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By the Committee on Appropriations; and Senator Brandes

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A bill to be entitled An act relating to contraband forfeiture; amending s. 932.701, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference to changes made by the act; amending s. 932.704, F.S.; requiring each state or local law enforcement agency that seizes property for the purpose of forfeiture to perform a specified periodic review at least annually and address deficiencies to ensure compliance with this act; prohibiting certain compensation or benefit to any law enforcement officer from being dependent upon attaining a quota of seizures; requiring a seizing agency to have certain written policies, procedures, and training to comply with specified legal requirements; requiring the probable cause for seizure to be promptly reviewed by supervisory personnel; requiring the seizing agency's legal counsel to be timely notified and to conduct a specified review; requiring each seizing agency to have specified written policies and procedures for the prompt release of seized property under certain circumstances; requiring that settlement of any forfeiture actions be consistent with certain mandates and with the seizing agency's policy or directives; requiring specified training and maintenance of records for such training; amending s. 932.7055, F.S.; deleting a provision authorizing a seizing agency to retain seized property for its use; deleting an obsolete provision; requiring a law enforcement agency participating in certain forfeiture proceedings to submit a report to the

Department of Law Enforcement on a periodic basis detailing specified information; making technical changes; creating s. 932.7061, F.S.; requiring each state or local law enforcement agency that seizes property for the purpose of forfeiture to complete an annual report; requiring certain information to be included in the annual report; requiring the report to be kept on file with the seizing agency for public access; amending ss. 322.34, 323.001, 328.07, and 817.625, F.S.; conforming cross-references; reenacting ss. 27.3451 and 874.08, F.S., relating to the State Attorney's Forfeiture and Investigative Support Trust Fund, and criminal gang activity, recruitment, and forfeiture, respectively, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 932.704, F.S., in references thereto; reenacting ss. 381.0081(5)(b), 895.09(2)(c), and 932.703(6)(b), F.S., relating to the allocations of proceeds from the sales of property in a migrant labor camp or residential migrant housing, the disposition of funds obtained through forfeiture proceedings, and the forfeiture of contraband articles, respectively, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 932.7055, F.S., in references thereto; 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 932.701, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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932.701 Short title; definitions.-

(1) Sections  $932.701-\underline{932.7061}$   $\underline{932.706}$  shall be known and may be cited as the "Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act."

Section 2. Subsection (11) of section 932.704, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

932.704 Forfeiture proceedings.-

- (11)(a) The Department of Law Enforcement, in consultation with the Florida Sheriffs Association and the Florida Police Chiefs Association, shall develop guidelines and training procedures to be used by state and local law enforcement agencies and state attorneys in implementing the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act. Each state or local law enforcement agency that seizes property for the purpose of forfeiture shall periodically review seizures of assets made by the agency's law enforcement officers, settlements, and forfeiture proceedings initiated by the agency, to determine whether such seizures, settlements, and forfeitures comply with the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act and the guidelines adopted under this subsection. Such review must occur at least annually. If the review suggests deficiencies, the state or local law enforcement agency shall promptly move to ensure the agency's compliance with this act.
- (b) The determination of whether an agency will file a civil forfeiture action must be the sole responsibility of the head of the agency or his or her designee.
- (c) (b) The determination of whether to seize currency must be made by supervisory personnel. The agency's legal counsel must be notified as soon as possible.
- (d) The employment, salary, promotion, or other compensation of any law enforcement officer may not depend on

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attaining a quota of seizures.

(e) A seizing agency must ensure, through the use of written policies, procedures, and training, compliance with all applicable legal requirements regarding seizing, maintaining, and forfeiting property under this act.

- (f) When property is seized for forfeiture, the probable cause supporting the seizure must be promptly reviewed by supervisory personnel. The seizing agency's legal counsel must be notified as soon as possible of all seizures and must conduct a review to determine whether there is legal sufficiency to proceed with a forfeiture action.
- (g) Each seizing agency must have written policies and procedures promoting, when there is no other legitimate basis for holding seized property, the prompt release of such property as may be required by the act or by agency determination. To help assure that property is not wrongfully held after seizure, every law enforcement agency must have written policies and procedures ensuring that all asserted claims of interest in seized property are promptly reviewed for potential validity.
- (h) The settlement of any forfeiture action must be consistent with the mandates of this act and in compliance with agency policy or directives.
- (i) Law enforcement agency personnel involved in the seizure of property for forfeiture shall receive basic training and continuing education as required by this act. Each agency shall maintain records documenting every law enforcement officer's compliance with these training requirements. A portion of such training must address the legal aspects of forfeiture, including, but not limited to, search and seizure and other

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constitutional considerations.

