By the Committees on Rules; and Judiciary; and Senator Smith

595-04447-14 2014870c2 1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to insurance; amending s. 624.425, 3 F.S.; providing that the absence of a countersignature 4 does not affect the validity of a policy or contract; 5 amending s. 627.7311, F.S.; providing that a county 6 may enact and enforce ordinances applicable to certain 7 health care clinics; amending s. 627.902, F.S.; 8 providing that premium financing does not apply to 9 installment payment arrangements that do not involve 10 the advancement of funds; amending s. 627.94072, F.S.; 11 providing an alternative form of a nonforfeiture 12 provision for long-term care insurance; amending s. 629.271, F.S.; authorizing reciprocal insurers to 13 return a portion of unassigned funds to their 14 15 subscribers; amending s. 631.54, F.S.; defining the term "assessment year"; amending s. 631.57, F.S.; 16 17 revising provisions relating to the levy of 18 assessments on insurers by the Florida Insurance 19 Guaranty Association; specifying the conditions under 20 which such assessments are paid; revising procedures 21 and timeframes for the levying of the assessments; 22 deleting the requirement that insurers file a final 23 accounting report documenting the recoupment; revising 24 an exemption for assessments; amending s. 631.64, 25 F.S.; requiring charges or recoupments to be displayed 2.6 separately on premium statements to policyholders and 27 prohibiting their inclusion in rates; amending ss. 28 627.727 and 631.55, F.S.; conforming cross-references; 29 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. Subsection (1) of section 624.425, Florida
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    Statutes, is amended to read:
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         624.425 Agent countersignature required, property,
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    casualty, surety insurance.-
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          (1) Except as stated in s. 624.426, no authorized property,
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    casualty, or surety insurer shall assume direct liability as to
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    a subject of insurance resident, located, or to be performed in
    this state unless the policy or contract of insurance is issued
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    by or through, and is countersigned by, an agent who is
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    regularly commissioned and licensed currently as an agent and
    appointed as an agent for the insurer under this code. However,
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    the absence of a countersignature does not affect the validity
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    of the policy or contract. If two or more authorized insurers
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    issue a single policy of insurance against legal liability for
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    loss or damage to person or property caused by a the nuclear
    energy hazard, or a single policy insuring against loss or
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    damage to property by radioactive contamination, whether or not
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    also insuring against one or more other perils that may be
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    insured proper to insure against in this state, such policy if
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    otherwise lawful may be countersigned on behalf of all of the
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    insurers by a licensed and appointed agent of the any insurer
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    appearing thereon. The producing agent shall receive on each
    policy or contract the full and usual commission allowed and
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    paid by the insurer to its agents on business written or
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    transacted by them for the insurer.
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         Section 2. Section 627.7311, Florida Statutes, is amended
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59	to read:
60	627.7311 Effect of law <del>on personal injury protection</del>
61	policies
62	(1) The provisions and procedures authorized in ss.
63	627.730-627.7405 shall be implemented by insurers offering
64	policies pursuant to the Florida Motor Vehicle No-Fault Law. The
65	Legislature intends that these provisions and procedures have
66	full force and effect regardless of their express inclusion in
67	an insurance policy form, and a specific provision or procedure
68	authorized in ss. 627.730-627.7405 shall control over general
69	provisions in an insurance policy form. An insurer is not
70	required to amend its policy form or to expressly notify
71	providers, claimants, or insureds in order to implement and
72	apply such provisions or procedures.
73	(2) Sections 627.730-627.7405 do not preclude a county from
74	enacting and enforcing an ordinance applicable to health care
75	clinics that receive reimbursement under the Florida Motor
76	Vehicle No-Fault Law.
77	Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 627.902, Florida
78	Statutes, is amended to read:
79	627.902 Premium financing by an insurer or subsidiary
80	(2) <del>Nothing in</del> This part or <del>in</del> part XV <u>of this chapter does</u>
81	<u>not disallow</u> <del>disallows</del> or otherwise <u>apply</u> <del>applies</del> to <u>:</u>
82	(a) Installment payment arrangements offered by an insurer
83	if such arrangements do not involve the advancement of funds
84	which would constitute financing and exceed the service charges
85	provided in 627.901; or
86	(b) A discount for <u>an</u> any insured who pays the entire
87	premium for the entire policy term at the inception of the term

