an applicant for an ad valorem tax 86 discount available to disabled veterans to apply for 87 the discount before receiving certain documentation 88 from the Federal Government; requiring refunds of 89 excess taxes paid under certain circumstances; 90 amending s. 196.091, F.S.; authorizing an applicant 91 for an ad valorem tax exemption for disabled veterans 92 confined to a wheelchair to apply for the exemption 93 before receiving certain documentation from the 94 Federal Government; requiring refunds of excess taxes 95 paid under certain circumstances; amending s. 196.101, F.S.; authorizing an applicant for an ad valorem tax 96 97 exemption for totally and permanently disabled persons 98 to apply for the exemption before receiving certain 99 documentation from the Federal Government; requiring 100 refunds of excess taxes paid under certain 101 circumstances; amending s. 196.121, F.S.; authorizing 102 the Department of Revenue to provide certain forms 103 electronically; deleting a requirement that the 104 department supply printed forms to property 105 appraisers; amending s. 196.199, F.S.; providing that 106 property of a municipality is exempt from ad valorem taxation under specified circumstances; providing for 107 108 retroactive application; amending s. 196.202, F.S.; authorizing an applicant for an ad valorem exemption 109 for widows, widowers, blind persons, or persons who 110 111 are totally and permanently disabled to apply for the exemption before receiving certain documentation from 112 Page 4 of 37

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113	the Federal Government; requiring refunds of excess
114	taxes paid under certain circumstances; amending s.
115	196.24, F.S.; authorizing an applicant for an ad
116	valorem tax exemption for disabled ex-servicemembers
117	or a surviving spouse to apply for the exemption
118	before receiving certain documentation from the
119	Federal Government; requiring refunds of excess taxes
120	paid under certain circumstances; amending s. 200.065,
121	F.S.; deleting obsolete provisions; revising
122	provisions relating to the calculation of the rolled-
123	back rate; correcting cross-references to certain
124	additional taxes; amending s. 200.069, F.S.; requiring
125	a property appraiser, at the request of the governing
126	body of a county, to mail an additional form along
127	with the notice of proposed taxes to notify taxpayers
127	
	of the portion of the proposed nonvoted county millage
129	rate that is attributable to each constitutional
130	officer and the county commission; amending ss. 218.12
131	and 218.125, F.S.; deleting obsolete provisions;
132	providing for the reversion of funds appropriated to
133	offset reductions in ad valorem tax revenue to a
134	fiscally constrained county if the county fails to
135	apply for a distribution of funds; providing effective
136	dates.
137	
138	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
139	
140	Section 1. Subsections (2) and (18) of section 192.001,
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141 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

142 192.001 Definitions.—All definitions set out in chapters 1 143 and 200 that are applicable to this chapter are included herein. 144 In addition, the following definitions shall apply in the 145 imposition of ad valorem taxes:

146 (2) "Assessed value of property" means an annual 147 determination of:

148 <u>(a)</u> The just or fair market value of an item or property; 149 or

(b) The value of the homestead property as limited by
 pursuant to s. 4(d), Art. VII of the State Constitution; or,

(c) The value of property in a classified use or at a
fractional value if the a property is assessed solely on the
basis of character or use or at a specified percentage of its
value under, pursuant to s. 4(a) or 4(c), Art. VII of the State
Constitution, its classified use value or fractional value.

157 "Complete submission of the rolls" includes, but is (18)158 not necessarily limited to, accurate tabular summaries of 159 valuations as prescribed by department rule; an electronic a 160 computer tape copy of the real property assessment roll 161 including for each parcel total value of improvements, land 162 value, the two most recently recorded selling prices, data required for an assessment roll under s. 193.114, the value of 163 164 any improvement made to the parcel in the 12 months preceding the valuation date, the type and amount of any exemption 165 granted, and such other information as may be required by 166 department rule; an accurate tabular summary by property class 167 of any adjustments made to recorded selling prices or fair 168

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169 market value in arriving at assessed value, as prescribed by 170 department rule; an electronic a computer tape copy of the 171 tangible personal property assessment roll, including for each 172 entry a unique account number and such other information as may 173 be required by department rule; and an accurate tabular summary 174 of per-acre land valuations used for each class of agricultural 175 property in preparing the assessment roll, as prescribed by 176 department rule.

Section 2. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section178 192.0105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

179 192.0105 Taxpayer rights.-There is created a Florida 180 Taxpayer's Bill of Rights for property taxes and assessments to 181 guarantee that the rights, privacy, and property of the 182 taxpayers of this state are adequately safequarded and protected during tax levy, assessment, collection, and enforcement 183 184 processes administered under the revenue laws of this state. The 185 Taxpayer's Bill of Rights compiles, in one document, brief but 186 comprehensive statements that summarize the rights and 187 obligations of the property appraisers, tax collectors, clerks 188 of the court, local governing boards, the Department of Revenue, 189 and taxpayers. Additional rights afforded to payors of taxes and 190 assessments imposed under the revenue laws of this state are 191 provided in s. 213.015. The rights afforded taxpayers to assure that their privacy and property are safeguarded and protected 192 during tax levy, assessment, and collection are available only 193 194 insofar as they are implemented in other parts of the Florida Statutes or rules of the Department of Revenue. The rights so 195 196 guaranteed to state taxpayers in the Florida Statutes and the

