By Senator Simpson

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A bill to be entitled An act relating to community development; amending s. 196.1978, F.S.; deleting an ad valorem tax exemption for property owned by certain Florida-based limited partnerships and used for affordable housing for certain income-qualified persons; amending s. 212.08, F.S.; revising criteria for community contribution tax credit for donations; amending ss. 220.183 and 624.5105, F.S.; extending the expiration date applicable to the granting of community contribution tax credits against the sales and use tax, corporate income tax, and insurance premium tax for contributions to eligible sponsors of community projects approved by the Department of Economic Opportunity; amending s. 420.507, F.S.; revising the powers of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation; specifying how the corporation will allocate certain funds; amending s. 420.5087, F.S.; revising provisions relating to state apartment incentive loans to provide for a competitive evaluation and selection process with respect to loan applications; amending s. 420.511, F.S.; providing that the corporation's strategic business plan must be consistent with a long-range program plan relating to affordable housing; deleting a requirement that the corporation compile certain data; revising provisions relating to the corporation's development of its long-range plan; revising the required contents and information to be

included in the corporation's annual report; requiring

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the corporation to submit separate audited financial statements that include specified information and incorporate certain reports; requiring the Auditor General to conduct an operational audit of the corporation and provide a written report to the Legislature; amending ss. 420.0003, 420.0006, 420.504, and 420.506, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by this act; repealing s. 420.5091, F.S., relating to the HOPE program; providing for retroactive application; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 196.1978, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

196.1978 Affordable housing property exemption.—Property used to provide affordable housing to serving eligible persons as defined under by s. 159.603(7) and natural persons or families meeting the extremely-low-income, very-low-income, low-income, or moderate-income limits specified in s. 420.0004, which property is owned entirely by a nonprofit entity that is a corporation not for profit, qualified as charitable under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and in compliance with Rev. Proc. 96-32, 1996-1 C.B. 717, is or a Florida-based limited partnership, the sole general partner of which is a corporation not for profit which is qualified as charitable under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and which complies with Rev. Proc. 96-32, 1996-1 C.B. 717, shall be considered property owned by an exempt entity and used for a charitable purpose, and

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those portions of the affordable housing property that which provide housing to natural persons or families classified as extremely low income, very low income, low income, or moderate income under s. 420.0004 are shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation to the extent authorized under in s. 196.196. All property identified in this section must shall comply with the criteria provided under s. 196.195 for determining determination of exempt status and to be applied by property appraisers on an annual basis as defined in s. 196.195. The Legislature intends that any property owned by a limited liability company or limited partnership which is disregarded as an entity for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Treasury Regulation 301.7701-3(b)(1)(ii) shall be treated as owned by its sole member or sole general partner.

Section 2. Paragraph (p) of subsection (5) of section 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.

- (5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.-
- (p) Community contribution tax credit for donations.-
- 1. Authorization.—Persons who are registered with the department under s. 212.18 to collect or remit sales or use tax and who make donations to eligible sponsors are eligible for tax credits against their state sales and use tax liabilities as provided in this paragraph:

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a. The credit shall be computed as 50 percent of the person's approved annual community contribution.

- b. The credit shall be granted as a refund against state sales and use taxes reported on returns and remitted in the 12 months preceding the date of application to the department for the credit as required in sub-subparagraph 3.c. If the annual credit is not fully used through such refund because of insufficient tax payments during the applicable 12-month period, the unused amount may be included in an application for a refund made pursuant to sub-subparagraph 3.c. in subsequent years against the total tax payments made for such year. Carryover credits may be applied for a 3-year period without regard to any time limitation that would otherwise apply under s. 215.26.
- c. A person may not receive more than \$200,000 in annual tax credits for all approved community contributions made in any one year.
- d. All proposals for the granting of the tax credit require the prior approval of the Department of Economic Opportunity.
- e. The total amount of tax credits which may be granted for all programs approved under this paragraph, s. 220.183, and s. 624.5105 is \$10.5 million annually for projects that provide homeownership opportunities for low-income or very-low-income households as those terms are defined in s. 420.9071(19) and (28) and \$3.5 million annually for all other projects.
- f. A person who is eligible to receive the credit provided for in this paragraph, s. 220.183, or s. 624.5105 may receive the credit only under the one section pursuant to of the person's choice.
 - 2. Eligibility requirements.—

