By Senator Brandes

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A bill to be entitled An act relating to insurance; amending s. 215.555, F.S.; deleting the future repeal of an exemption of medical malpractice insurance premiums from emergency assessments imposed to fund certain obligations, costs, and expenses of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund and the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund Finance Corporation; amending s. 316.646, F.S.; authorizing a uniform motor vehicle proof-of-insurance card to be in an electronic format; authorizing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to adopt rules; amending s. 320.02, F.S.; authorizing insurers to furnish uniform proof-of-purchase cards in an electronic format for use by insureds to prove the purchase of required insurance coverage when registering a motor vehicle; amending s. 624.413, F.S.; revising a specified time period applicable to a certified examination that must be filed by a foreign or alien insurer applying for a certificate of authority; amending s. 626.321, F.S.; providing that a limited license to offer motor vehicle rental insurance issued to a business that rents or leases motor vehicles encompasses the employees of such business; amending s. 626.601, F.S.; revising terminology relating to investigations conducted by the Department of Financial Services and the Office of Insurance Regulation with respect to individuals and entities involved in the insurance industry; amending s. 626.9914, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes

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made by the act; amending s. 626.99175, F.S.; deleting provisions requiring registration of life expectancy providers; deleting procedures, qualifying criteria, and violations with respect thereto; amending ss. 626.9919, 626.992, 626.9925, and 626.99278, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 627.062, F.S.; requiring the Office of Insurance Regulation to use certain models or averages of certain models to estimate hurricane losses when determining whether the rates in a rate filing are excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory; amending s. 627.0628, F.S.; increasing the length of time during which an insurer must adhere to certain findings made by the Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology with respect to certain methods, principles, standards, models, or output ranges used in a rate finding; providing that the requirement to adhere to such findings does not limit an insurer from averaging together the results of certain models or output ranges under specified circumstances; amending s. 627.072, F.S.; authorizing retrospective rating plans relating to workers' compensation and employer's liability insurance to allow negotiations between certain employers and insurers with respect to rating factors used to calculate premiums; amending s. 627.281, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; repealing s. 627.3519, F.S., relating to an annual report from the Financial Services Commission to the Legislature of aggregate

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net probable maximum losses, financing options, and potential assessments of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund and Citizens Property Insurance Corporation; amending s. 627.4133, F.S.; deleting provisions that require extended periods of prior notice with respect to the nonrenewal, cancellation, or termination of certain insurance policies; prohibiting the cancellation of certain policies that have been in effect for a specified amount of time except under certain circumstances; amending s. 627.4137, F.S.; adding licensed company adjusters to the list of persons who may respond to a claimant's written request for information relating to liability insurance coverage; amending s. 627.421, F.S.; authorizing the electronic delivery of certain insurance documents; amending s. 627.43141, F.S.; authorizing a notice of change in policy terms to be sent in a separate mailing to an insured under certain circumstances; requiring an insurer to provide such notice to insured's insurance agent; amending s. 627.701, F.S.; revising requirements to issue or renew personal lines residential property insurance after a certain date; amending s. 627.7015, F.S.; revising the rulemaking authority of the department with respect to qualifications and specified types of penalties covered under the property insurance mediation program; creating s. 627.70151, F.S.; providing criteria for an insurer or policyholder to challenge the impartiality of a loss appraisal umpire for

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purposes of disqualifying such umpire; amending s. 627.706, F.S.; authorizing the inclusion of deductibles applicable to sinkhole losses in property insurance policies covering nonresidential buildings; revising the definition of the term "neutral evaluator"; amending s. 627.7074, F.S.; requiring the department to adopt rules relating to certification of neutral evaluators; amending s. 627.736, F.S.; revising the time period for applicability of certain Medicare fee schedules or payment limitations; amending s. 627.745, F.S.; revising qualifications for approval as a mediator by the department; providing grounds for the department to deny an application or revoke approval of a mediator or neutral evaluator; authorizing the department to adopt rules; amending s. 627.952, F.S.; deleting a fidelity bond requirement applicable to certain nonresident general lines agents who are licensed as surplus lines agents in another state; amending ss. 627.971 and 627.972, F.S.; including licensed mutual insurers in financial guaranty insurance corporations; amending s. 628.901, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "qualifying reinsurer parent company" to delete obsolete language; amending s. 628.909, F.S.; providing for applicability of certain provisions of the Insurance Code to specified captive insurers; amending s. 634.406, F.S.; revising criteria authorizing certain premiums of certain service warranty associations to exceed their specified net assets limitations; revising

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requirements relating to contractual liability
policies that insure warranty associations; 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. Paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section 215.555, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 215.555 Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund.-
 - (6) REVENUE BONDS.—
 - (b) Emergency assessments.-
- 1. If the board determines that the amount of revenue produced under subsection (5) is insufficient to fund the obligations, costs, and expenses of the fund and the corporation, including repayment of revenue bonds and that portion of the debt service coverage not met by reimbursement premiums, the board shall direct the Office of Insurance Regulation to levy, by order, an emergency assessment on direct premiums for all property and casualty lines of business in this state, including property and casualty business of surplus lines insurers regulated under part VIII of chapter 626, but not including any workers' compensation premiums or medical malpractice premiums. As used in this subsection, the term "property and casualty business" includes all lines of business identified on Form 2, Exhibit of Premiums and Losses, in the annual statement required of authorized insurers by s. 624.424 and any rule adopted under this section, except for those lines identified as accident and health insurance and except for policies written under the National Flood Insurance Program. The

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assessment shall be specified as a percentage of direct written premium and is subject to annual adjustments by the board in order to meet debt obligations. The same percentage shall apply to all policies in lines of business subject to the assessment issued or renewed during the 12-month period beginning on the effective date of the assessment.

- 2. A premium is not subject to an annual assessment under this paragraph in excess of 6 percent of premium with respect to obligations arising out of losses attributable to any one contract year, and a premium is not subject to an aggregate annual assessment under this paragraph in excess of 10 percent of premium. An annual assessment under this paragraph shall continue as long as the revenue bonds issued with respect to which the assessment was imposed are outstanding, including any bonds the proceeds of which were used to refund the revenue bonds, unless adequate provision has been made for the payment of the bonds under the documents authorizing issuance of the bonds.
- 3. Emergency assessments shall be collected from policyholders. Emergency assessments shall be remitted by insurers as a percentage of direct written premium for the preceding calendar quarter as specified in the order from the Office of Insurance Regulation. The office shall verify the accurate and timely collection and remittance of emergency assessments and shall report the information to the board in a form and at a time specified by the board. Each insurer collecting assessments shall provide the information with respect to premiums and collections as may be required by the office to enable the office to monitor and verify compliance

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- 4. With respect to assessments of surplus lines premiums, each surplus lines agent shall collect the assessment at the same time as the agent collects the surplus lines tax required by s. 626.932, and the surplus lines agent shall remit the assessment to the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office created by s. 626.921 at the same time as the agent remits the surplus lines tax to the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office. The emergency assessment on each insured procuring coverage and filing under s. 626.938 shall be remitted by the insured to the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office at the time the insured pays the surplus lines tax to the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office. The Florida Surplus Lines Service Office shall remit the collected assessments to the fund or corporation as provided in the order levied by the Office of Insurance Regulation. The Florida Surplus Lines Service Office shall verify the proper application of such emergency assessments and shall assist the board in ensuring the accurate and timely collection and remittance of assessments as required by the board. The Florida Surplus Lines Service Office shall annually calculate the aggregate written premium on property and casualty business, other than workers' compensation and medical malpractice, procured through surplus lines agents and insureds procuring coverage and filing under s. 626.938 and shall report the information to the board in a form and at a time specified by the board.
- 5. Any assessment authority not used for a particular contract year may be used for a subsequent contract year. If, for a subsequent contract year, the board determines that the

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amount of revenue produced under subsection (5) is insufficient to fund the obligations, costs, and expenses of the fund and the corporation, including repayment of revenue bonds and that portion of the debt service coverage not met by reimbursement premiums, the board shall direct the Office of Insurance Regulation to levy an emergency assessment up to an amount not exceeding the amount of unused assessment authority from a previous contract year or years, plus an additional 4 percent provided that the assessments in the aggregate do not exceed the limits specified in subparagraph 2.