Section 3. Section 932.7055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

932.7055 Disposition of liens and forfeited property.-

- (1) When a seizing agency obtains a final judgment granting forfeiture of real property or personal property, it may elect to:
  - (a) Retain the property for the agency's use;
- (a) (b) Sell the property at public auction or by sealed bid to the highest bidder, except for real property, which must should be sold in a commercially reasonable manner after appraisal by listing on the market; or
- (b) (c) Salvage, trade, or transfer the property to any public or nonprofit organization.
- (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a seizing agency must destroy any image and the medium on which the image is recorded, including, but not limited to, a photograph, video tape, diskette, compact disc, or fixed disk made in violation of s. 810.145 when the image and the medium on which it is recorded is no longer needed for an official purpose. The agency may not sell or retain any image.
- (3) If the forfeited property is subject to a lien preserved by the court as provided in s. 932.703(6)(b), the agency shall:
- (a) Sell the property with the proceeds being used towards satisfaction of any liens; or
- (b) Have the lien satisfied prior to taking any action authorized by subsection (1).
  - (4) The proceeds from the sale of forfeited property shall

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be disbursed in the following priority:

- (a) Payment of the balance due on any lien preserved by the court in the forfeiture proceedings.
- (b) Payment of the cost incurred by the seizing agency in connection with the storage, maintenance, security, and forfeiture of such property.
- (c) Payment of court costs incurred in the forfeiture proceeding.
- (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, and for the 2014-2015 fiscal year only, the funds in a special law enforcement trust fund established by the governing body of a municipality may be expended to reimburse the general fund of the municipality for moneys advanced from the general fund to the special law enforcement trust fund before October 1, 2001. This paragraph expires July 1, 2015.
- (5) (a) If the seizing agency is a county or municipal agency, the remaining proceeds shall be deposited in a special law enforcement trust fund established by the board of county commissioners or the governing body of the municipality. Such proceeds and interest earned therefrom shall be used for school resource officer, crime prevention, safe neighborhood, drug abuse education and prevention programs, or for other law enforcement purposes, which include defraying the cost of protracted or complex investigations, providing additional equipment or expertise, purchasing automated external defibrillators for use in law enforcement vehicles, and providing matching funds to obtain federal grants. The proceeds and interest may not be used to meet normal operating expenses of the law enforcement agency.

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(b) These funds may be expended upon request by the sheriff to the board of county commissioners or by the chief of police to the governing body of the municipality, accompanied by a written certification that the request complies with the provisions of this subsection, and only upon appropriation to the sheriff's office or police department by the board of county commissioners or the governing body of the municipality.

- (c) An agency or organization, other than the seizing agency, that wishes to receive such funds shall apply to the sheriff or chief of police for an appropriation and its application shall be accompanied by a written certification that the moneys will be used for an authorized purpose. Such requests for expenditures shall include a statement describing anticipated recurring costs for the agency for subsequent fiscal years. An agency or organization that receives money pursuant to this subsection shall provide an accounting for such moneys and shall furnish the same reports as an agency of the county or municipality that receives public funds. Such funds may be expended in accordance with the following procedures:
- 1. Such funds may be used only for school resource officer, crime prevention, safe neighborhood, drug abuse education, or drug prevention programs or such other law enforcement purposes as the board of county commissioners or governing body of the municipality deems appropriate.
- 2. Such funds shall not be a source of revenue to meet normal operating needs of the law enforcement agency.
- 3. After July 1, 1992, and during every fiscal year thereafter, any local law enforcement agency that acquires at least \$15,000 pursuant to the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act

within a fiscal year must expend or donate no less than 15 percent of such proceeds for the support or operation of any drug treatment, drug abuse education, drug prevention, crime prevention, safe neighborhood, or school resource officer program(s). The local law enforcement agency has the discretion to determine which program(s) will receive the designated proceeds.

Notwithstanding the drug abuse education, drug treatment, drug prevention, crime prevention, safe neighborhood, or school resource officer minimum expenditures or donations, the sheriff and the board of county commissioners or the chief of police and the governing body of the municipality may agree to expend or donate such funds over a period of years if the expenditure or donation of such minimum amount in any given fiscal year would exceed the needs of the county or municipality for such program(s). Nothing in this section precludes the expenditure or donation of forfeiture proceeds in excess of the minimum amounts established herein.

- (6) If the seizing agency is a state agency, all remaining proceeds shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund. However, if the seizing agency is:
- (a) The Department of Law Enforcement, the proceeds accrued pursuant to the provisions of the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act shall be deposited into the Forfeiture and Investigative Support Trust Fund as provided in s. 943.362 or into the department's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 943.365, as applicable.
  - (b) The Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, the

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proceeds accrued pursuant to the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act shall be deposited into the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Trust Fund or into the department's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 561.027, as applicable.