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595-04447-14 2014870c2 88 if the discount is found to be actuarially justified by the 89 office and approved by the office pursuant to the provisions of 90 part I of this chapter. Such actuarially justified and approved 91 discount may shall not be deemed a component of or related to 92 premium financing. Section 4. Subsection (2) of section 627.94072, Florida 93 94 Statutes, is amended to read: 95 627.94072 Mandatory offers.-96 (2) An insurer that offers a long-term care insurance 97 policy, certificate, or rider in this state shall must offer a nonforfeiture protection provision providing reduced paid-up 98 99 insurance, extended term, shortened benefit period, or any other 100 benefit benefits approved by the office if all or part of a 101 premium is not paid. A nonforfeiture provision may also be offered in the form of a return of premium on the death of the 102 103 insured, or on the complete surrender or cancellation of the 104 policy or contract. Nonforfeiture benefits and any additional 105 premium for such benefits must be computed in an actuarially 106 sound manner $_{\mathcal{T}}$  using a methodology that has been filed with and 107 approved by the office. 108 Section 5. Section 629.271, Florida Statutes, is amended to

109 110 read:

629.271 Distribution of savings.-

111 (1) A reciprocal insurer may from time to time return to 112 its subscribers any unused premiums, savings, or credits 113 accruing to their accounts. Any Such distribution may shall not 114 unfairly discriminate between classes of risks, or policies, or 115 between subscribers, but such distribution may vary as to 116 classes of subscribers based <u>on</u> upon the experience of such

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117	classes.
118	(2) In addition to the option provided in subsection (1), a
119	domestic reciprocal insurer may, upon the prior written approval
120	of the office, pay to its subscribers a portion of unassigned
121	funds of up to 10 percent of surplus with distribution limited
122	to 50 percent of net income from the previous calendar year.
123	Such distribution may not unfairly discriminate between classes
124	of risks, or policies, or between subscribers, but may vary as
125	to classes of subscribers based on the experience of such
126	classes.
127	Section 6. Subsections (2) through (9) of section 631.54,
128	Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (3) through
129	(10), respectively, and a new subsection (2) is added to that
130	section to read:
131	631.54 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:
132	(2) "Assessment year" means the 12-month period, which may
133	begin on the first day of any calendar quarter, whether January
134	1, April 1, July 1, or October 1, as specified in an order
135	issued by the office directing insurers to pay an assessment to
136	the association. Upon entry of the order, insurers may begin
137	collecting assessments from policyholders for the assessment
138	year.
139	Section 7. Subsections $(3)$ and $(4)$ of section $631.57$ ,
140	Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
141	631.57 Powers and duties of the association
142	(3)(a) To the extent necessary to secure <del>the</del> funds for the
143	respective accounts for the payment of covered claims, to pay
144	the reasonable costs to administer <u>such accounts</u> <del>the same</del> , and
145	to the extent necessary to secure the funds for the account

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146	specified in s. 631.55(2)(b) or to retire indebtedness,
147	including, without limitation, the principal, redemption
148	premium, if any, and interest on, and related costs of issuance
149	of, bonds issued under s. 631.695 and the funding of <del>any</del>
150	reserves and other payments required under the bond resolution
151	or trust indenture pursuant to which such bonds have been
152	issued, the office, upon certification of the board of
153	directors, shall levy assessments initially estimated in the
154	proportion that each insurer's net direct written premiums in
155	this state in the classes protected by the account bears to the
156	total of said net direct written premiums received in this state
157	by all such insurers for the preceding calendar year for the
158	kinds of insurance included within such account. Assessments
159	shall be remitted to and administered by the board of directors
160	in the manner specified by the approved plan and paragraph (f).
161	Each insurer so assessed shall have at least 30 days' written
162	notice as to the date the <u>initial</u> assessment <u>payment</u> is due and
163	payable. Every assessment shall be <del>made as</del> a uniform percentage
164	applicable to the net direct written premiums of each insurer in
165	the kinds of insurance included within the account in which the
166	assessment is made. The assessments levied against any insurer
167	<u>may</u> shall not exceed in any one year more than 2 percent of that
168	insurer's net direct written premiums in this state for the
169	kinds of insurance included within such account during the
170	calendar year next preceding the date of such assessments.
171	(b) If sufficient funds from such assessments, together