- 6. The assessments otherwise payable to the corporation under this paragraph shall be paid to the fund unless and until the Office of Insurance Regulation and the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office have received from the corporation and the fund a notice, which shall be conclusive and upon which they may rely without further inquiry, that the corporation has issued bonds and the fund has no agreements in effect with local governments under paragraph (c). On or after the date of the notice and until the date the corporation has no bonds outstanding, the fund shall have no right, title, or interest in or to the assessments, except as provided in the fund's agreement with the corporation.
- 7. Emergency assessments are not premium and are not subject to the premium tax, to the surplus lines tax, to any fees, or to any commissions. An insurer is liable for all assessments that it collects and must treat the failure of an insured to pay an assessment as a failure to pay the premium. An insurer is not liable for uncollectible assessments.
 - 8. When an insurer is required to return an unearned

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premium, it shall also return any collected assessment attributable to the unearned premium. A credit adjustment to the collected assessment may be made by the insurer with regard to future remittances that are payable to the fund or corporation, but the insurer is not entitled to a refund.

- 9. When a surplus lines insured or an insured who has procured coverage and filed under s. 626.938 is entitled to the return of an unearned premium, the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office shall provide a credit or refund to the agent or such insured for the collected assessment attributable to the unearned premium before prior to remitting the emergency assessment collected to the fund or corporation.
- 10. The exemption of medical malpractice insurance premiums from emergency assessments under this paragraph is repealed May 31, 2013, and medical malpractice insurance premiums shall be subject to emergency assessments attributable to loss events occurring in the contract years commencing on June 1, 2013.

Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 316.646, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

- 316.646 Security required; proof of security and display thereof; dismissal of cases.—
- (1) Any person required by s. 324.022 to maintain property damage liability security, required by s. 324.023 to maintain liability security for bodily injury or death, or required by s. 627.733 to maintain personal injury protection security on a motor vehicle shall have in his or her immediate possession at all times while operating such motor vehicle proper proof of maintenance of the required security. Such proof shall be a

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uniform proof-of-insurance card, in paper or electronic format, in a form prescribed by the department, a valid insurance policy, an insurance policy binder, a certificate of insurance, or such other proof as may be prescribed by the department.

(5) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 320.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

320.02 Registration required; application for registration; forms.—

(5) (a) Proof that personal injury protection benefits have been purchased when required under s. 627.733, that property damage liability coverage has been purchased as required under s. 324.022, that bodily injury or death coverage has been purchased if required under s. 324.023, and that combined bodily liability insurance and property damage liability insurance have been purchased when required under s. 627.7415 shall be provided in the manner prescribed by law by the applicant at the time of application for registration of any motor vehicle that is subject to such requirements. The issuing agent shall refuse to issue registration if such proof of purchase is not provided. Insurers shall furnish uniform proof-of-purchase cards, in paper or electronic format, in a form prescribed by the department and shall include the name of the insured's insurance company, the coverage identification number, and the make, year, and vehicle identification number of the vehicle insured. The card shall contain a statement notifying the applicant of the penalty specified in s. 316.646(4). The card or insurance policy, insurance policy binder, or certificate of insurance or a

22-00787A-13 20131046 291 photocopy of any of these; an affidavit containing the name of 292 the insured's insurance company, the insured's policy number, 293 and the make and year of the vehicle insured; or such other 294 proof as may be prescribed by the department shall constitute 295 sufficient proof of purchase. If an affidavit is provided as 296 proof, it shall be in substantially the following form: 297 298 Under penalty of perjury, I ... (Name of insured) ... do hereby 299 certify that I have ... (Personal Injury Protection, Property 300 Damage Liability, and, when required, Bodily Injury Liability)... Insurance currently in effect with ... (Name of 301 302 insurance company)... under ... (policy number)... covering 303 ... (make, year, and vehicle identification number of 304 vehicle) (Signature of Insured) ... 305 306 Such affidavit shall include the following warning: 307 308 WARNING: GIVING FALSE INFORMATION IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A VEHICLE 309 REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE UNDER FLORIDA 310 LAW. ANYONE GIVING FALSE INFORMATION ON THIS AFFIDAVIT IS SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION. 311 312 313 When an application is made through a licensed motor vehicle dealer as required in s. 319.23, the original or a photostatic 314 315 copy of such card, insurance policy, insurance policy binder, or 316 certificate of insurance or the original affidavit from the 317 insured shall be forwarded by the dealer to the tax collector of 318 the county or the Department of Highway Safety and Motor 319 Vehicles for processing. By executing the aforesaid affidavit,

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no licensed motor vehicle dealer will be liable in damages for any inadequacy, insufficiency, or falsification of any statement contained therein. A card shall also indicate the existence of any bodily injury liability insurance voluntarily purchased.

Section 4. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section 624.413, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

624.413 Application for certificate of authority.-

- (1) To apply for a certificate of authority, an insurer shall file its application therefor with the office, upon a form adopted by the commission and furnished by the office, showing its name; location of its home office and, if an alien insurer, its principal office in the United States; kinds of insurance to be transacted; state or country of domicile; and such additional information as the commission reasonably requires, together with the following documents:
- (f) If a foreign or alien insurer, a copy of the report of the most recent examination of the insurer certified by the public official having supervision of insurance in its state of domicile or of entry into the United States. The end of the most recent year covered by the examination must be within the <u>5-year</u> 3-year period preceding the date of application. In lieu of the certified examination report, the office may accept an audited certified public accountant's report prepared on a basis consistent with the insurance laws of the insurer's state of domicile, certified by the public official having supervision of insurance in its state of domicile or of entry into the United States.