- (c) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, the proceeds accrued pursuant to the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act shall be deposited into the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 932.705(1)(a) or into the department's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 932.705(1)(b), as applicable.
- (d) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the proceeds accrued pursuant to the provisions of the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act shall be deposited into the State Game Trust Fund as provided in ss. 379.338, 379.339, and 379.3395 or into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund as provided in s. 379.337.
- (e) A state attorney's office acting within its judicial circuit, the proceeds accrued pursuant to the provisions of the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act shall be deposited into the State Attorney's Forfeiture and Investigative Support Trust Fund to be used for the investigation of crime and prosecution of criminals within the judicial circuit.
- (f) A school board security agency employing law enforcement officers, the proceeds accrued pursuant to the provisions of the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act shall be deposited into the School Board Law Enforcement Trust Fund.
- (g) One of the State University System police departments acting within the jurisdiction of its employing state

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university, the proceeds accrued pursuant to the provisions of the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act shall be deposited into that state university's special law enforcement trust fund.

- (h) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the proceeds accrued pursuant to the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act shall be deposited into the General Inspection Trust Fund or into the department's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 570.205, as applicable.
- (i) The Department of Military Affairs, the proceeds accrued from federal forfeiture sharing pursuant to 21 U.S.C. ss. 881(e)(1)(A) and (3), 18 U.S.C. s. 981(e)(2), and 19 U.S.C. s. 1616a shall be deposited into the Armory Board Trust Fund and used for purposes authorized by such federal provisions based on the department's budgetary authority or into the department's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 250.175, as applicable.
- (j) The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Department of Legal Affairs, the proceeds accrued pursuant to the provisions of the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act shall be deposited into the Department of Legal Affairs Grants and Donations Trust Fund to be used for investigation and prosecution of Medicaid fraud, abuse, neglect, and other related cases by the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.
- (k) The Division of State Fire Marshal in the Department of Financial Services, the proceeds accrued under the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act shall be deposited into the Insurance Regulatory Trust Fund to be used for the purposes of arson suppression, arson investigation, and the funding of anti-arson rewards.

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(1) The Division of Insurance Fraud of the Department of Financial Services, the proceeds accrued pursuant to the provisions of the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act shall be deposited into the Insurance Regulatory Trust Fund as provided in s. 626.9893 or into the Department of Financial Services' Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 17.43, as applicable.

- (7) If more than one law enforcement agency is acting substantially to effect the forfeiture, the court having jurisdiction over the forfeiture proceedings shall, upon motion, equitably distribute all proceeds and other property among the seizing agencies.
- (8) Upon the sale of any motor vehicle, vessel, aircraft, real property, or other property requiring a title, the appropriate agency shall issue a title certificate to the purchaser. Upon the request of any law enforcement agency which elects to retain titled property after forfeiture, the appropriate state agency shall issue a title certificate for such property to said law enforcement agency.
- (9) A Neither the law enforcement agency, or nor the entity having budgetary control over the law enforcement agency, may not shall anticipate future forfeitures or the proceeds from those forfeitures therefrom in the adoption and approval of the agency's budget for the law enforcement agency.
- (10) A law enforcement agency participating in forfeiture proceedings pursuant to this act shall submit a report to the Department of Law Enforcement every 3 months detailing the items seized through the forfeiture process and, if a final judgment of forfeiture was issued for any seized property or assets, a

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description of how the property or assets were disposed of.

Section 4. Section 932.7061, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

932.7061 Each state or local law enforcement agency that seizes property for the purpose of forfeiture must complete an annual report indicating whether that agency has received or forfeited property under this act. The report, to be submitted on a form designed by the law enforcement agency, must, at a minimum, specify the type of property, its approximate value, the court case number, the type of offense for which the property was seized, disposition of the property, and the dollar amount of the proceeds received or expended in seizing the property. This report must be kept on file with the seizing agency for public access.

Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (9) of section 322.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

322.34 Driving while license suspended, revoked, canceled, or disqualified.—

(9) (a) A motor vehicle that is driven by a person under the influence of alcohol or drugs in violation of s. 316.193 is subject to seizure and forfeiture under ss. 932.701-932.7061 932.706 and is subject to liens for recovering, towing, or storing vehicles under s. 713.78 if, at the time of the offense, the person's driver license is suspended, revoked, or canceled as a result of a prior conviction for driving under the influence.