(b) If sufficient funds from such assessments, together with funds previously raised, are not available in any one year in the respective account to make all the payments or reimbursements then owing to insurers, the funds available shall

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595-04447-14 2014870c2 175 be prorated and the unpaid portion shall be paid as soon 176 thereafter as funds become available. 177 (c) The Legislature finds and declares that all assessments 178 paid by an insurer or insurer group as a result of a levy by the 179 office, including assessments levied pursuant to paragraph (a) 180 and emergency assessments levied pursuant to paragraph (e), 181 constitute advances of funds from the insurer to the association. An insurer may fully recoup such advances by 182 applying the uniform assessment percentage levied by the office 183 184 to all a separate recoupment factor to the premium of policies 185 of the same kind or line as were considered by the office in 186 determining the assessment liability of the insurer or insurer 187 group as set forth in paragraph (f). 188 1. Assessments levied under subparagraph (f)1. are paid 189 before policy surcharges are collected and result in a 190 receivable for policy surcharges collected in the future. This 191 amount, to the extent it is likely that it will be realized, 192 meets the definition of an admissible asset as specified in the 193 National Association of Insurance Commissioners' Statement of 194 Statutory Accounting Principles No. 4. The asset shall be 195 established and recorded separately from the liability regardless of whether it is based on a retrospective or 196 197 prospective premium-based assessment. If an insurer is unable to fully recoup the amount of the assessment because of a reduction 198 in writings or withdrawal from the market, the amount recorded 199 200 as an asset shall be reduced to the amount reasonably expected 201 to be recouped. 202 2. Assessments levied under subparagraph (f)2. are paid 203 after policy surcharges are collected so that the recognition of

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595-04447-14 2014870c2 204 assets is based on actual premium written offset by the 205 obligation to the association. 206 (d) No State funds may not of any kind shall be allocated 207 or paid to the said association or any of its accounts. 208 (e)1.a. In addition to assessments otherwise authorized in 209 paragraph (a), and to the extent necessary to secure the funds 210 for the account specified in s. 631.55(2)(b) for the direct 211 payment of covered claims of insurers rendered insolvent by the 212 effects of a hurricane and to pay the reasonable costs to 213 administer such claims, or to retire indebtedness, including, 214 without limitation, the principal, redemption premium, if any, and interest on, and related costs of issuance of, bonds issued 215 216 under s. 631.695 and the funding of any reserves and other 217 payments required under the bond resolution or trust indenture 218 pursuant to which such bonds have been issued, the office, upon 219 certification of the board of directors, shall levy emergency 220 assessments upon insurers holding a certificate of authority. 221 The emergency assessments payable under this paragraph by any 222 insurer may shall not exceed in any single year more than 2 223 percent of that insurer's direct written premiums, net of 224 refunds, in this state during the preceding calendar year for 225 the kinds of insurance within the account specified in s. 226 631.55(2)(b).

227 <u>2.b. Any</u> Emergency assessments authorized under this 228 paragraph shall be levied by the office upon insurers referred 229 to in <u>subparagraph 1.</u> <u>sub-subparagraph a.</u>, upon certification as 230 to the need for such assessments by the board of directors. <u>If</u> 231 <u>In the event</u> the board <del>of directors</del> participates in the issuance 232 of bonds in accordance with s. 631.695, emergency assessments