Section 5. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 626.321, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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626.321 Limited licenses.-

- (1) The department shall issue to a qualified applicant a license as agent authorized to transact a limited class of business in any of the following categories of limited lines insurance:
 - (d) Motor vehicle rental insurance.-
- 1. License covering only insurance of the risks set forth in this paragraph when offered, sold, or solicited with and incidental to the rental or lease of a motor vehicle and which applies only to the motor vehicle that is the subject of the lease or rental agreement and the occupants of the motor vehicle:
- a. Excess motor vehicle liability insurance providing coverage in excess of the standard liability limits provided by the lessor in the lessor's lease to a person renting or leasing a motor vehicle from the licensee's employer for liability arising in connection with the negligent operation of the leased or rented motor vehicle.
- b. Insurance covering the liability of the lessee to the lessor for damage to the leased or rented motor vehicle.
- c. Insurance covering the loss of or damage to baggage, personal effects, or travel documents of a person renting or leasing a motor vehicle.
- d. Insurance covering accidental personal injury or death of the lessee and any passenger who is riding or driving with the covered lessee in the leased or rented motor vehicle.
- 2. Insurance under a motor vehicle rental insurance license may be issued only if the lease or rental agreement is for no more than 60 days, the lessee is not provided coverage for more

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than 60 consecutive days per lease period, and the lessee is given written notice that his or her personal insurance policy providing coverage on an owned motor vehicle may provide coverage of such risks and that the purchase of the insurance is not required in connection with the lease or rental of a motor vehicle. If the lease is extended beyond 60 days, the coverage may be extended one time only for a period not to exceed an additional 60 days. Insurance may be provided to the lessee as an additional insured on a policy issued to the licensee's employer.

- 3. The license may be issued only to the full-time salaried employee of a licensed general lines agent or to a business entity that offers motor vehicles for rent or lease if insurance sales activities authorized by the license are in connection with and incidental to the rental or lease of a motor vehicle.
- a. A license issued to a business entity that offers motor vehicles for rent or lease encompasses each office, branch office, employee, or place of business making use of the entity's business name in order to offer, solicit, and sell insurance pursuant to this paragraph.
- b. The application for licensure must list the name, address, and phone number for each office, branch office, or place of business that is to be covered by the license. The licensee shall notify the department of the name, address, and phone number of any new location that is to be covered by the license before the new office, branch office, or place of business engages in the sale of insurance pursuant to this paragraph. The licensee must notify the department within 30 days after closing or terminating an office, branch office, or

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place of business. Upon receipt of the notice, the department shall delete the office, branch office, or place of business from the license.

c. A licensed and appointed entity is directly responsible and accountable for all acts of the licensee's employees.

Section 6. Section 626.601, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.601 Improper conduct; inquiry; fingerprinting.-

- (1) The department or office may, upon its own motion or upon a written complaint signed by any interested person and filed with the department or office, inquire into any alleged improper conduct of any licensed, approved, or certified insurance agency, agent, adjuster, service representative, managing general agent, customer representative, title insurance agent, title insurance agency, mediator, neutral evaluator, continuing education course provider, instructor, school official, or monitor group under this code. The department or office may thereafter initiate an investigation of any such individual or entity licensee if it has reasonable cause to believe that the individual or entity licensee has violated any provision of the insurance code. During the course of its investigation, the department or office shall contact the individual or entity licensee being investigated unless it determines that contacting such individual or entity person could jeopardize the successful completion of the investigation or cause injury to the public.
- (2) In the investigation by the department or office of the alleged misconduct, the <u>individual or entity licensee</u> shall, whenever so required by the department or office, cause <u>the</u>

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<u>individual's or entity's</u> his or her books and records to be open for inspection for the purpose of such inquiries.

- (3) The complaints against any <u>individual or entity</u>

 licensee may be informally alleged and need not be in any such language as is necessary to charge a crime on an indictment or information.
- (4) The expense for any hearings or investigations under this law, as well as the fees and mileage of witnesses, may be paid out of the appropriate fund.
- (5) If the department or office, after investigation, has reason to believe that an individual or entity a licensee may have been found guilty of or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or a crime related to the business of insurance in this or any other state or jurisdiction, the department or office may require the individual licensee to file with the department or office a complete set of his or her fingerprints, which shall be accompanied by the fingerprint processing fee set forth in s. 624.501. The fingerprints shall be taken by an authorized law enforcement agency or other department-approved entity.
- (6) The complaint and any information obtained pursuant to the investigation by the department or office are confidential and are exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07, unless the department or office files a formal administrative complaint, emergency order, or consent order against the individual or entity licensee. Nothing in This subsection does not shall be construed to prevent the department or office from disclosing the complaint or such information as it deems necessary to conduct the investigation, to update the complainant as to the

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status and outcome of the complaint, or to share such information with any law enforcement agency.

Section 7. Paragraphs (i), (j), and (k) of subsection (1) of section 626.9914, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

626.9914 Suspension, revocation, denial, or nonrenewal of viatical settlement provider license; grounds; administrative fine.—

- (1) The office shall suspend, revoke, deny, or refuse to renew the license of any viatical settlement provider if the office finds that the licensee:
- (i) Employs any person who materially influences the licensee's conduct and who fails to meet the requirements of this act; or
- (j) No longer meets the requirements for initial licensure: $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$
- (k) Obtains or utilizes life expectancies from life expectancy providers who are not registered with the office pursuant to this act.

Section 8. Section 626.99175, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 626.99175 Life expectancy providers; registration required; denial, suspension, revocation.
- (1) After July 1, 2006, a person may not perform the functions of a life expectancy provider without first having registered as a life expectancy provider, except as provided in subsection (6).
- (2) Application for registration as a life expectancy provider must be made to the office by the applicant on a form prescribed by the office, under oath and signed by the

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494 applicant. The application must be accompanied by a fee of \$500.

- (3) A completed application shall be evidenced on a form and in a manner prescribed by the office and shall require the registered life expectancy provider to update such information and renew such registration as required by the office.
- (4) In the application, the applicant must provide all of the following:
- (a) The full name, age, residence address, and business address, and all occupations engaged in by the applicant during the 5 years preceding the date of the application.
- (b) A copy of the applicant's basic organizational documents, if any, including the articles of incorporation, articles of association, partnership agreement, trust agreement, or other similar documents, together with all amendments to such documents.
- (c) Copies of all bylaws, rules, regulations, or similar documents regulating the conduct of the applicant's internal affairs.
- (d) A list showing the name, business and residence addresses, and official position of each individual who is responsible for conduct of the applicant's affairs, including, but not limited to, any member of the board of directors, board of trustees, executive committee, or other governing board or committee and any other person or entity owning or having the right to acquire 10 percent or more of the voting securities of the applicant, and any person performing life expectancies by the applicant.
- (e) A sworn biographical statement on forms supplied by the office with respect to each individual identified under

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investment.