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a. A community contribution by a person must be in the following form:

- (I) Cash or other liquid assets;
- (II) Real property;

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- (III) Goods or inventory; or
- (IV) Other physical resources as identified by the Department of Economic Opportunity.

b. All community contributions must be reserved exclusively for use in a project. As used in this sub-subparagraph, the term "project" means any activity undertaken by an eligible sponsor which is designed to construct, improve, or substantially rehabilitate housing that is affordable to low-income or verylow-income households as those terms are defined in s. 420.9071(19) and (28); designed to provide commercial, industrial, or public resources and facilities; or designed to improve entrepreneurial and job-development opportunities for low-income persons. A project may be the investment necessary to increase access to high-speed broadband capability in rural communities with enterprise zones, including projects that result in improvements to communications assets that are owned by a business. A project may include the provision of museum educational programs and materials that are directly related to a any project approved between January 1, 1996, and December 31, 1999, and located in an enterprise zone designated pursuant to s. 290.0065. This paragraph does not preclude projects that propose to construct or rehabilitate housing for low-income or very-low-income households on scattered sites. With respect to housing, contributions may be used to pay the following eligible low-income and very-low-income housing-related activities:

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(I) Project development impact and management fees for low-income or very-low-income housing projects;

- (II) Down payment and closing costs for <u>low-income persons</u> and <u>very-low-income</u> eligible persons, as <u>those terms are</u> defined in s. 420.9071(19) and (28);
- (III) Administrative costs, including housing counseling and marketing fees, not to exceed 10 percent of the community contribution, directly related to low-income or very-low-income projects; and
- (IV) Removal of liens recorded against residential property by municipal, county, or special district local governments <u>if</u> when satisfaction of the lien is a necessary precedent to the transfer of the property to <u>a low-income person or very-low-income</u> an eligible person, as <u>those terms are</u> defined in s. 420.9071(19) and (28), for the purpose of promoting home ownership. Contributions for lien removal must be received from a nonrelated third party.
- c. The project must be undertaken by an "eligible sponsor," which includes:
 - (I) A community action program;
- (II) A nonprofit community-based development organization whose mission is the provision of housing for low-income or very-low-income households or increasing entrepreneurial and job-development opportunities for low-income persons;
 - (III) A neighborhood housing services corporation;
 - (IV) A local housing authority created under chapter 421;
- 172 (V) A community redevelopment agency created under s. 173 163.356;
- 174 (VI) A historic preservation district agency or

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18-00904A-13 2013928 175 organization; 176 (VII) A regional workforce board; 177 (VIII) A direct-support organization as provided in s. 178 1009.983; 179 (IX) An enterprise zone development agency created under s. 180 290.0056; 181 (X) A community-based organization incorporated under 182 chapter 617 which is recognized as educational, charitable, or 183 scientific pursuant to s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code 184 and whose bylaws and articles of incorporation include 185 affordable housing, economic development, or community 186 development as the primary mission of the corporation; (XI) Units of local government; 187 188 (XII) Units of state government; or 189 (XIII) Any other agency that the Department of Economic 190 Opportunity designates by rule. 191 192 In no event may A contributing person may not have a financial 193 interest in the eligible sponsor. 194 d. The project must be located in an area designated an 195 enterprise zone or a Front Porch Florida Community, unless the 196 project increases access to high-speed broadband capability for 197 rural communities that have with enterprise zones but is 198 physically located outside the designated rural zone boundaries. 199 Any project designed to construct or rehabilitate housing for 200 low-income or very-low-income households as those terms are 201 defined in s. $420.9071 \cdot (19)$ and (28) is exempt from the area

e.(I) If, during the first 10 business days of the state

requirement of this sub-subparagraph.

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fiscal year, eligible tax credit applications for projects that provide homeownership opportunities for low-income households or very-low-income households as those terms are defined in s. $420.9071 \cdot \frac{(19)}{(19)}$ and $\frac{(28)}{(28)}$ are received for less than the annual tax credits available for those projects, the Department of Economic Opportunity shall grant tax credits for those applications and shall grant remaining tax credits on a first-come, first-served basis for any subsequent eligible applications received before the end of the state fiscal year. If, during the first 10 business days of the state fiscal year, eligible tax credit applications for projects that provide homeownership opportunities for low-income or very-low-income households as defined in s. 420.9071(19) and (28) are received for more than the annual tax credits available for those projects, the Department of Economic Opportunity shall grant the tax credits for those applications as follows:

- (A) If tax credit applications submitted for approved projects of an eligible sponsor do not exceed \$200,000 in total, the credits shall be granted in full if the tax credit applications are approved.
- (B) If tax credit applications submitted for approved projects of an eligible sponsor exceed \$200,000 in total, the amount of tax credits granted pursuant to sub-sub-sub-subparagraph (A) shall be subtracted from the amount of available tax credits, and the remaining credits shall be granted to each approved tax credit application on a pro rata basis.
- (II) If, during the first 10 business days of the state fiscal year, eligible tax credit applications for projects other

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than those that provide homeownership opportunities for lowincome households or very-low-income households as those terms are defined in s. 420.9071(19) and (28) are received for less than the annual tax credits available for those projects, the Department of Economic Opportunity shall grant tax credits for those applications and shall grant remaining tax credits on a first-come, first-served basis for any subsequent eligible applications received before the end of the state fiscal year. If, during the first 10 business days of the state fiscal year, eligible tax credit applications for projects other than those that provide homeownership opportunities for low-income or verylow-income households as defined in s. 420.9071(19) and (28) are received for more than the annual tax credits available for those projects, the Department of Economic Opportunity shall grant the tax credits for those applications on a pro rata basis.

- 3. Application requirements.-
- a. Any eligible sponsor seeking to participate in this program must submit a proposal to the Department of Economic Opportunity which sets forth the name of the sponsor, a description of the project, and the area in which the project is located, together with such supporting information as is prescribed by rule. The proposal must also contain a resolution from the local governmental unit in which the project is located certifying that the project is consistent with local plans and regulations.
- b. Any person seeking to participate in this program must submit an application for tax credit to the Department of Economic Opportunity which sets forth the name of the sponsor, a

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description of the project, and the type, value, and purpose of the contribution. The sponsor shall verify, in writing, the terms of the application and indicate its receipt of the contribution, which verification must be in writing and accompany the application for tax credit. The person must submit a separate tax credit application to the department of Economic Opportunity for each individual contribution that it makes to each individual project.

- c. Any person who has received notification from the Department of Economic Opportunity that a tax credit has been approved must apply to the department to receive the refund. Application must be made on the form prescribed for claiming refunds of sales and use taxes and be accompanied by a copy of the notification. A person may submit only one application for refund to the department within a any 12-month period.
 - 4. Administration.
- a. The Department of Economic Opportunity may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 necessary to administer this paragraph, including rules for the approval or disapproval of proposals by a person.
- b. The decision of the Department of Economic Opportunity must be in writing, and, if approved, the notification shall state the maximum credit allowable to the person. Upon approval, the department of Economic Opportunity shall transmit a copy of the decision to the Department of Revenue.
- c. The Department of Economic Opportunity shall periodically monitor all projects in a manner consistent with available resources to ensure that resources are used in accordance with this paragraph; however, each project must be

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291 reviewed at least once every 2 years.

- d. The Department of Economic Opportunity shall, in consultation with the statewide and regional housing and financial intermediaries, market the availability of the community contribution tax credit program to community-based organizations.
- 5. Expiration.—This paragraph expires June 30, $\underline{2025}$ $\underline{2015}$; however, any accrued credit carryover that is unused on that date may be used until the expiration of the 3-year carryover period for such credit.
- Section 3. Subsection (5) of section 220.183, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 220.183 Community contribution tax credit.-
- (5) EXPIRATION.—The provisions of this section, except paragraph (1)(e), shall expire and $\underline{\text{are}}$ be void on June 30, $\underline{2025}$ $\underline{2015}$.
- Section 4. Subsection (6) of section 624.5105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 624.5105 Community contribution tax credit; authorization; limitations; eligibility and application requirements; administration; definitions; expiration.—
- (6) EXPIRATION.—The provisions of this section, except paragraph (1)(e), shall expire and $\underline{\text{are}}$ be void on June 30, $\underline{2025}$ $\underline{2015}$.
- Section 5. Paragraph (h) of subsection (22) and subsection (48) of section 420.507, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 420.507 Powers of the corporation.—The corporation shall have all the powers necessary or convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of this part, including

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the following powers, which are in addition to all other powers granted by other provisions of this part:

- (22) To develop and administer the State Apartment Incentive Loan Program. In developing and administering that program, the corporation may:
- (h) Establish, by rule, the procedure for evaluating, scoring, and competitively evaluating and selecting ranking all applications for funding based on the criteria set forth in s. 420.5087(6)(c)_+ determining actual loan amounts_+ making and servicing loans_+ and exercising the powers authorized in this subsection.
- (48) To award use up to 10 percent of its annual allocation of low-income housing tax credits, nontaxable revenue bonds, and State Apartment Incentive Loan Program funds appropriated by the Legislature and available to allocate by request for proposals or other competitive solicitation. The corporation shall reserve up to 5 percent of each allocation funding for high-priority affordable housing projects, such as housing to support economic development and job-creation initiatives, housing for veterans and their families, and other special needs populations in communities throughout the state as determined by the corporation on an annual basis. The corporation shall reserve an additional 5 percent of each allocation for affordable housing projects that target persons who have a disabling condition as defined in s. 420.0004 and their families. These allocations must prioritize projects or initiatives piloting or demonstrating cost effective, best practices that meet the housing needs and preferences of such persons. Any tax credits or funds not allocated because of a lack of eligible projects

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targeting persons who have a disabling condition shall be distributed by the corporation for high-priority housing projects.

Section 6. Paragraphs (c) and (f) of subsection (6) of section 420.5087, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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

- (6) On all state apartment incentive loans, except loans made to housing communities for the elderly to provide for lifesafety, building preservation, health, sanitation, or security-related repairs or improvements, the following provisions shall apply:
- (c) The corporation shall provide by rule for the establishment of a review committee composed of the department and corporation staff and shall establish by rule a scoring system for the competitive evaluation and selection competitive ranking of applications submitted in this program, including, but not limited to, the following criteria:
- 1. Tenant income and demographic targeting objectives of the corporation.
- 2. Targeting objectives of the corporation which will ensure an equitable distribution of loans between rural and urban areas.
- 3. Sponsor's agreement to reserve the units for persons or families who have incomes below 50 percent of the state or local

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median income, whichever is higher, for a time period that exceeds to exceed the minimum required by federal law or the provisions of this part.

- 4. Sponsor's agreement to reserve more than:
- a. Twenty percent of the units in the project for persons or families who have incomes that do not exceed 50 percent of the state or local median income, whichever is higher; or
- b. Forty percent of the units in the project for persons or families who have incomes that do not exceed 60 percent of the state or local median income, whichever is higher, without requiring a greater amount of the loans as provided in this section.
 - 5. Provision for tenant counseling.
- 6. Sponsor's agreement to accept rental assistance certificates or vouchers as payment for rent.
- 7. Projects requiring the least amount of a state apartment incentive loan compared to overall project cost, except that the share of the loan attributable to units serving extremely-low-income persons must shall be excluded from this requirement.
- 8. Local government contributions and local government comprehensive planning and activities that promote affordable housing.
 - 9. Project feasibility.
 - 10. Economic viability of the project.
 - 11. Commitment of first mortgage financing.
 - 12. Sponsor's prior experience.
 - 13. Sponsor's ability to proceed with construction.
- 14. Projects that directly implement or assist welfare-to-work transitioning.

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15. Projects that reserve units for extremely-low-income persons.

- 16. Projects that include green building principles, storm-resistant construction, or other elements that reduce long-term costs relating to maintenance, utilities, or insurance.
- 17. Job-creation rate of the developer and general contractor, as provided in s. 420.507(47).
- (f) The review committee established by corporation rule pursuant to this subsection shall make recommendations to the board of directors of the corporation regarding program participation under the State Apartment Incentive Loan Program. The corporation board shall make the final ranking and the decisions regarding which applicants shall become program participants based on the scores received in the competitive process ranking, further review of applications, and the recommendations of the review committee. The corporation board shall approve or reject applications for loans and shall determine the tentative loan amount available to each applicant selected for participation in the program. The actual loan amount shall be determined pursuant to rule adopted pursuant to s. 420.507(22)(h).