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595-04447-14 2014870c2 233 shall be levied in each year that bonds issued under s. 631.695 234 and secured by such emergency assessments are outstanding, in such amounts up to such 2 percent 2-percent limit as required in 235 236 order to provide for the full and timely payment of the 237 principal of, redemption premium, if any, and interest on, and 238 related costs of issuance of, such bonds. The emergency 239 assessments provided for in this paragraph are assigned and 240 pledged to the municipality, county, or legal entity issuing bonds under s. 631.695 for the benefit of the holders of such 241 242 bonds, in order to enable such municipality, county, or legal 243 entity to provide for the payment of the principal of, 244 redemption premium, if any, and interest on such bonds, the cost 245 of issuance of such bonds, and the funding of any reserves and other payments required under the bond resolution or trust 246 247 indenture pursuant to which such bonds have been issued, without 248 the necessity of any further action by the association, the 249 office, or any other party. If To the extent bonds are issued 250 under s. 631.695 and the association determines to secure such 251 bonds by a pledge of revenues received from the emergency 252 assessments, such bonds, upon such pledge of revenues, shall be 253 secured by and payable from the proceeds of such emergency 254 assessments, and the proceeds of emergency assessments levied 255 under this paragraph shall be remitted directly to and administered by the trustee or custodian appointed for such 256 257 bonds.

258 <u>3.e.</u> Emergency assessments <u>used to defease bonds issued</u> 259 under this <u>part</u> <del>paragraph</del> may be payable in a single payment or, 260 at the option of the association, may be payable in 12 monthly 261 installments with the first installment being due and payable at

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262 the end of the month after an emergency assessment is levied and 263 subsequent installments being due by not later than the end of 264 each succeeding month. 265 4.<del>d.</del> If emergency assessments are imposed, the report 266 required by s. 631.695(7) must shall include an analysis of the 267 revenues generated from the emergency assessments imposed under 268 this paragraph. 269 5.e. If emergency assessments are imposed, the references 270 in sub-subparagraph (1)(a)3.b. and s. 631.695(2) and (7) to 271 assessments levied under paragraph (a) must shall include 272 emergency assessments imposed under this paragraph. 273 6.2. If the board of directors participates in the issuance 274 of bonds in accordance with s. 631.695, an annual assessment 275 under this paragraph shall continue while the bonds issued with 276 respect to which the assessment was imposed are outstanding, 277 including any bonds the proceeds of which were used to refund 278 bonds issued pursuant to s. 631.695, unless adequate provision 279 has been made for the payment of the bonds in the documents 280 authorizing the issuance of such bonds.

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281 <u>7.3.</u> Emergency assessments under this paragraph are not 282 premium and are not subject to the premium tax, to any fees, or 283 to any commissions. An insurer is liable for all emergency 284 assessments that the insurer collects and shall treat the 285 failure of an insured to pay an emergency assessment as a 286 failure to pay the premium. An insurer is not liable for 287 uncollectible emergency assessments.

(f) The recoupment factor applied to policies in accordance with paragraph (c) shall be selected by the insurer or insurer group so as to provide for the probable recoupment of both

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291	assessments levied pursuant to paragraph (a) and emergency
292	assessments over a period of 12 months, unless the insurer or
293	insurer group, at its option, elects to recoup the assessment
294	over a longer period. The recoupment factor shall apply to all
295	policies of the same kind or line as were considered by the
296	office in determining the assessment liability of the insurer or
297	insurer group issued or renewed during a 12-month period. If the
298	insurer or insurer group does not collect the full amount of the
299	assessment during one 12-month period, the insurer or insurer
300	group may apply recalculated recoupment factors to policies
301	issued or renewed during one or more succeeding 12-month
302	periods. If, at the end of a 12-month period, the insurer or
303	insurer group has collected from the combined kinds or lines of
304	policies subject to assessment more than the total amount of the
305	assessment paid by the insurer or insurer group, the excess
306	amount shall be disbursed as follows:
307	1. The association, office, and insurers remitting
308	assessments pursuant to paragraph (a) or paragraph (e) must
309	comply with the following:
310	a. In the order levying an assessment, the office shall
311	specify the actual percentage amount to be collected uniformly
312	from all the policyholders of insurers subject to the assessment
313	and the date on which the assessment year begins, which may not
314	begin until 90 days after the association board certifies such
315	an assessment.
316	b. Insurers shall make an initial payment to the
317	association before the beginning of the assessment year on or
318	before the date specified in the order of the office.
319	c. Insurers that have written insurance in the calendar