22-00787A-13 20131046 523 paragraph (d), including whether such individual has been 524 associated with any other life expectancy provider or has 525 performed any services for a person in the business of viatical 526 settlements. 527 (f) A sworn statement of any criminal and civil actions pending or final against the registrant or any individual 528 529 identified under paragraph (d). 530 (q) A general description of the following policies and 531 procedures covering all life expectancy determination criteria 532 and protocols: 533 1. The plan or plans of policies and procedures used to 534 determine life expectancies. 535 2. A description of the training, including continuing training, of the individuals who determine life expectancies. 536 537 3. A description of how the life expectancy provider 538 updates its manuals, underwriting guides, mortality tables, and 539 other reference works and ensures that the provider bases its 540 determination of life expectancies on current data. 541 (h) A plan for assuring confidentiality of personal, medical, and financial information in accordance with federal 542 543 and state laws. 544 (i) An anti-fraud plan as required pursuant to s. 626.99278. 545 546 (j) A list of any agreements, contracts, or any other arrangement to provide life expectancies to a viatical 547 settlement provider, viatical settlement broker, or any other 548 549 person in the business of viatical settlements in connection

with any viatical settlement contract or viatical settlement

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(5) As part of the application, and on or before March 1 of every 3 years thereafter, a registered life expectancy provider shall file with the office an audit of all life expectancies by the life expectancy provider for the 5 calendar years immediately preceding such audit, which audit shall be conducted and certified by a nationally recognized actuarial firm and shall include only the following:

- (a) A mortality table.
- (b) The number, percentage, and an actual-to-expected ratio of life expectancies in the following categories: life expectancies of less than 24 months, life expectancies of 25 months to 48 months, life expectancies of 49 months to 72 months, life expectancies of 73 months to 108 months, life expectancies of 109 months to 144 months, life expectancies of 145 months to 180 months, and life expectancies of more than 180 months.
- (6) A No viatical settlement broker, viatical settlement provider, or insurance agent in the business of viatical settlements in this state $\underline{\text{may not}}$ shall directly or indirectly own or be an officer, director, or employee of a life expectancy provider.
- (7) Each registered life expectancy provider shall provide the office, as applicable, at least 30 days' advance notice of any change in the registrant's name, residence address, principal business address, or mailing address.
- (8) A person required to be registered by this section shall for 5 years retain copies of all life expectancies and supporting documents and medical records unless those personal medical records are subject to different retention or

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20131046 581 destruction requirements of a federal or state personal health 582 information law. 583 (9) An application for life expectancy provider registration shall be approved or denied by the commissioner 584 within 60 calendar days following receipt of a completed 585 586 application by the commissioner. The office shall notify the 587 applicant that the application is complete. A completed 588 application that is not approved or denied in 60 calendar days 589 following its receipt shall be deemed approved. (10) The office may, in its discretion, deny the 590 591 application for a life expectancy provider registration or suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew or continue the registration 592 of a life expectancy provider if the office finds: 593 594 (a) Any cause for which registration could have been refused had it then existed and been known to the office; 595 596 (b) A violation of any provision of this code or of any 597 other law applicable to the applicant or registrant; 598 (c) A violation of any lawful order or rule of the department, commission, or office; or 599 600 (d) That the applicant or registrant: 601 1. Has been found quilty of or pled quilty or nolo 602 contendere to a felony or a crime punishable by imprisonment of 603 1 year or more under the law of the United States of America or 604 of any state thereof or under the law of any other country; 2. Has knowingly and willfully aided, assisted, procured, 605 606 advised, or abetted any person in the violation of a provision 607 of the insurance code or any order or rule of the department, commission, or office; 608 609 3. Has knowingly and with intent to defraud, provided a

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life expectancy that does not conform to an applicant's or registrant's general practice;

4. Does not have a good business reputation or does not have experience, training, or education that qualifies the applicant or registrant to conduct the business of a life expectancy provider; or

5. Has demonstrated a lack of fitness or trustworthiness to engage in the business of issuing life expectancies.

(11) The office may, in lieu of or in addition to any suspension or revocation, assess an administrative fine not to exceed \$2,500 for each nonwillful violation or \$10,000 for each willful violation by a registered life expectancy provider. The office may also place a registered life expectancy provider on probation for a period not to exceed 2 years.

(12) It is a violation of this section for a person to represent, orally or in writing, that a life expectancy provider's registration pursuant to this act is in any way a recommendation or approval of the entity or means that the qualifications or abilities have in any way been approved of.

(13) The Financial Services Commission may, by rule, require that all or part of the statements or filings required under this section be submitted by electronic means and in a computer-readable format specified by the commission.

Section 9. Section 626.9919, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.9919 Notice of change of licensee or registrant's address or name.—Each viatical settlement provider licensee and registered life expectancy provider must provide the office at least 30 days' advance notice of any change in the licensee's or

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registrant's name, residence address, principal business address, or mailing address.

Section 10. Section 626.992, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.992 Use of licensed viatical settlement providers and viatical settlement brokers, and registered life expectancy providers required.

- (1) A licensed viatical settlement provider may not use any person to perform the functions of a viatical settlement broker as defined in this act unless such person holds a current, valid life agent license and has appointed himself or herself in conformance with this chapter.
- (2) A viatical settlement broker may not use any person to perform the functions of a viatical settlement provider as defined in this act unless such person holds a current, valid license as a viatical settlement provider.
- (3) After July 1, 2006, a person may not operate as a life expectancy provider unless such person is registered as a life expectancy provider pursuant to this act.
- (4) After July 1, 2006, a viatical settlement provider, viatical settlement broker, or any other person in the business of viatical settlements may not obtain life expectancies from a person who is not registered as a life expectancy provider pursuant to this act.

Section 11. Section 626.9925, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.9925 Rules.—The commission may adopt rules to administer this act, including rules establishing standards for evaluating advertising by licensees; rules providing for the

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collection of data, for disclosures to viators, <u>and</u> for the reporting of life expectancies, and for the registration of life expectancy providers; and rules defining terms used in this act and prescribing recordkeeping requirements relating to executed viatical settlement contracts.

Section 12. Section 626.99278, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.99278 Viatical provider anti-fraud plan.—Every licensed viatical settlement provider and registered life expectancy provider must adopt an anti-fraud plan and file it with the Division of Insurance Fraud of the department. Each anti-fraud plan shall include:

- (1) A description of the procedures for detecting and investigating possible fraudulent acts and procedures for resolving material inconsistencies between medical records and insurance applications.
- (2) A description of the procedures for the mandatory reporting of possible fraudulent insurance acts and prohibited practices set forth in s. 626.99275 to the Division of Insurance Fraud of the department.
- (3) A description of the plan for anti-fraud education and training of its underwriters or other personnel.
- (4) A written description or chart outlining the organizational arrangement of the anti-fraud personnel who are responsible for the investigation and reporting of possible fraudulent insurance acts and for the investigation of unresolved material inconsistencies between medical records and insurance applications.
 - (5) For viatical settlement providers, a description of the

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procedures used to perform initial and continuing review of the accuracy of life expectancies used in connection with a viatical settlement contract or viatical settlement investment.

Section 13. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 627.062, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.062 Rate standards.-

- (2) As to all such classes of insurance:
- (b) Upon receiving a rate filing, the office shall review the filing to determine if a rate is excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory. In making that determination, the office shall, in accordance with generally accepted and reasonable actuarial techniques, consider the following factors:
- 1. Past and prospective loss experience within and without this state.
 - 2. Past and prospective expenses.
- 3. The degree of competition among insurers for the risk insured.
- 4. Investment income reasonably expected by the insurer, consistent with the insurer's investment practices, from investable premiums anticipated in the filing, plus any other expected income from currently invested assets representing the amount expected on unearned premium reserves and loss reserves. The commission may adopt rules using reasonable techniques of actuarial science and economics to specify the manner in which insurers calculate investment income attributable to classes of insurance written in this state and the manner in which investment income is used to calculate insurance rates. Such manner must contemplate allowances for an underwriting profit factor and full consideration of investment income which produce

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a reasonable rate of return; however, investment income from invested surplus may not be considered.