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197	departmental rules include:
198	(2) THE RIGHT TO DUE PROCESS.—
199	(d) The right to prior notice of the value adjustment
200	board's hearing date, and the right to the hearing at the within
201	4 hours of scheduled time, and the right to have the hearing
202	rescheduled if the hearing is not commenced within a reasonable
203	time, not to exceed 2 hours, after the scheduled time (see s.
204	194.032(2)).
205	Section 3. Section 192.117, Florida Statutes, is repealed.
206	Section 4. Paragraphs (n) and (p) of subsection (2) of
207	section 193.114, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
208	193.114 Preparation of assessment rolls
209	(2) The real property assessment roll shall include:
210	(n) The recorded selling For each sale of the property in
211	the previous year, the sale price, ownership transfer sale date,
212	and official record book and page number or clerk instrument
213	number for each deed or other instrument transferring ownership
214	of real property and recorded or otherwise discovered during the
215	period beginning 1 year before the assessment date and up to the
216	date the assessment roll is submitted to the department. The
217	assessment roll shall also include, and the basis for
218	qualification or disqualification <u>of a transfer</u> as an arms-
219	length transaction. <u>A decision qualifying or disqualifying a</u>
220	transfer of property as an arms-length transaction Sale data
221	must be current on all tax rolls submitted to the department,
222	and sale qualification decisions must be recorded on the
223	<u>assessment</u> tax roll within 3 months after the sale date <u>that the</u>
224	deed or other transfer instrument is recorded or otherwise

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225 <u>discovered</u>. <u>Sale or transfer data must be current on all tax</u> 226 <u>rolls submitted to the department</u>. As used in this paragraph, 227 <u>the term "ownership transfer date" means the date that the deed</u> 228 <u>or other transfer instrument is signed and notarized or</u> 229 otherwise executed.

(p) The name and address of the owner or fiduciary
 responsible for the payment of taxes on the property and an
 indicator of fiduciary capacity, as appropriate.

Section 5. Paragraphs (f) through (k) of subsection (8) of section 193.155, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (g) through (l), respectively, present paragraphs (d) and (g) of that subsection are amended, and a new paragraph (f) is added to that subsection, to read:

193.155 Homestead assessments.—Homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of January 1, 1994. Property receiving the homestead exemption after January 1, 1994, shall be assessed at just value as of January 1 of the year in which the property receives the exemption unless the provisions of subsection (8) apply.

244 Property assessed under this section shall be assessed (8) 245 at less than just value when the person who establishes a new 246 homestead has received a homestead exemption as of January 1 of 247 either of the 2 immediately preceding years. A person who establishes a new homestead as of January 1, 2008, is entitled 248 249 to have the new homestead assessed at less than just value only 250 if that person received a homestead exemption on January 1, 2007, and only if this subsection applies retroactive to January 251 252 1, 2008. For purposes of this subsection, a husband and wife who

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owned and both permanently resided on a previous homestead shall each be considered to have received the homestead exemption even though only the husband or the wife applied for the homestead exemption on the previous homestead. The assessed value of the newly established homestead shall be determined as provided in this subsection.

259 (d) If two or more persons abandon jointly owned and 260 jointly titled property that received a homestead exemption as 261 of January 1 of either of the 2 immediately preceding years, and 262 one or more such persons who were entitled to and received a 263 homestead exemption on the abandoned property establish a new 264 homestead that would otherwise be eligible for assessment under this subsection, each such person establishing a new homestead 265 266 is entitled to a reduction from just value for the new homestead 267 equal to the just value of the prior homestead minus the 268 assessed value of the prior homestead divided by the number of 269 owners of the prior homestead who received a homestead 270 exemption, unless the title of the property contains specific ownership shares, in which case the share of reduction from just 271 272 value shall be proportionate to the ownership share. In the case 273 of a husband and wife abandoning jointly titled property, the 274 husband and wife may designate the ownership share to be 275 attributed to each spouse by following the procedure in 276 paragraph (f). To qualify to make such a designation, the 277 husband and wife must be married on the date that the jointly owned property is abandoned. In calculating the assessment 278 reduction to be transferred from a prior homestead that has an 279 280 assessment reduction for living quarters of parents or

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281 grandparents pursuant to s. 193.703, the value calculated 282 pursuant to s. 193.703(6) must first be added back to the 283 assessed value of the prior homestead. The total reduction from 284 just value for all new homesteads established under this 285 paragraph may not exceed \$500,000. There shall be no reduction 286 from just value of any new homestead unless the prior homestead 287 is reassessed at just value or is reassessed under this 288 subsection as of January 1 after the abandonment occurs.

289 (f) A husband and wife abandoning jointly titled property who wish to designate the ownership share to be attributed to 290 291 each person for purposes of paragraph (d) must file a form 292 provided by the department with the property appraiser in the 293 county where such property is located. The form must include a 294 sworn statement by each person designating the ownership share 295 to be attributed to each person for purposes of paragraph (d) 296 and must be filed prior to either person filing the form required under paragraph (h) to have a parcel of property 297 298 assessed under this subsection. Such a designation, once filed 299 with the property appraiser, is irrevocable.