Section 7. Section 420.511, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 420.511 <u>Strategic</u> business plan; <u>long-range program</u> strategic plan; annual report; audited financial statements.—
- (1) The corporation shall develop a <u>strategic</u> business plan for the provision of affordable housing for the state. The plan <u>must be consistent</u> <u>shall not be inconsistent</u> with the <u>long-range</u> <u>program</u> <u>strategic</u> plan prepared pursuant to subsection (2) and

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shall contain performance measures and specific performance targets for the following:

- (a) The ability of low-income and moderate-income Floridians to access housing that is decent and affordable.
- (b) The continued availability and affordability of housing financed by the corporation to target populations.
- (c) The availability of affordable financing programs, including equity and debt products, and programs that reduce gaps in conventional financing in $order_{\tau}$ to increase individual access to housing and stimulate private production of affordable housing.
- (d) The establishment and maintenance of efficiencies in the delivery of affordable housing.
- (e) Such other measures as directed by the corporation's board of directors.

The corporation shall also compile data on the stimulus of economic activity created by the affordable housing finance programs administered by the corporation.

(2) The corporation, in <u>coordination</u> equal partnership with the department, shall develop annually <u>develop</u> a <u>long-range</u> program strategic plan for the provision of affordable housing in <u>this state as</u> Florida as part of the department's agency strategic plan required pursuant to chapter 186. In part, the plan <u>must shall</u> include provisions that maximize the abilities of the corporation and the department to implement the state housing strategy established under s. 420.0003, to respond to federal housing initiatives, and to develop programs in a manner that is more responsive to the needs of public and private

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partners. The plan shall be developed on a schedule consistent with that established by s. 186.021. For purposes of this section act, the executive director or his or her designee shall serve as the corporation's representative to achieve a coordinated and integrated planning relationship with the department.

- (3) $\frac{1}{(a)}$ The corporation shall submit to the Governor and the presiding officers of each house of the Legislature, within $\frac{6}{2}$ months after the end of its fiscal year, a complete and detailed report setting forth the corporation's state and federal program accomplishments using the most recent available data. The report must include, but is not limited to:
- (a) The following tenant characteristics in the existing rental units financed through corporation-administered programs:
- 1. The number of households served, delineated by income, race, ethnicity, and age of the head of household.
- 2. The number of households served in large, medium, and small counties as defined by s. 420.5087 and the extent to which geographic distribution has been achieved in accordance with s. 420.5087.
- 3. The number of farmworker and commercial-fishing worker households served.
 - 4. The number of homeless households served.
 - 5. The number of special needs households served.
 - 6. By county, the average rent charged based on unit size.
- (b) The number of rental units to which resources have been allocated in the last fiscal year, including income and demographic restrictions.
 - (c) The estimated average cost of producing units under

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each rental or homeownership unit financed under each program in
the last fiscal year.

- (d) By county, the average sales price of homeownership units financed in the last fiscal year.
- (e) The number of households served by homeownership programs in the last fiscal year, including the income, race, ethnicity, and age of the homeowner of each household.
- $\underline{\mbox{ (f) The percentage of homeownership loans that are in }}$ foreclosure.
- (g) The percentage of properties in the corporation's rental portfolio which have an occupancy rate below 90 percent.
- (h) The amount of economic stimulus created by the affordable housing finance programs administered by the corporation for the most recent year available.
- (i) For the State Apartment Incentive Loan Program (SAIL), a comprehensive list of all closed loans outstanding at the end of the most recent fiscal year, including, but not limited to, development name, city, county, developer, set-aside type, set-aside percentage, affordability term, total number of units, number of set-aside units, lien position, original loan amount, loan maturity date, loan balance at close of year, status of loan, rate of interest, and interest paid.
- (j) For the Florida Affordable Housing Guarantee Program, a list of all guaranteed loans through the close of the most recent fiscal year, including, but not limited to, development name, city, county, developer, total number of units, issuer of the bonds, loan maturity date, participation in the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Risk-Sharing Program, original guarantee amount, guarantee amount at the

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7. The number of farmworkers served under each program.

8. The number of homeless persons served under each program.

- 9. The number of elderly persons served under each program.

 10. The extent to which geographic distribution has been
- achieved in accordance with the provisions of s. 420.5087.
 - 11. The success of the Community Workforce Housing
 Innovation Pilot Program in meeting the housing needs of
 eligible areas.
 - 12. Any other information the corporation deems appropriate.
 - (4) Within 6 months after the end of its fiscal year, the corporation shall submit audited financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles which include all assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses of the corporation, and a list of all bonds outstanding at the end of its fiscal year. with the annual report required by this section, a copy of an annual financial audit of its accounts and records and an annual compliance The audit must be of its programs conducted by an independent certified public accountant, performed in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and government auditing standards, and incorporate all reports, including compliance reports, as required by such auditing standards.
 - of the accounts and records of the corporation and provide a written report on the audit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1, 2016. Both the corporation's business plan and annual report must

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shall recognize the different fiscal periods under which the corporation, the state, the Federal Government, and local governments operate.

Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 420.0003, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

420.0003 State housing strategy.-

- (4) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Department of Economic Opportunity and the Florida Housing Finance Corporation in carrying out the strategy articulated herein shall have the following duties:
- (b) The <u>long-range program agency strategic</u> plan of the Department of Economic Opportunity <u>must shall</u> include specific goals, objectives, and strategies that implement the housing policies in this section and shall include the strategic plan for housing production prepared by the corporation pursuant to s..420.511.

Section 9. Section 420.0006, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

420.0006 Authority to contract with corporation; contract requirements; nonperformance.—The executive director of the department shall contract, notwithstanding part I of chapter 287, with the Florida Housing Finance Corporation on a multiyear basis to stimulate, provide, and foster affordable housing in the state. The contract must incorporate the performance measures required by s. 420.511 and must be consistent with the provisions of the corporation's strategic business plan prepared in accordance with s. 420.511. The contract must provide that if, in the event the corporation fails to comply with any of the a performance measure measures required by s. 420.511, the executive director shall notify the Governor and shall refer the

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nonperformance to the department's inspector general for review and determination as to whether such failure is due to forces beyond the corporation's control or whether such failure is due to inadequate management of the corporation's resources. Advances shall continue to be made pursuant to s. 420.0005 during the pendency of the review by the department's inspector general. If such failure is due to outside forces, it may shall not be deemed a violation of the contract. If such failure is due to inadequate management, the department's inspector general shall provide recommendations regarding solutions. The Governor may is authorized to resolve any differences of opinion with respect to performance under the contract and may request that advances continue in the event of a failure under the contract due to inadequate management. The Chief Financial Officer shall approve the request absent a finding by the Chief Financial Officer that continuing such advances would adversely impact the state; however, in any event the Chief Financial Officer shall provide advances sufficient to meet the debt service requirements of the corporation and sufficient to fund contracts committing funds from the State Housing Trust Fund if so long as such contracts are in accordance with the laws of this state.

Section 10. Subsection (1) of section 420.504, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

420.504 Public corporation; creation, membership, terms, expenses.—

(1) There is created within the Department of Economic

Opportunity A public corporation and a public body corporate and politic, to be known as the "Florida Housing Finance Corporation," is created within the Department of Economic

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Services. "Florida Housing Finance Corporation." It is declared to be the intent of and constitutional construction by the Legislature that the Florida Housing Finance Corporation constitutes an entrepreneurial public corporation organized to provide and promote the public welfare by administering the governmental function of financing or refinancing housing and related facilities in this state Florida and that the corporation is not a department of the executive branch of state government within the scope and meaning of s. 6, Art. IV of the State Constitution, but is functionally related to the Department of Economic Opportunity in which it is placed. The executive function of state government to be performed by the executive director of the Department of Economic Opportunity in the conduct of the business of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation must be performed pursuant to a contract to monitor and set performance standards for the implementation of the business plan for the provision of housing approved for the corporation as provided in s. 420.0006. This contract must shall include the performance standards for the provision of affordable housing in this state Florida established in the strategic business plan described in s. 420.511.

Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 420.506, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

420.506 Executive director; agents and employees; inspector general.—

(1) The appointment and removal of an executive director shall be by the executive director of the Department of Economic Opportunity, with the advice and consent of the corporation's board of directors. The executive director shall employ legal

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668 and technical experts and such other agents and employees, 669 permanent and temporary, as the corporation may require, and 670 shall communicate with and provide information to the 671 Legislature with respect to the corporation's activities. The 672 board is authorized, Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 673 216.262, the board may to develop and implement rules regarding 674 the employment of employees of the corporation and service 675 providers, including legal counsel. The board of directors of 676 the corporation is entitled to establish travel procedures and 677 guidelines for employees of the corporation, subject to s. 678 112.061(6) and (7). The executive director's office and the 679 corporation's files and records must be located in Leon County. Section 12. Section 420.5091, Florida Statutes, is 680 681 repealed. 682 Section 13. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law 683 and shall first apply to the 2013 ad valorem tax rolls.

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