- 5. The reasonableness of the judgment reflected in the filing.
- 6. Dividends, savings, or unabsorbed premium deposits allowed or returned to Florida policyholders, members, or subscribers.
 - 7. The adequacy of loss reserves.
- 8. The cost of reinsurance. The office may not disapprove a rate as excessive solely due to the insurer having obtained catastrophic reinsurance to cover the insurer's estimated 250-year probable maximum loss or any lower level of loss.
- 9. Trend factors, including trends in actual losses per insured unit for the insurer making the filing.
 - 10. Conflagration and catastrophe hazards, if applicable.
- 11. Projected hurricane losses, if applicable, which must be estimated using a model or method, or models or an average or weighted average of models, independently found to be acceptable or reliable by the Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology, and as further provided in s. 627.0628.
- 12. A reasonable margin for underwriting profit and contingencies.
 - 13. The cost of medical services, if applicable.
- 14. Other relevant factors that affect the frequency or severity of claims or expenses.
- Section 14. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section 627.0628, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 627.0628 Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology; public records exemption; public meetings

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755 exemption.

- (3) ADOPTION AND EFFECT OF STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES.-
- (d) With respect to a rate filing under s. 627.062, an insurer shall employ and may not modify or adjust actuarial methods, principles, standards, models, or output ranges found by the commission to be accurate or reliable in determining hurricane loss factors for use in a rate filing under s. 627.062. An insurer shall employ and may not modify or adjust models found by the commission to be accurate or reliable in determining probable maximum loss levels pursuant to paragraph (b) with respect to a rate filing under s. 627.062 made more than 120 60 days after the commission has made such findings. This paragraph does not prohibit an insurer from averaging together the model results or output ranges or using weighted averages for the purposes of a rate filing under s. 627.062.

Section 15. Present subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section 627.072, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (3), (4), and (5), respectively, and a new subsection (2) is added to that section, to read:

627.072 Making and use of rates.-

(2) A retrospective rating plan may contain a provision that allows negotiation between the employer and the insurer to determine the retrospective rating factors used to calculate the premium for employers having exposure in more than one state and an estimated annual countrywide standard premium of \$1 million or more for workers' compensation.

Section 16. Subsection (2) of section 627.281, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.281 Appeal from rating organization; workers'

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compensation and employer's liability insurance filings.-

organization to make a filing on behalf of such member or subscriber which is based on a system of expense provisions which differs, in accordance with the right granted in s. $\frac{627.072(3)}{627.072(2)}$, from the system of expense provisions included in a filing made by the rating organization, the office shall, if it grants the appeal, order the rating organization to make the requested filing for use by the appellant. In deciding such appeal, the office shall apply the applicable standards set forth in ss. 627.062 and 627.072.

Section 17. <u>Section 627.3519</u>, <u>Florida Statutes</u>, is repealed.

Section 18. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 627.4133, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.4133 Notice of cancellation, nonrenewal, or renewal premium.—

- (2) With respect to any personal lines or commercial residential property insurance policy, including, but not limited to, any homeowner's, mobile home owner's, farmowner's, condominium association, condominium unit owner's, apartment building, or other policy covering a residential structure or its contents:
- (b) The insurer shall give the first-named insured written notice of nonrenewal, cancellation, or termination at least 100 days before the effective date of the nonrenewal, cancellation, or termination. However, the insurer shall give at least 100 days' written notice, or written notice by June 1, whichever is earlier, for any nonrenewal, cancellation, or termination that

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would be effective between June 1 and November 30. The notice must include the reason or reasons for the nonrenewal, cancellation, or termination, except that:

1. The insurer shall give the first-named insured written notice of nonrenewal, cancellation, or termination at least 120 days prior to the effective date of the nonrenewal, cancellation, or termination for a first-named insured whose residential structure has been insured by that insurer or an affiliated insurer for at least a 5-year period immediately prior to the date of the written notice.

1.2. If cancellation is for nonpayment of premium, at least 10 days' written notice of cancellation accompanied by the reason therefor must be given. As used in this subparagraph, the term "nonpayment of premium" means failure of the named insured to discharge when due her or his obligations for in connection with the payment of premiums on a policy or any installment of such premium, whether the premium is payable directly to the insurer or its agent or indirectly under any premium finance plan or extension of credit, or failure to maintain membership in an organization if such membership is a condition precedent to insurance coverage. The term also means the failure of a financial institution to honor an insurance applicant's check after delivery to a licensed agent for payment of a premium, even if the agent has previously delivered or transferred the premium to the insurer. If a dishonored check represents the initial premium payment, the contract and all contractual obligations are void ab initio unless the nonpayment is cured within the earlier of 5 days after actual notice by certified mail is received by the applicant or 15 days after notice is

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sent to the applicant by certified mail or registered mail.., and

If the contract is void, any premium received by the insurer

from a third party must be refunded to that party in full.

- 2.3. If such cancellation or termination occurs during the first 90 days the insurance is in force and the insurance is canceled or terminated for reasons other than nonpayment of premium, at least 20 days' written notice of cancellation or termination accompanied by the reason therefor must be given unless there has been a material misstatement or misrepresentation or failure to comply with the underwriting requirements established by the insurer.
- 3. After the policy has been in effect for 90 days, the policy may not be canceled by the insurer unless there has been a material misstatement, a nonpayment of premium, a failure to comply with underwriting requirements established by the insurer within 90 days after the date of effectuation of coverage, or a substantial change in the risk covered by the policy or if the cancellation is for all insureds under such policies for a given class of insureds. This subparagraph does not apply to individually rated risks having a policy term of less than 90 days.
- 4. The requirement for providing written notice by June 1 of any nonrenewal that would be effective between June 1 and November 30 does not apply to the following situations, but the insurer remains subject to the requirement to provide such notice at least 100 days before the effective date of nonrenewal:
- a. A policy that is nonrenewed due to a revision in the coverage for sinkhole losses and catastrophic ground cover

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collapse pursuant to s. 627.706.

4.b. A policy that is nonrenewed by Citizens Property Insurance Corporation, pursuant to s. 627.351(6), for a policy that has been assumed by an authorized insurer offering replacement coverage to the policyholder is exempt from the notice requirements of paragraph (a) and this paragraph. In such cases, the corporation must give the named insured written notice of nonrenewal at least 45 days before the effective date of the nonrenewal.

After the policy has been in effect for 90 days, the policy may not be canceled by the insurer unless there has been a material misstatement, a nonpayment of premium, a failure to comply with underwriting requirements established by the insurer within 90 days after the date of effectuation of coverage, or a substantial change in the risk covered by the policy or if the cancellation is for all insureds under such policies for a given class of insureds. This paragraph does not apply to individually rated risks having a policy term of less than 90 days.

5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an insurer may cancel or nonrenew a property insurance policy after at least 45 days' notice if the office finds that the early cancellation of some or all of the insurer's policies is necessary to protect the best interests of the public or policyholders and the office approves the insurer's plan for early cancellation or nonrenewal of some or all of its policies. The office may base such finding upon the financial condition of the insurer, lack of adequate reinsurance coverage for hurricane risk, or other relevant factors. The office may condition its

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finding on the consent of the insurer to be placed under administrative supervision pursuant to s. 624.81 or to the appointment of a receiver under chapter 631.