In order to have his or her homestead property 300 (h)(q) 301 assessed under this subsection, a person must file a form 302 provided by the department as an attachment to the application for homestead exemption, including a copy of the form required 303 304 to be filed under paragraph (f), if applicable. The form, which 305 must include a sworn statement attesting to the applicant's 306 entitlement to assessment under this subsection, shall be considered sufficient documentation for applying for assessment 307 308 under this subsection. The department shall require by rule that

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309 the required form be submitted with the application for 310 homestead exemption under the timeframes and processes set forth 311 in chapter 196 to the extent practicable. 312 Section 6. Subsections (2), (3), and (7) of section 313 193.1554, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 314 193.1554 Assessment of nonhomestead residential property.-315 (2)For all levies other than school district levies, nonhomestead residential property shall be assessed at just 316 317 value as of January 1 of the year that the property becomes eligible for assessment pursuant to this section, 2008. Property 318 placed on the tax roll after January 1, 2008, shall be assessed 319 320 at just value as of January 1 of the year in which the property 321 is placed on the tax roll. 322 (3) Beginning in 2009, or the year following the year the 323 nonhomestead residential property becomes eligible for assessment pursuant to this section is placed on the tax roll, 324 325 whichever is later, the property shall be reassessed annually on 326 January 1. Any change resulting from such reassessment may not 327 exceed 10 percent of the assessed value of the property for the prior year. 328 329 Any increase in the value of property assessed under (7) this section which is attributable to combining or dividing 330 331 parcels shall be assessed at just value, and the just value shall be apportioned among the parcels created. 332

333 (a) For divided parcels, the amount by which the sum of
 334 the just values of the divided parcels exceeds what the just
 335 value of the parcel would be if undivided shall be attributable
 336 to the division. This amount shall be apportioned to the parcels

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337	pro rata based on their relative just values.
338	(b) For combined parcels, the amount by which the just
339	value of the combined parcel exceeds what the sum of the just
340	values of the component parcels would be if they had not been
341	combined shall be attributable to the combination.
342	(c) A parcel that is created by combining or dividing a
343	parcel and that is eligible for assessment pursuant to this
344	section retains such eligibility and shall be assessed as
345	provided in this subsection. A parcel that is combined or
346	divided after January 1 and that is included as a combined or
347	divided parcel on the tax notice is not considered to be a
348	combined or divided parcel for purposes of this section until
349	the January 1 on which it is first assessed as a combined or
350	divided parcel.
351	Section 7. Subsections (1), (2), (3), and (7) of section
352	193.1555, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
353	193.1555 Assessment of certain residential and
354	nonresidential real property
355	(1) As used in this section, the term:
356	(a) "Nonresidential real property" means real property
357	that is not subject to the assessment limitations set forth in
358	subsection 4(a), (b), (c), (d), or (g), Art. VII of the State
359	Constitution s. 4(a), (c), (d), or (g), Art. VII of the State
360	Constitution.
361	(b) "Improvement" means an addition or change to land or
362	buildings which increases their value and is more than a repair
363	or a replacement.
364	(2) For all levies other than school district levies,
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365 nonresidential real property and residential real property that 366 is not assessed under s. 193.155 or s. 193.1554 shall be 367 assessed at just value as of January 1 of the year that the 368 property becomes eligible for assessment pursuant to this 369 section, 2008. Property placed on the tax roll after January 1, 370 2008, shall be assessed at just value as of January 1 of the 371 year in which the property is placed on the tax roll. 372 (3) Beginning in 2009, or the year following the year the 373 property becomes eligible for assessment pursuant to this 374 section is placed on the tax roll, whichever is later, the 375 property shall be reassessed annually on January 1. Any change 376 resulting from such reassessment may not exceed 10 percent of 377 the assessed value of the property for the prior year. 378 Any increase in the value of property assessed under (7) 379 this section which is attributable to combining or dividing 380 parcels shall be assessed at just value, and the just value 381 shall be apportioned among the parcels created. 382 For divided parcels, the amount by which the sum of (a) 383 the just values of the divided parcels exceeds what the just 384 value of the parcel would be if undivided shall be attributable 385 to the division. This amount shall be apportioned to the parcels pro rata based on their relative just values. 386 387 (b) For combined parcels, the amount by which the just 388 value of the combined parcel exceeds what the sum of the just 389 values of the component parcels would be if they had not been 390 combined shall be attributable to the combination. (c) A parcel that is created by combining or dividing a 391 392 parcel that is eligible for assessment pursuant to this section

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393 retains such eligibility and shall be assessed as provided in 394 this subsection. A parcel that is combined or divided after 395 January 1 and that is included as a combined or divided parcel 396 on the tax notice is not considered to be a combined or divided 397 parcel for purposes of this section until the January 1 on which 398 it is first assessed as a combined or divided parcel.

399 Section 8. Subsection (7) of section 193.501, Florida 400 Statutes, is amended to read:

401 193.501 Assessment of lands subject to a conservation 402 easement, environmentally endangered lands, or lands used for 403 outdoor recreational or park purposes when land development 404 rights have been conveyed or conservation restrictions have been 405 covenanted.-

406 (7) (a) The property appraiser shall report to the 407 department showing the just value and the classified use value 408 of property that is subject to a conservation easement under s. 409 704.06, property assessed as environmentally endangered land 410 pursuant to this section, and property assessed as outdoor 411 recreational or park land.

412 (b) The tax collector shall annually report to the
413 department the amount of deferred tax liability collected
414 pursuant to this section.

415 Section 9. Paragraph (d) of subsection (9) of section 416 193.503, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

417 193.503 Classification and assessment of historic property 418 used for commercial or certain nonprofit purposes.-419 (9) 420 (d) The tax collector shall annually report to the