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320	year before the year in which the assessment is certified by the
321	board shall make an initial payment based on the net direct
322	written premium amount from the prior calendar year as set forth
323	in the insurers' annual statements, multiplied by the uniform
324	percentage of premium specified in the order issued by the
325	office. Insurers that have not written insurance in the prior
326	calendar year in any of the lines under the account which are
327	being assessed, but that are writing insurance as of, or after,
328	the date the board certifies the assessment to the office, shall
329	pay an amount based on a good faith estimate of the amount of
330	net direct written premium anticipated to be written in the
331	subject lines of business for the assessment year, multiplied by
332	the uniform percentage of premium specified in the order issued
333	by the office.
334	d. Insurers shall file a reconciliation report with the
335	association within 45 days after the end of the assessment year
336	which indicates the amount of the initial payment to the
337	association before the assessment year, whether such amount was
338	based on net direct written premium contained in a prior
339	calendar year annual statement or a good faith projection, the
340	amount actually collected during the assessment year, and such
341	other information contained on a form adopted by the association
342	and provided to the insurers in advance. If the insurer
343	collected from policyholders more than the amount initially
344	paid, the insurer shall pay the excess amount to the
345	association. If the insurer collected from policyholders an
346	amount which is less than the amount initially paid to the
347	association, the association shall credit the insurer that
348	amount against future assessments. Such payment reconciliation

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349	report, and any payment of excess amounts collected from
350	policyholders, shall be completed and remitted to the
351	association within 90 days after the end of the assessment year.
352	The association shall send a final reconciliation report on all
353	insurers to the office within 120 days after each assessment
354	<u>year.</u>
355	e. Insurers remitting reconciliation reports to the
356	association under this paragraph are subject to s.
357	<u>626.9541(1)(e). If the excess amount does not exceed 15 percent</u>
358	of the total assessment paid by the insurer or insurer group,
359	the excess amount shall be remitted to the association within 60
360	days after the end of the 12-month period in which the excess
361	recoupment charges were collected.
362	2. The association may use a monthly installment method
363	instead of the method described in sub-subparagraphs 1.b. and c.
364	or in combination thereof based on the association's projected
365	cash flow. If the association projects that it has cash on hand
366	for the payment of anticipated claims in the applicable account
367	for at least 6 months, the board may make an estimate of the
368	assessment needed and may recommend to the office the assessment
369	percentage that may be collected as a monthly assessment. The
370	office may, in the order levying the assessment on insurers,
371	specify that the assessment is due and payable monthly as the
372	funds are collected from insureds throughout the assessment
373	year, in which case the assessment shall be a uniform percentage
374	of premium collected during the assessment year and shall be
375	collected from all policyholders with policies in the classes
376	protected by the account. All insurers shall collect the
377	assessment without regard to whether the insurers reported
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595-04447-14 2014870c2 378 premium in the year preceding the assessment. Insurers are not 379 required to advance funds if the association and the office 380 elect to use the monthly installment option. All funds collected 381 shall be retained by the association for the payment of current 382 or future claims. This subparagraph does not alter the 383 obligation of an insurer to remit assessments levied pursuant to 384 this subsection to the association. If the excess amount exceeds 385 15 percent of the total assessment paid by the insurer or 386 insurer group, the excess amount shall be returned to the 387 insurer's or insurer group's current policyholders by refunds or 388 premium credits. The association shall use any remitted excess 389 recoupment amounts to reduce future assessments.

(g) Amounts recouped pursuant to this subsection for assessments levied under paragraph (a) due to insolvencies on or after July 1, 2010, are considered premium solely for premium tax purposes and are not subject to fees or commissions. However, insurers shall treat the failure of an insured to pay a recoupment charge as a failure to pay the premium.