6. A policy covering both a home and motor vehicle may be nonrenewed for any reason applicable to either the property or motor vehicle insurance after providing 90 days' notice.

Section 19. Subsection (1) of section 627.4137, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.4137 Disclosure of certain information required.-

- (1) Each insurer that provides which does or may provide liability insurance coverage to pay all or a portion of any claim that which might be made shall provide, within 30 days after of the written request of the claimant, a statement, under oath, of a corporate officer or the insurer's claims manager, or superintendent, or licensed company adjuster setting forth the following information with regard to each known policy of insurance, including excess or umbrella insurance:
 - (a) The name of the insurer.
 - (b) The name of each insured.
 - (c) The limits of the liability coverage.
- (d) A statement of any policy or coverage defense that the $\frac{1}{2}$ which such insurer reasonably believes is available to $\frac{1}{2}$ the such insurer at the time of filing such statement.
 - (e) A copy of the policy.

In addition, the insured, or her or his insurance agent, upon written request of the claimant or the claimant's attorney, shall disclose the name and coverage of each known insurer to the claimant and shall forward such request for information as

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required by this subsection to all affected insurers. The insurer shall then supply the information required in this subsection to the claimant within 30 days $\underline{\text{after}}$ of such request.

Section 20. Subsection (1) of section 627.421, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.421 Delivery of policy.-

(1) Subject to the insurer's requirement as to payment of premium, every policy shall be mailed or delivered to the insured or to the person entitled thereto not later than 60 days after the effectuation of coverage. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an insurer may allow a policyholder to elect delivery of the policy documents, including, but not limited to, policies, endorsements, notices, or documents, by electronic means in lieu of delivery by mail.

Section 21. Subsection (2) of section 627.43141, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.43141 Notice of change in policy terms. -

(2) A renewal policy may contain a change in policy terms. If a renewal policy contains does contain such change, the insurer must give the named insured written notice of the change, which may either must be enclosed along with the written notice of renewal premium required by ss. 627.4133 and 627.728 or sent in a separate notice that complies with the nonrenewal mailing time requirement for that particular line of business. The insurer must also provide or make available electronically to the insured's insurance agent such notice before or at the same time notice is given to the insured. Such notice shall be entitled "Notice of Change in Policy Terms."

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Section 22. Subsection (7) of section 627.701, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.701 Liability of insureds; coinsurance; deductibles.-

(7) <u>Before Prior to</u> issuing a personal lines residential property insurance policy on or after <u>January 1, 2014 April 1, 1997</u>, or <u>before prior to</u> the first renewal of a residential property insurance policy on or after <u>January 1, 2014 April 1, 1997</u>, the insurer must offer a deductible equal to \$500, or equal to 1 percent of the policy dwelling limits if such amount is not less than \$500, applicable to losses from perils other than hurricane. The insurer must provide the policyholder with notice of the availability of the deductible specified in this subsection in a form approved by the office at least once every 3 years. The failure to provide such notice constitutes a violation of this code but does not affect the coverage provided under the policy. An insurer may require a higher deductible only as part of a deductible program lawfully in effect on June 1, 1996, or as part of a similar deductible program.

Section 23. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 627.7015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.7015 Alternative procedure for resolution of disputed property insurance claims.—

(4) The department shall adopt by rule a property insurance mediation program to be administered by the department or its designee. The department may also adopt special rules which are applicable in cases of an emergency within the state. The rules shall be modeled after practices and procedures set forth in mediation rules of procedure adopted by the Supreme Court. The rules shall provide for:

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(b) Qualifications, denial of application, suspension, revocation, and other penalties for of mediators as provided in s. 627.745 and in the Florida Rules of Certified and Court Appointed Mediators, and for such other individuals as are qualified by education, training, or experience as the department determines to be appropriate.

Section 24. Section 627.70151, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

- 627.70151 Appraisal; conflicts of interest.—An insurer that offers residential coverage, as defined in s. 627.4025, or a policyholder that uses an appraisal clause in the property insurance contract to establish a process of estimating or evaluating the amount of the loss through the use of an impartial umpire may challenge the umpire's impartiality and disqualify the proposed umpire only if:
- (1) A familial relationship within the third degree exists between the umpire and any party or a representative of any party;
- (2) The umpire has previously represented any party or a representative of any party in a professional capacity in the same or a substantially related matter;
- (3) The umpire has represented another person in a professional capacity on the same or a substantially related matter, including the claim, on the same property, or on an adjacent property and that other person's interests are materially adverse to the interests of any party; or
- (4) The umpire has worked as an employer or employee of any party within the preceding 5 years.
 - Section 25. Subsection (1) and paragraph (c) of subsection

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1016 (2) of section 627.706, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
1017 627.706 Sinkhole insurance; catastrophic ground cover
1018 collapse; definitions.—

- (1)(a) Every insurer authorized to transact property insurance in this state must provide coverage for a catastrophic ground cover collapse.
- (b) The insurer shall make available, for an appropriate additional premium, coverage for sinkhole losses on any structure, including the contents of personal property contained therein, to the extent provided in the form to which the coverage attaches. The insurer may require an inspection of the property before issuance of sinkhole loss coverage. A policy for residential property insurance may include a deductible amount applicable to sinkhole losses equal to 1 percent, 2 percent, 5 percent, or 10 percent of the policy's covered building policy dwelling limits, with appropriate premium discounts offered with each deductible amount.
- (c) The insurer may restrict catastrophic ground cover collapse and sinkhole loss coverage to the principal building, as defined in the applicable policy.
- (2) As used in ss. 627.706-627.7074, and as used in connection with any policy providing coverage for a catastrophic ground cover collapse or for sinkhole losses, the term:
- (c) "Neutral evaluator" means a professional engineer or a professional geologist who has completed a course of study in alternative dispute resolution designed or approved by the department for use in the neutral evaluation process, and who is determined by the department to be fair and impartial, and who is not otherwise ineligible for certification as provided in s.

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1045 627.7074.

Section 26. Subsection (1) of section 627.7074, Florida 1047 Statutes, is amended to read:

627.7074 Alternative procedure for resolution of disputed sinkhole insurance claims.—

- (1) The department shall:
- (a) Certify and maintain a list of persons who are neutral evaluators.
- (b) Adopt rules for certifying, denying certification, suspending certification, and revoking certification as a neutral evaluator, in keeping with qualifications specified in this section and ss. 627.706 and 627.745(4).
- (c) (b) Prepare a consumer information pamphlet for distribution by insurers to policyholders which clearly describes the neutral evaluation process and includes information necessary for the policyholder to request a neutral evaluation.