(d) The tax collector shall annually report to the Page 15 of 37

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421	department the amount of deferred tax liability collected
422	pursuant to this section.
423	Section 10. Paragraph (c) of subsection (9) of section
424	193.505, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
425	193.505 Assessment of historically significant property
426	when development rights have been conveyed or historic
427	preservation restrictions have been covenanted
428	(9)
429	(c) The tax collector shall annually report to the
430	department the amount of deferred tax liability collected
431	pursuant to this section.
432	Section 11. Subsection (2) of section 194.032, Florida
433	Statutes, is amended to read:
434	194.032 Hearing purposes; timetable
435	(2) <u>(a)</u> The clerk of the governing body of the county shall
436	prepare a schedule of appearances before the board based on
437	petitions timely filed with him or her. The clerk shall notify
438	each petitioner of the scheduled time of his or her appearance
439	<u>at least</u> no less than 25 calendar days <u>before</u> prior to the day
440	of <u>the</u> scheduled appearance. <u>The notice shall indicate</u>
441	whether the petition has been scheduled to be heard at a
442	particular time or during a block of time. If the petition has
443	been scheduled to be heard within a block of time, the beginning
444	and ending of that block of time shall be indicated on the
445	notice; however, as provided in paragraph (b), a petitioner may
446	not be required to wait for more than a reasonable time, not to
447	exceed 2 hours, after the beginning of the block of time. If the
448	petitioner checked the appropriate box on the petition form to

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449 request a copy of the property record card containing relevant 450 information used in computing the current assessment, the clerk 451 shall provide the copy of the card along with the notice. Upon 452 receipt of the notice this notification, the petitioner may 453 shall have the right to reschedule the hearing a single time by 454 submitting to the clerk of the governing body of the county a 455 written request to reschedule, at least no less than 5 calendar 456 days before the day of the originally scheduled hearing.

457 (b) A copy of the property record card containing relevant information used in computing the taxpayer's current assessment 458 shall be included with such notice, if said card was requested 459 460 by the taxpayer. Such request shall be made by checking an appropriate box on the petition form. No petitioner may not 461 462 shall be required to wait for more than a reasonable time, not 463 to exceed 2 4 hours, after $\frac{from}{from}$ the scheduled time for the 464 hearing to commence.; and, If the hearing is not commenced 465 within his or her petition is not heard in that time, the petitioner may inform, at his or her option, report to the 466 467 chairperson of the meeting that he or she intends to leave.+ 468 and, If the petitioner leaves he or she is not heard 469 immediately, the clerk shall reschedule the hearing, and the rescheduling is not considered to be a request to reschedule as 470 471 provided in paragraph (a) petitioner's administrative remedies 472 will be deemed to be exhausted, and he or she may seek further 473 relief as he or she deems appropriate.

474 (c) Failure on three occasions with respect to any single
 475 tax year to convene at the scheduled time of meetings of the
 476 board is shall constitute grounds for removal from office by the
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477 Governor for neglect of duties.

478 Section 12. Subsection (2) of section 194.034, Florida479 Statutes, is amended to read:

480

194.034 Hearing procedures; rules.-

481 In each case, except if the when a complaint is (2) 482 withdrawn by the petitioner or if the complaint $_{\tau}$ is acknowledged 483 as correct by the property appraiser, or is denied pursuant to s. 194.014(1)(c), the value adjustment board shall render a 484 485 written decision. All such decisions shall be issued within 20 486 calendar days after of the last day the board is in session 487 under s. 194.032. The decision of the board must shall contain 488 findings of fact and conclusions of law and must shall include reasons for upholding or overturning the determination of the 489 490 property appraiser. If When a special magistrate has been 491 appointed, the recommendations of the special magistrate shall 492 be considered by the board. The clerk, upon issuance of a 493 decision the decisions, shall, on a form provided by the 494 Department of Revenue, notify by first-class mail each taxpayer 495 and, the property appraiser, and the department of the decision 496 of the board. If requested by the Department of Revenue, the 497 clerk shall provide to the department a copy of the decision or 498 information relating to the tax impact of the findings and 499 results of the board as described in s. 194.037 in the manner 500 and form requested. 501 Section 13. Effective July 1, 2012, paragraph (f) of subsection (2) and subsection (3) of section 195.096, Florida 502 503 Statutes, are amended to read: 504 195.096 Review of assessment rolls.-

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505 (2)The department shall conduct, no less frequently than 506 once every 2 years, an in-depth review of the assessment rolls 507 of each county. The department need not individually study every 508 use-class of property set forth in s. 195.073, but shall at a 509 minimum study the level of assessment in relation to just value 510 of each classification specified in subsection (3). Such in-511 depth review may include proceedings of the value adjustment 512 board and the audit or review of procedures used by the counties 513 to appraise property.

Within 120 days after following the receipt of a 514 (f) 515 county assessment roll by the executive director of the 516 department pursuant to s. 193.1142(1), or within 10 days after 517 approval of the assessment roll, whichever is later, the 518 department shall complete the review for that county and publish the department's forward its findings. The findings must 519 520 include, including a statement of the confidence interval for 521 the median and such other measures as may be appropriate for 522 each classification or subclassification studied and for the 523 roll as a whole, employing a 95-percent level of confidence, and 524 related statistical and analytical details. The measures in the 525 findings must be based on:

526

1. A 95 percent level of confidence; or

2. Ratio study standards that are generally accepted by
 professional appraisal organizations in developing a
 statistically valid sampling plan if a 95 percent level of
 confidence is not attainable to the Senate and the House of
 Representatives committees with oversight responsibilities for
 taxation, and the appropriate property appraiser. Upon releasing
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533 its findings, the department shall notify the chairperson of the 534 appropriate county commission or the corresponding official 535 under a consolidated charter that the department's findings are 536 available upon request. The department shall, within 90 days 537 after receiving a written request from the chairperson of the 538 appropriate county commission or the corresponding official 539 under a consolidated charter, forward a copy of its findings, 540 including the confidence interval for the median and such other measures of each classification or subclassification studied and 541 for all the roll as a whole, and related statistical and 542 543 analytical details, to the requesting party.