Section 6. Subsection (4) of section 323.001, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

323.001 Wrecker operator storage facilities; vehicle

349 holds.-

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(4) The requirements for a written hold apply when the following conditions are present:

- (a) The officer has probable cause to believe the vehicle should be seized and forfeited under the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act, ss. 932.701-932.7061 932.706;
- (b) The officer has probable cause to believe the vehicle should be seized and forfeited under chapter 379;
- (c) The officer has probable cause to believe the vehicle was used as the means of committing a crime;
- (d) The officer has probable cause to believe that the vehicle is itself evidence that tends to show that a crime has been committed or that the vehicle contains evidence, which cannot readily be removed, which tends to show that a crime has been committed;
- (e) The officer has probable cause to believe the vehicle was involved in a traffic accident resulting in death or personal injury and should be sealed for investigation and collection of evidence by a vehicular homicide investigator;
- (f) The vehicle is impounded or immobilized pursuant to s. 316.193 or s. 322.34; or
  - (g) The officer is complying with a court order.
- Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 328.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 328.07 Hull identification number required.-
- 374 (3)
  - (b) If any of the hull identification numbers required by the United States Coast Guard for a vessel manufactured after October 31, 1972, do not exist or have been altered, removed,

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destroyed, covered, or defaced or the real identity of the vessel cannot be determined, the vessel may be seized as contraband property by a law enforcement agency or the division, and shall be subject to forfeiture pursuant to ss. 932.701-932.7061 932.706. Such vessel may not be sold or operated on the waters of the state unless the division receives a request from a law enforcement agency providing adequate documentation or is directed by written order of a court of competent jurisdiction to issue to the vessel a replacement hull identification number which shall thereafter be used for identification purposes. No vessel shall be forfeited under the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act when the owner unknowingly, inadvertently, or neglectfully altered, removed, destroyed, covered, or defaced the vessel hull identification number.

Section 8. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 817.625, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

817.625 Use of scanning device or reencoder to defraud; penalties.—

(2)

(c) Any person who violates subparagraph (a)1. or subparagraph (a)2. shall also be subject to the provisions of ss. 932.701-932.7061  $\frac{932.706}{6}$ .

Section 9. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 932.704, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, section 27.3451, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

27.3451 State Attorney's Forfeiture and Investigative Support Trust Fund.—There is created for each of the several state attorneys a trust fund to be known as the State Attorney's

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Forfeiture and Investigative Support Trust Fund. Revenues received by a state attorney as a result of forfeiture proceedings, as provided under s. 932.704, shall be deposited in such trust fund and shall be used, when authorized by appropriation or action of the Executive Office of the Governor pursuant to s. 216.181(11), for the investigation of crime, prosecution of criminals, or other law enforcement purposes.

Section 10. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 932.704, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, section 874.08, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

874.08 Criminal gang activity and recruitment; forfeiture.— All profits, proceeds, and instrumentalities of criminal gang activity and all property used or intended or attempted to be used to facilitate the criminal activity of any criminal gang or of any criminal gang member; and all profits, proceeds, and instrumentalities of criminal gang recruitment and all property used or intended or attempted to be used to facilitate criminal gang recruitment are subject to seizure and forfeiture under the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act, s. 932.704.

Section 11. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 932.7055, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 381.0081, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

381.0081 Permit required to operate a migrant labor camp or residential migrant housing; penalties for unlawful establishment or operation; allocation of proceeds.—

- (5) SEIZURE.-
- (b) After satisfying any liens on the property, the

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remaining proceeds from the sale of the property seized under this section shall be allocated as follows if the department participated in the inspection or investigation leading to seizure and forfeiture under this section:

- 1. One-third of the proceeds shall be allocated to the law enforcement agency involved in the seizure, to be used as provided in s. 932.7055.
- 2. One-third of the proceeds shall be allocated to the department, to be used for purposes of enforcing the provisions of this section.
- 3. One-third of the proceeds shall be deposited in the State Apartment Incentive Loan Fund, to be used for the purpose of providing funds to sponsors who provide housing for farmworkers.

Section 12. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 932.7055, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 895.09, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

895.09 Disposition of funds obtained through forfeiture proceedings.—

(2)

(c) Any funds distributed to an investigating law enforcement agency under paragraph (a) shall be deposited in the applicable law enforcement trust fund established for that agency pursuant to s. 932.7055 and expended for the purposes and in the manner authorized in that section. In addition, any funds distributed to an investigating law enforcement agency pursuant to this section may be used to pay the costs of investigations of violations of this chapter and the criminal prosecutions and

civil actions related thereto, pursuant to s. 932.7055. Such costs may include all taxable costs; costs of protecting, maintaining, and forfeiting the property; employees' base salaries and compensation for overtime; and such other costs directly attributable to the investigation, prosecution, or civil action.

Section 13. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 932.7055, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section 932.703, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

932.703 Forfeiture of contraband article; exceptions.-

(6)

(b) A bona fide lienholder's interest that has been perfected in the manner prescribed by law prior to the seizure may not be forfeited under the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act unless the seizing agency establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that the lienholder had actual knowledge, at the time the lien was made, that the property was being employed or was likely to be employed in criminal activity. If a lienholder's interest is not subject to forfeiture under the requirements of this section, such interest shall be preserved by the court by ordering the lienholder's interest to be paid as provided in s. 932.7055.

Section 14. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.