Section 27. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 627.736, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 627.736 Required personal injury protection benefits; exclusions; priority; claims.—
 - (5) CHARGES FOR TREATMENT OF INJURED PERSONS.-
- (a) A physician, hospital, clinic, or other person or institution lawfully rendering treatment to an injured person for a bodily injury covered by personal injury protection insurance may charge the insurer and injured party only a reasonable amount pursuant to this section for the services and supplies rendered, and the insurer providing such coverage may pay for such charges directly to such person or institution

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lawfully rendering such treatment if the insured receiving such treatment or his or her guardian has countersigned the properly completed invoice, bill, or claim form approved by the office upon which such charges are to be paid for as having actually been rendered, to the best knowledge of the insured or his or her guardian. However, such a charge may not exceed the amount the person or institution customarily charges for like services or supplies. In determining whether a charge for a particular service, treatment, or otherwise is reasonable, consideration may be given to evidence of usual and customary charges and payments accepted by the provider involved in the dispute, reimbursement levels in the community and various federal and state medical fee schedules applicable to motor vehicle and other insurance coverages, and other information relevant to the reasonableness of the reimbursement for the service, treatment, or supply.

- 1. The insurer may limit reimbursement to 80 percent of the following schedule of maximum charges:
- a. For emergency transport and treatment by providers licensed under chapter 401, 200 percent of Medicare.
- b. For emergency services and care provided by a hospital licensed under chapter 395, 75 percent of the hospital's usual and customary charges.
- c. For emergency services and care as defined by s. 395.002 provided in a facility licensed under chapter 395 rendered by a physician or dentist, and related hospital inpatient services rendered by a physician or dentist, the usual and customary charges in the community.
 - d. For hospital inpatient services, other than emergency

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services and care, 200 percent of the Medicare Part A prospective payment applicable to the specific hospital providing the inpatient services.

- e. For hospital outpatient services, other than emergency services and care, 200 percent of the Medicare Part A Ambulatory Payment Classification for the specific hospital providing the outpatient services.
- f. For all other medical services, supplies, and care, 200 percent of the allowable amount under:
- (I) The participating physicians fee schedule of Medicare Part B, except as provided in sub-sub-subparagraphs (II) and (III).
- (II) Medicare Part B, in the case of services, supplies, and care provided by ambulatory surgical centers and clinical laboratories.
- (III) The Durable Medical Equipment Prosthetics/Orthotics and Supplies fee schedule of Medicare Part B, in the case of durable medical equipment.

However, if such services, supplies, or care is not reimbursable under Medicare Part B, as provided in this sub-subparagraph, the insurer may limit reimbursement to 80 percent of the maximum reimbursable allowance under workers' compensation, as determined under s. 440.13 and rules adopted thereunder which are in effect at the time such services, supplies, or care is provided. Services, supplies, or care that is not reimbursable under Medicare or workers' compensation is not required to be reimbursed by the insurer.

2. For purposes of subparagraph 1., the applicable fee

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schedule or payment limitation under Medicare is the fee schedule or payment limitation in effect on March 1 of the year in which the services, supplies, or care is rendered and for the area in which such services, supplies, or care is rendered, and the applicable fee schedule or payment limitation applies until March 1 of the following throughout the remainder of that year, notwithstanding any subsequent change made to the fee schedule or payment limitation, except that it may not be less than the allowable amount under the applicable schedule of Medicare Part B for 2007 for medical services, supplies, and care subject to Medicare Part B.

- 3. Subparagraph 1. does not allow the insurer to apply any limitation on the number of treatments or other utilization limits that apply under Medicare or workers' compensation. An insurer that applies the allowable payment limitations of subparagraph 1. must reimburse a provider who lawfully provided care or treatment under the scope of his or her license, regardless of whether such provider is entitled to reimbursement under Medicare due to restrictions or limitations on the types or discipline of health care providers who may be reimbursed for particular procedures or procedure codes. However, subparagraph 1. does not prohibit an insurer from using the Medicare coding policies and payment methodologies of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, including applicable modifiers, to determine the appropriate amount of reimbursement for medical services, supplies, or care if the coding policy or payment methodology does not constitute a utilization limit.
- 4. If an insurer limits payment as authorized by subparagraph 1., the person providing such services, supplies,

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or care may not bill or attempt to collect from the insured any amount in excess of such limits, except for amounts that are not covered by the insured's personal injury protection coverage due to the coinsurance amount or maximum policy limits.

5. Effective July 1, 2012, an insurer may limit payment as authorized by this paragraph only if the insurance policy includes a notice at the time of issuance or renewal that the insurer may limit payment pursuant to the schedule of charges specified in this paragraph. A policy form approved by the office satisfies this requirement. If a provider submits a charge for an amount less than the amount allowed under subparagraph 1., the insurer may pay the amount of the charge submitted.

Section 28. Subsection (3) of section 627.745, Florida Statutes, is amended, present subsections (4) and (5) of that section are renumbered as subsections (5) and (6), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

- 627.745 Mediation of claims.-
- (3) (a) The department shall approve mediators to conduct mediations pursuant to this section. All mediators must file an application under oath for approval as a mediator.
- (b) To qualify for approval as a mediator, <u>an individual aperson</u> must meet one of the following qualifications:
- 1. Possess <u>an active certification as a Florida Circuit</u>

 Court Mediator. A Florida Circuit Court Mediator in a lapsed,

 suspended, or decertified status is not eligible to participate

 in the mediation program a masters or doctorate degree in

 psychology, counseling, business, accounting, or economics, be a

 member of The Florida Bar, be licensed as a certified public

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accountant, or demonstrate that the applicant for approval has been actively engaged as a qualified mediator for at least 4 years prior to July 1, 1990.

- 2. Be an approved department mediator as of July 1, 2013, and have conducted at least one mediation on behalf of the department within 4 years immediately preceding that the date the application for approval is filed with the department, have completed a minimum of a 40-hour training program approved by the department and successfully passed a final examination included in the training program and approved by the department. The training program shall include and address all of the following:
 - a. Mediation theory.
 - b. Mediation process and techniques.
 - c. Standards of conduct for mediators.
 - d. Conflict management and intervention skills.
 - e. Insurance nomenclature.
- (4) The department shall deny an application, or revoke its approval of a mediator or neutral evaluator to serve in such capacity, if the department finds that any of the following grounds exist:
- (a) Lack of one or more of the qualifications specified in this section for approval or certification.
- (b) Material misstatement, misrepresentation, or fraud in obtaining or attempting to obtain the approval or certification.
- (c) Demonstrated lack of fitness or trustworthiness to act as a mediator or neutral evaluator.
- (d) Fraudulent or dishonest practices in the conduct of mediation or neutral evaluation or in the conduct of business in

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1219 the financial services industry.

(e) Violation of any provision of this code or of a lawful order or rule of the department or aiding, instructing, or encouraging another party in committing such a violation.

The department may adopt rules to administer this subsection.

Section 29. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 627.952, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.952 Risk retention and purchasing group agents.-

- (1) Any person offering, soliciting, selling, purchasing, administering, or otherwise servicing insurance contracts, certificates, or agreements for any purchasing group or risk retention group to any resident of this state, either directly or indirectly, by the use of mail, advertising, or other means of communication, shall obtain a license and appointment to act as a resident general lines agent, if a resident of this state, or a nonresident general lines agent if not a resident. Any such person shall be subject to all requirements of the Florida Insurance Code.
- (b) Any person required to be licensed and appointed under this subsection, in order to place business through Florida eligible surplus lines carriers, must, if a resident of this state, be licensed and appointed as a surplus lines agent. If not a resident of this state, such person must be licensed and appointed as a surplus lines agent in her or his state of residence and file and maintain a fidelity bond in favor of the people of the State of Florida executed by a surety company admitted in this state and payable to the State of Florida; however, such nonresident is limited to the provision of

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insurance for purchasing groups. The bond must be continuous in form and in the amount of not less than \$50,000, aggregate liability. The bond must remain in force and effect until the surety is released from liability by the department or until the bond is canceled by the surety. The surety may cancel the bond and be released from further liability upon 30 days' prior written notice to the department. The cancellation does not affect any liability incurred or accrued before the termination of the 30-day period. Upon receipt of a notice of cancellation, the department shall immediately notify the agent.