(3) (a) Upon completion of review pursuant to paragraph 544 545 (2) (f), the department shall publish the results of reviews conducted under this section. The results must include all 546 statistical and analytical measures computed under this section 547 548 for the real property assessment roll as a whole, the personal 549 property assessment roll as a whole, and independently for the 550 following real property classes if whenever the classes 551 constituted 5 percent or more of the total assessed value of 552 real property in a county on the previous tax roll:

1. Residential property that consists of one primary biving unit, including, but not limited to, single-family residences, condominiums, cooperatives, and mobile homes.

556 2. Residential property that consists of two or more 557 primary living units.

3. Agricultural, high-water recharge, historic property
used for commercial or certain nonprofit purposes, and other
use-valued property.

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561 4. Vacant lots.

5. Nonagricultural acreage and other undeveloped parcels.

563

567

562

6. Improved commercial and industrial property.

Taxable institutional or governmental, utility, locally
assessed railroad, oil, gas and mineral land, subsurface rights,
and other real property.

568 If When one of the above classes constituted less than 5 percent 569 of the total assessed value of all real property in a county on 570 the previous assessment roll, the department may combine it with 571 one or more other classes of real property for purposes of 572 assessment ratio studies or use the weighted average of the 573 other classes for purposes of calculating the level of 574 assessment for all real property in a county. The department 575 shall also publish such results for any subclassifications of 576 the classes or assessment rolls it may have chosen to study.

(b) <u>If When</u> necessary for compliance with s. 1011.62, and for those counties not being studied in the current year, the department shall project value-weighted mean levels of assessment for each county. The department shall make its projection based upon the best information available, <u>using</u> <u>utilizing</u> professionally accepted methodology, and shall separately allocate changes in total assessed value to:

585 586

584

1. New construction, additions, and deletions.

2. Changes in the value of the dollar.

586 3. Changes in the market value of property other than
587 those attributable to changes in the value of the dollar.
588 4. Changes in the level of assessment.

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590 In lieu of the statistical and analytical measures published	
591 pursuant to paragraph (a), the department shall publish details	
592 concerning the computation of estimated assessment levels and	
593 the allocation of changes in assessed value for those counties	
594 not subject to an in-depth review.	
595 (c) Upon publication of data and findings as required by	
596 this subsection, the department shall notify the committees of	
597 the Senate and of the House of Representatives having oversight	
598 responsibility for taxation, the appropriate property appraiser,	_
599 and the county commission chair or corresponding official under	
600 <u>a consolidated charter.</u> Copies of the data and findings shall be	
601 provided upon request.	
602 Section 14. <u>Section 195.0985</u> , Florida Statutes, is	
603 repealed.	
604 Section 15. Section 195.099, Florida Statutes, is amended	
605 to read:	
606 195.099 Periodic review	
607 (1)(a) The department <u>may</u> shall periodically review the	
608 assessments of new, rebuilt, and expanded business reported	
609 according to s. 193.077(3), to ensure parity of level of	
610 assessment with other classifications of property.	
611 (b) This subsection shall expire on the date specified in	
612 s. 290.016 for the expiration of the Florida Enterprise Zone	
613 Act.	
614 (2) The department <u>may</u> shall review the assessments of new	
615 and expanded businesses granted an exemption pursuant to s.	
616 196.1995 to ensure parity of level of assessment with other	
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617 classifications of property. Section 16. Subsection (7) of section 196.031, Florida 618 619 Statutes, is amended to read: 620 196.031 Exemption of homesteads.-621 Unless the homestead property is totally exempt from (7)622 ad valorem taxation, the exemptions provided in paragraphs 623 (1) (a) and (b) shall be applied before and other homestead 624 exemptions which shall then be applied in the order that results 625 in the lowest taxable value. as follows: 626 (a) The exemption in paragraph (1) (a) shall apply to the 627 first \$25,000 of assessed value; 628 (b) The second \$25,000 of assessed value shall be taxable 629 unless other exemptions, as listed in paragraph (d), are 630 applicable in the order listed; 631 (c) The additional homestead exemption in paragraph 632 (1) (b), for levies other than school district levies, shall be 633 applied to the assessed value greater than \$50,000 before any 634 other exemptions are applied to that assessed value; and 635 (d) Other exemptions include and shall be applied in the following order: widows, widowers, blind persons, and disabled 636 637 persons, as provided in s. 196.202; disabled ex-servicemembers 638 and surviving spouses, as provided in s. 196.24, applicable to 639 all levies; the local option low-income senior exemption up to 640 \$50,000, applicable to county levies or municipal levies, as 641 provided in s. 196.075; and the veterans percentage discount, as 642 provided in s. 196.082. 643 Section 17. Subsection (5) is added to section 196.081, 644 Florida Statutes, to read:

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645	196.081 Exemption for certain permanently and totally
646	disabled veterans and for surviving spouses of veterans
647	(5) An applicant for the exemption under this section may
648	apply for the exemption before receiving the necessary
649	documentation from the United States Government or the United
650	States Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor. Upon
651	receipt of the documentation, the exemption shall be granted as
652	of the date of the original application, and the excess taxes
653	paid shall be refunded. Any refund of excess taxes paid shall be
654	limited to those paid during the 4-year period of limitation set
655	forth in s. 197.182(1)(e).
656	Section 18. Subsection (6) is added to section 196.082,
657	Florida Statutes, to read:
658	196.082 Discounts for disabled veterans
659	(6) An applicant for the discount under this section may
660	apply for the discount before receiving the necessary
661	documentation from the United States Department of Veterans
662	Affairs or its predecessor. Upon receipt of the documentation,
663	the discount shall be granted as of the date of the original
664	application, and the excess taxes paid shall be refunded. Any
665	refund of excess taxes paid shall be limited to those paid
666	during the 4-year period of limitation set forth in s.
667	<u>197.182(1)(e).</u>
668	Section 19. Subsection (4) is added to section 196.091,
669	Florida Statutes, to read:
670	196.091 Exemption for disabled veterans confined to
671	wheelchairs
672	(4) An applicant for the exemption under this section may
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673	apply for the exemption before receiving the necessary
674	documentation from the United States Government or the United
675	States Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor. Upon
676	receipt of the documentation, the exemption shall be granted as
677	of the date of the original application, and the excess taxes
678	paid shall be refunded. Any refund of excess taxes paid shall be
679	limited to those paid during the 4-year period of limitation set
680	forth in s. 197.182(1)(e).
681	Section 20. Subsection (8) is added to section 196.101,
682	Florida Statutes, to read:
683	196.101 Exemption for totally and permanently disabled
684	persons
685	(8) An applicant for the exemption under this section may
686	apply for the exemption before receiving the necessary
687	documentation from the United States Department of Veterans
688	Affairs or its predecessor. Upon receipt of the documentation,
689	the exemption shall be granted as of the date of the original
690	application, and the excess taxes paid shall be refunded. Any
691	refund of excess taxes paid shall be limited to those paid
692	during the 4-year period of limitation set forth in s.
693	<u>197.182(1)(e).</u>
694	Section 21. Subsection (1) of section 196.121, Florida
695	Statutes, is amended to read:
696	196.121 Homestead exemptions; forms
697	(1) The Department of Revenue shall provide, by electronic
698	means or other methods designated by the department, furnish to
699	the property appraiser of each county a sufficient number of
700	printed forms to be filed by taxpayers claiming to be entitled
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701 to a homestead said exemption and shall prescribe the content of 702 such forms by rule. 703 Section 22. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (1) of 704 section 196.199, Florida Statutes, to read: 705 196.199 Government property exemption.-Property owned and used by the following governmental 706 (1)707 units shall be exempt from taxation under the following 708 conditions: 709 (d) All property of municipalities of this state shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation when used as an essential 710 711 ancillary function of a facility constructed with financing 712 obtained in part by pledging proceeds from the tax authorized 713 under s. 212.0305(4) that is upon exempt or immune federal, 714 state, or county property. 715 Section 23. The exemption from ad valorem taxation created 716 by the addition of paragraph (d) to subsection (1) of s. 717 196.199, Florida Statutes, in section 22 of this act shall apply 718 retroactively to the 2012 tax roll. 719 Section 24. Section 196.202, Florida Statutes, is amended 720 to read: 721 196.202 Property of widows, widowers, blind persons, and persons totally and permanently disabled.-722 723 (1) Property to the value of \$500 of every widow, widower, 724 blind person, or totally and permanently disabled person who is 725 a bona fide resident of this state is shall be exempt from taxation. As used in this section, the term "totally and 726 permanently disabled person" means a person who is currently 727 728 certified by a physician licensed in this state, by the United Page 26 of 37

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729 States Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor, or by 730 the Social Security Administration to be totally and permanently 731 disabled.

732 (2) An applicant for the exemption under this section may 733 apply for the exemption before receiving the necessary 734 documentation from the United States Department of Veterans 735 Affairs or its predecessor, or the Social Security 736 Administration. Upon receipt of the documentation, the exemption 737 shall be granted as of the date of the original application, and the excess taxes paid shall be refunded. Any refund of excess 738 739 taxes paid shall be limited to those paid during the 4-year 740 period of limitation set forth in s. 197.182(1)(e).

741 Section 25. Section 196.24, Florida Statutes, is amended 742 to read:

743 196.24 Exemption for disabled ex-servicemember or
744 surviving spouse; evidence of disability.-

745 Any ex-servicemember, as defined in s. 196.012, who is (1) 746 a bona fide resident of the state, who was discharged under 747 honorable conditions, and who has been disabled to a degree of 748 10 percent or more by misfortune or while serving during a 749 period of wartime service as defined in s. $1.01(14)_{7}$ or by 750 misfortune, is entitled to the exemption from taxation provided 751 for in s. 3(b), Art. VII of the State Constitution as provided 752 in this section. Property to the value of \$5,000 of such a person is exempt from taxation. The production by him or her of 753 a certificate of disability from the United States Government or 754 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its 755 756 predecessor before the property appraiser of the county wherein

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757 the ex-servicemember's property lies is prima facie evidence of 758 the fact that he or she is entitled to the exemption. The 759 unremarried surviving spouse of such a disabled ex-servicemember 760 who, on the date of the disabled ex-servicemember's death, had 761 been married to the disabled ex-servicemember for at least 5 762 years is also entitled to the exemption.

763 (2) An applicant for the exemption under this section may 764 apply for the exemption before receiving the necessary 765 documentation from the United States Government or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor. Upon 766 receipt of the documentation, the exemption shall be granted as 767 768 of the date of the original application, and the excess taxes 769 paid shall be refunded. Any refund of excess taxes paid shall be 770 limited to those paid during the 4-year period of limitation set 771 forth in s. 197.182(1)(e).