396 (h) At least 15 days before applying the recoupment factor 397 to any policies, the insurer or insurer group shall file with 398 the office a statement for informational purposes only setting 399 forth the amount of the recoupment factor and an explanation of 400 how the recoupment factor will be applied. Such statement shall 401 include documentation of the assessment paid by the insurer or 402 insurer group and the arithmetic calculations supporting the 403 recoupment factor. The insurer or insurer group may use the 404 recoupment factor at any time after the expiration of the 15-day 405 period. The insurer or insurer group need submit only one informational statement for all lines of business using the same 406

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407	recoupment factor.
408	(i) No later than 90 days after the insurer or insurer
409	group has completed the recoupment process, the insurer or
410	insurer group shall file with the office, for information
411	purposes only, a final accounting report documenting the
412	recoupment. The report shall provide the amounts of assessments
413	paid by the insurer or insurer group, the amounts and
414	percentages recouped by year from each affected line of
415	business, and the direct written premium subject to recoupment
416	by year. The insurer or insurer group need submit only one
417	report for all lines of business using the same recoupment
418	factor.
419	(h) Assessments levied under this subsection are levied
420	upon insurers. This subsection does not create a cause of action
421	by a policyholder with respect to the levying of, or a
422	policyholder's duty to pay, such assessments.
423	(4) The <u>office</u> <del>department</del> may exempt <u>or temporarily defer</u>
424	any insurer from any regular or emergency assessment if <u>the</u>
425	office finds that the insurer is impaired or insolvent or if an
426	assessment would result in such insurer's financial statement
427	reflecting an amount of capital or surplus less than the sum of
428	the minimum amount required by any jurisdiction in which the
429	insurer is authorized to transact insurance.
430	Section 8. Section 631.64, Florida Statutes, is amended to
431	read:
432	631.64 Recognition of assessments in ratesCharges or
433	recoupments shall be separately displayed on premium statements
434	to enable policyholders to determine the amount charged for
435	association assessments but may not be included in rates filed
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436	and approved by the office. The rates and premiums charged for
437	insurance policies to which this part applies may include
438	amounts sufficient to recoup a sum equal to the amounts paid to
439	the association by the member insurer less any amounts returned
440	to the member insurer by the association, and such rates shall
441	not be deemed excessive because they contain an amount
442	reasonably calculated to recoup assessments paid by the member
443	insurer.
444	Section 9. Subsection (5) of section 627.727, Florida
445	Statutes, is amended to read:
446	627.727 Motor vehicle insurance; uninsured and underinsured
447	vehicle coverage; insolvent insurer protection
448	(5) Any person having a claim against an insolvent insurer
449	as defined in s. 631.54 <del>(6)</del> under <del>the provisions of</del> this section
450	shall present such claim for payment to the Florida Insurance
451	Guaranty Association only. In the event of a payment to <u>a</u> any
452	person in settlement of a claim arising under <del>the provisions of</del>
453	this section, the association is not subrogated or entitled to
454	any recovery against the claimant's insurer. The association,
455	however, has the rights of recovery as set forth in chapter 631
456	in the proceeds recoverable from the assets of the insolvent
457	insurer.
458	Section 10. Subsection (1) of section 631.55, Florida
459	Statutes, is amended to read:
460	631.55 Creation of the association
461	(1) There is created a nonprofit corporation to be known as
462	the "Florida Insurance Guaranty Association, Incorporated." All
463	insurers defined as member insurers in s. 631.54 <del>(7)</del> shall be

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members of the association as a condition of their authority to

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465	transact insurance in this state, and, further, as a condition
466	of such authority, an insurer <u>must</u> shall agree to reimburse the
467	association for all claim payments the association makes on $\underline{the}$
468	said insurer's behalf if such insurer is subsequently
469	rehabilitated. The association shall perform its functions under
470	a plan of operation established and approved under s. 631.58 and
471	shall exercise its powers through a board of directors
472	established under s. 631.56. The corporation shall have all
473	those powers granted or permitted nonprofit corporations, as
474	provided in chapter 617.

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Section 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.