Section 30. Subsection (6) of section 627.971, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.971 Definitions.—As used in this part:

(6) "Financial guaranty insurance corporation" means a stock or mutual insurer licensed to transact financial guaranty insurance business in this state.

Section 31. Subsection (1) of section 627.972, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.972 Organization; financial requirements.-

- (1) A financial guaranty insurance corporation must be organized and licensed in the manner prescribed in this code for stock or mutual property and casualty insurers except that:
- (a) A corporation organized to transact financial guaranty insurance may, subject to the provisions of this code, be licensed to transact:
 - 1. Residual value insurance, as defined by s. 624.6081;
 - 2. Surety insurance, as defined by s. 624.606;
 - 3. Credit insurance, as defined by s. 624.605(1)(i); and
 - 4. Mortgage guaranty insurance as defined in s. 635.011,

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1277 provided that the provisions of chapter 635 are met.

- (b) 1. Before Prior to the issuance of a license, a corporation must submit to the office for approval, a plan of operation detailing:
- a. The types and projected diversification of guaranties to be issued;
 - b. The underwriting procedures to be followed;
 - c. The managerial oversight methods;
 - d. The investment policies; and
 - e. Any other matters prescribed by the office;
- 2. An insurer which is writing only the types of insurance allowed under this part on July 1, 1988, and otherwise meets the requirements of this part, is exempt from the requirements of this paragraph.
- (c) An insurer transacting financial guaranty insurance is subject to all provisions of this code that are applicable to property and casualty insurers to the extent that those provisions are not inconsistent with this part.
- (d) The investments of an insurer transacting financial guaranty insurance in any entity insured by the corporation may not exceed 2 percent of its admitted assets as of the end of the prior calendar year.
- (e) An insurer transacting financial guaranty insurance may only assume those lines of insurance for which it is licensed to write direct business.
- Section 32. Subsection (13) of section 628.901, Florida 1303 Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 628.901 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:
 - (13) "Qualifying reinsurer parent company" means a

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reinsurer that which currently holds a certificate of authority
or ar letter of eligibility or is an accredited or a

satisfactory non-approved reinsurer in this state possessing a

consolidated GAAP net worth of at least \$500 million and a

consolidated debt to total capital ratio of not greater than

0.50.

Section 33. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 628.909, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

628.909 Applicability of other laws.-

- (2) The following provisions of the Florida Insurance Code apply to captive insurers who are not industrial insured captive insurers to the extent that such provisions are not inconsistent with this part:
- (a) Chapter 624, except for ss. 624.407, 624.408, 624.4085, 624.40851, 624.4095, 624.411, 624.425, and 624.426.
- (3) The following provisions of the Florida Insurance Code apply to industrial insured captive insurers to the extent that such provisions are not inconsistent with this part:
- (a) Chapter 624, except for ss. 624.407, 624.408, 624.4085, 624.40851, 624.4095, 624.411, 624.425, 624.426, and 624.609(1).

Section 34. Present subsection (8) of section 634.406, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (7), and present subsections (6) and (7) of that section are amended, to read:

634.406 Financial requirements.-

(6) An association that which holds a license under this part and which does not hold any other license under this chapter may allow its premiums written under this part to exceed the ratio to net assets limitations of this section if the

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1335 association meets all of the following:

- (a) Maintains net assets of at least \$750,000.
- (b) Utilizes a contractual liability insurance policy approved by the office which:
- 1. Reimburses the service warranty association for 100 percent of its claims liability and is issued by an insurer that maintains a policyholder surplus of at least \$100 million; or
- 2. Complies with the requirements of subsection (3) and is issued by an insurer that maintains a policyholder surplus of at least \$200 million.
- (c) The insurer issuing the contractual liability insurance policy:
- 1. Maintains a policyholder surplus of at least \$100 million.
- 1.2. Is rated "A" or higher by A.M. Best Company or an equivalent rating by another national rating service acceptable to the office.
 - 3. Is in no way affiliated with the warranty association.
- 2.4. In conjunction with the warranty association's filing of the quarterly and annual reports, provides, on a form prescribed by the commission, a statement certifying the gross written premiums in force reported by the warranty association and a statement that all of the warranty association's gross written premium in force is covered under the contractual liability policy, whether or not it has been reported.
- (7) A contractual liability policy must insure 100 percent of an association's claims exposure under all of the association's service warranty contracts, wherever written, unless all of the following are satisfied:

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(a) The contractual liability policy contains a clause that specifically names the service warranty contract holders as sole beneficiaries of the contractual liability policy and claims are paid directly to the person making a claim under the contract;

- (b) The contractual liability policy meets all other requirements of this part, including subsection (3) of this section, which are not inconsistent with this subsection;
- (c) The association has been in existence for at least 5 years or the association is a wholly owned subsidiary of a corporation that has been in existence and has been licensed as a service warranty association in the state for at least 5 years, and:

1. Is listed and traded on a recognized stock exchange; is listed in NASDAQ (National Association of Security Dealers Automated Quotation system) and publicly traded in the over-the-counter securities market; is required to file either of Form 10-K, Form 100, or Form 20-G with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission; or has American Depository Receipts listed on a recognized stock exchange and publicly traded or is the wholly owned subsidiary of a corporation that is listed and traded on a recognized stock exchange; is listed in NASDAQ (National Association of Security Dealers Automated Quotation system) and publicly traded in the over-the-counter securities market; is required to file Form 10-K, Form 100, or Form 20-G with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission; or has American Depository Receipts listed on a recognized stock exchange and is publicly traded;

2. Maintains outstanding debt obligations, if any, rated in the top four rating categories by a recognized rating service;

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1393 3. Has and maintains at all times a minimum net worth of 1394 not less than \$10 million as evidenced by audited financial 1395 statements prepared by an independent certified public 1396 accountant in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and submitted to the office annually; and 1397 1398 4. Is authorized to do business in this state; and 1399 (d) The insurer issuing the contractual liability policy: 1400 1. Maintains and has maintained for the preceding 5 years, policyholder surplus of at least \$100 million and is rated "A" 1401 1402 or higher by A.M. Best Company or has an equivalent rating by 1403 another rating company acceptable to the office; 1404 2. Holds a certificate of authority to do business in this 1405 state and is approved to write this type of coverage; and 3. Acknowledges to the office quarterly that it insures all 1406 1407 of the association's claims exposure under contracts delivered 1408 in this state. 1409 1410 If all the preceding conditions are satisfied, then the scope of 1411 coverage under a contractual liability policy shall not be 1412 required to exceed an association's claims exposure under service warranty contracts delivered in this state. 1413 1414 Section 35. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.