Section 26. Effective July 1, 2012, subsection (5) and paragraph (a) of subsection (10) of section 200.065, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

775

200.065 Method of fixing millage.-

776 (5) Beginning in the 2009-2010 fiscal year and In each 777 fiscal year thereafter:

(a) The maximum millage rate that a county, municipality,
special district dependent to a county or municipality,
municipal service taxing unit, or independent special district
may levy is a rolled-back rate based on the amount of taxes
which would have been levied in the prior year if the maximum
millage rate had been applied, adjusted for change in per capita
Florida personal income, unless a higher rate <u>was</u> is adopted, in

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785 which case the maximum is the adopted rate. The maximum millage 786 rate applicable to a county authorized to levy a county public 787 hospital surtax under s. 212.055 and which did so in fiscal year 788 2007 shall exclude the revenues required to be contributed to 789 the county public general hospital in the current fiscal year 790 for the purposes of making the maximum millage rate calculation, 791 but shall be added back to the maximum millage rate allowed 792 after the roll back has been applied, the total of which shall 793 be considered the maximum millage rate for such a county for purposes of this subsection. The revenue required to be 794 795 contributed to the county public general hospital for the 796 upcoming fiscal year shall be calculated as 11.873 percent times 797 the millage rate levied for countywide purposes in fiscal year 798 2007 times 95 percent of the preliminary tax roll for the 799 upcoming fiscal year. A higher rate may be adopted only under 800 the following conditions:

1. A rate of not more than 110 percent of the rolled-back rate based on the previous year's maximum millage rate, adjusted for change in per capita Florida personal income, may be adopted if approved by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the governing body of the county, municipality, or independent district; or

2. A rate in excess of 110 percent may be adopted if approved by a unanimous vote of the membership of the governing body of the county, municipality, or independent district or by a three-fourths vote of the membership of the governing body if the governing body has nine or more members, or if the rate is approved by a referendum.

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813 The millage rate of a county or municipality, (b) 814 municipal service taxing unit of that county, and any special 815 district dependent to that county or municipality may exceed the 816 maximum millage rate calculated pursuant to this subsection if 817 the total county ad valorem taxes levied or total municipal ad 818 valorem taxes levied do not exceed the maximum total county ad 819 valorem taxes levied or maximum total municipal ad valorem taxes 820 levied respectively. Voted millage and taxes levied by a 821 municipality or independent special district that has levied ad valorem taxes for less than 5 years are not subject to this 822 823 limitation. The millage rate of a county authorized to levy a 824 county public hospital surtax under s. 212.055 may exceed the 825 maximum millage rate calculated pursuant to this subsection to 826 the extent necessary to account for the revenues required to be 827 contributed to the county public hospital. Total taxes levied 828 may exceed the maximum calculated pursuant to subsection (6) as 829 a result of an increase in taxable value above that certified in 830 subsection (1) if such increase is less than the percentage 831 amounts contained in subsection (6) or if the administrative 832 adjustment cannot be made because the value adjustment board is 833 still in session at the time the tax roll is extended; 834 otherwise, millage rates subject to this subsection, s. 200.185, 835 or s. 200.186 may be reduced so that total taxes levied do not 836 exceed the maximum.

837

Any unit of government operating under a home rule charter adopted pursuant to ss. 10, 11, and 24, Art. VIII of the State Constitution of 1885, as preserved by s. 6(e), Art. VIII of the

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841 State Constitution of 1968, which is granted the authority in 842 the State Constitution to exercise all the powers conferred now 843 or hereafter by general law upon municipalities and which 844 exercises such powers in the unincorporated area shall be 845 recognized as a municipality under this subsection. For a 846 downtown development authority established before the effective 847 date of the 1968 State Constitution which has a millage that 848 must be approved by a municipality, the governing body of that 849 municipality shall be considered the governing body of the downtown development authority for purposes of this subsection. 850

In addition to the notice required in subsection 851 (10) (a) 852 (3), a district school board shall publish a second notice of 853 intent to levy additional taxes under s. 1011.71(2) or (3). The 854 Such notice shall specify the projects or number of school buses 855 anticipated to be funded by the such additional taxes and shall 856 be published in the size, within the time periods, adjacent to, 857 and in substantial conformity with the advertisement required 858 under subsection (3). The projects shall be listed in priority 859 within each category as follows: construction and remodeling; 860 maintenance, renovation, and repair; motor vehicle purchases; 861 new and replacement equipment; payments for educational 862 facilities and sites due under a lease-purchase agreement; 863 payments for renting and leasing educational facilities and 864 sites; payments of loans approved pursuant to ss. 1011.14 and 1011.15; payment of costs of compliance with environmental 865 statutes and regulations; payment of premiums for property and 866 casualty insurance necessary to insure the educational and 867 ancillary plants of the school district; payment of costs of 868

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869 leasing relocatable educational facilities; and payments to 870 private entities to offset the cost of school buses pursuant to 871 s. 1011.71(2)(i). The additional notice shall be in the 872 following form, except that if the district school board is 873 proposing to levy the same millage under s. 1011.71(2) or (3) 874 which it levied in the prior year, the words "continue to" shall 875 be inserted before the word "impose" in the first sentence, and 876 except that the second sentence of the second paragraph shall be 877 deleted if the district is advertising pursuant to paragraph 878 (3)(e): 879 880 NOTICE OF TAX FOR SCHOOL 881 CAPITAL OUTLAY 882 883 The ... (name of school district) ... will soon consider a 884 measure to impose a ... (number) ... mill property tax for the 885 capital outlay projects listed herein. 886 This tax is in addition to the school board's proposed tax 887 of ... (number) ... mills for operating expenses and is proposed 888 solely at the discretion of the school board. THE PROPOSED 889 COMBINED SCHOOL BOARD TAX INCREASE FOR BOTH OPERATING EXPENSES 890 AND CAPITAL OUTLAY IS SHOWN IN THE ADJACENT NOTICE. 891 The capital outlay tax will generate approximately 892 \$... (amount) ..., to be used for the following projects: 893 894 ... (list of capital outlay projects) ...

896 All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing to Page 32 of 37

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897 be held on ... (date and time) ... at ... (meeting place)

A DECISION on the proposed CAPITAL OUTLAY TAXES will be made at this hearing.

900 Section 27. Subsection (11) is added to section 200.069, 901 Florida Statutes, to read:

902 200.069 Notice of proposed property taxes and non-ad 903 valorem assessments.-Pursuant to s. 200.065(2)(b), the property 904 appraiser, in the name of the taxing authorities and local 905 governing boards levying non-ad valorem assessments within his 906 or her jurisdiction and at the expense of the county, shall 907 prepare and deliver by first-class mail to each taxpayer to be 908 listed on the current year's assessment roll a notice of 909 proposed property taxes, which notice shall contain the elements 910 and use the format provided in the following form. Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 195.022, no county officer 911 912 shall use a form other than that provided herein. The Department 913 of Revenue may adjust the spacing and placement on the form of 914 the elements listed in this section as it considers necessary 915 based on changes in conditions necessitated by various taxing 916 authorities. If the elements are in the order listed, the 917 placement of the listed columns may be varied at the discretion 918 and expense of the property appraiser, and the property 919 appraiser may use printing technology and devices to complete 920 the form, the spacing, and the placement of the information in the columns. A county officer may use a form other than that 921 922 provided by the department for purposes of this part, but only if his or her office pays the related expenses and he or she 923 924 obtains prior written permission from the executive director of

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925 the department; however, a county officer may not use a form the 926 substantive content of which is at variance with the form 927 prescribed by the department. The county officer may continue to 928 use such an approved form until the law that specifies the form 929 is amended or repealed or until the officer receives written 930 disapproval from the executive director.

931 (11) At the request of the governing body of the county, 932 the property appraiser shall mail an additional form to each 933 taxpayer within his or her jurisdiction along with the notice of 934 proposed taxes. Any costs related to this form shall be borne by 935 the county. The form may include information regarding the 936 proposed budget for the county, inform taxpayers of the portion 937 of the proposed nonvoted county millage rate that is 938 attributable to each constitutional officer and the county 939 commission, and include: 940 (a) The dollar value of proposed nonvoted property tax 941 funding for each constitutional officer and the county 942 commission. 943 The percent of the total nonvoted property tax (b) 944 revenues designated for each constitutional officer and the 945 county commission in the proposed budget. 946 The proposed nonvoted millage rate for each (C) 947 constitutional officer and the county commission, calculated by 948 multiplying the percent of the total nonvoted property tax 949 revenues designated for each entity by the county's proposed

950 nonvoted millage rate.

951 Section 28. Effective July 1, 2012, subsection (2) of 952 section 218.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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953 218.12 Appropriations to offset reductions in ad valorem 954 tax revenue in fiscally constrained counties.-

955 On or before November 15 of each year, beginning in (2) 956 2008_{7} each fiscally constrained county shall apply to the 957 Department of Revenue to participate in the distribution of the 958 appropriation and provide documentation supporting the county's 959 estimated reduction in ad valorem tax revenue in the form and 960 manner prescribed by the Department of Revenue. The documentation must include an estimate of the reduction in 961 taxable value directly attributable to revisions of Art. VII of 962 the State Constitution for all county taxing jurisdictions 963 964 within the county and shall be prepared by the property 965 appraiser in each fiscally constrained county. The documentation 966 must also include the county millage rates applicable in all 967 such jurisdictions for both the current year and the prior year; 968 rolled-back rates, determined as provided in s. 200.065, for 969 each county taxing jurisdiction; and maximum millage rates that 970 could have been levied by majority vote pursuant to s. 971 200.065(5) s. 200.185. For purposes of this section, each 972 fiscally constrained county's reduction in ad valorem tax 973 revenue shall be calculated as 95 percent of the estimated 974 reduction in taxable value times the lesser of the 2007 975 applicable millage rate or the applicable millage rate for each county taxing jurisdiction in the current prior year. If a 976 977 fiscally constrained county fails to apply for the distribution, 978 its share shall revert to the fund from which the appropriation 979 was made. 980 Section 29. Effective July 1, 2012, subsection (2) of

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981 section 218.125, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

982 218.125 Offset for tax loss associated with certain 983 constitutional amendments affecting fiscally constrained 984 counties.-

985 (2) On or before November 15 of each year, beginning in 986 2010, each fiscally constrained county shall apply to the 987 Department of Revenue to participate in the distribution of the 988 appropriation and provide documentation supporting the county's 989 estimated reduction in ad valorem tax revenue in the form and 990 manner prescribed by the Department of Revenue. The documentation must include an estimate of the reduction in 991 992 taxable value directly attributable to revisions of Art. VII of 993 the State Constitution for all county taxing jurisdictions 994 within the county and shall be prepared by the property 995 appraiser in each fiscally constrained county. The documentation 996 must also include the county millage rates applicable in all 997 such jurisdictions for the current year and the prior year, 998 rolled-back rates determined as provided in s. 200.065 for each 999 county taxing jurisdiction, and maximum millage rates that could 1000 have been levied by majority vote pursuant to s. 200.065(5) 200.185. For purposes of this section, each fiscally constrained 1001 1002 county's reduction in ad valorem tax revenue shall be calculated 1003 as 95 percent of the estimated reduction in taxable value multiplied by the lesser of the 2010 applicable millage rate or 1004 1005 the applicable millage rate for each county taxing jurisdiction 1006 in the current prior year. If a fiscally constrained county fails to apply for the distribution, its share shall revert to 1007 1008 the fund from which the appropriation was made.

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1009Section 30. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this1010act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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