By the Committees on Appropriations; and Commerce and Tourism; and Senators Gainer, Broxson, and Montford

576-03517-17 2017364c2 1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to the Gulf Coast Economic Corridor; 3 amending s. 288.80, F.S.; conforming provisions to 4 changes made by the act; amending s. 288.8012, F.S.; 5 defining and redefining terms; amending s. 288.8013, 6 F.S.; deleting the creation and identification of 7 purposes of the Recovery Fund; requiring a specified 8 percentage of payments made to the state under a 9 specified settlement of litigation related to the 10 Deepwater Horizon oil spill be transferred from the 11 General Revenue Fund to the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust 12 Fund; requiring certain funds to be used for administrative costs; requiring Triumph Gulf Coast, 13 Inc., to ensure that a minimum percentage of funds 14 15 appropriated for such awards from the trust fund be expended in certain affected counties; providing 16 17 appropriations; authorizing the transfer of funds in 18 the 2017-2018 fiscal year to be spent in the 2018-2019 19 fiscal year; requiring interest in the trust account 20 to be deposited into the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust 21 Fund; revising provisions related to the investment of 22 funds in the trust account; revising annual reporting 23 requirements; amending s. 288.8014, F.S.; expanding 24 the membership of the board of directors; specifying 25 conditions for appointing additional board members; 2.6 deleting references to the Recovery Fund; deleting 27 obsolete language; revising conflict of interest 28 restrictions imposed on board members of Triumph Gulf 29 Coast, Inc.; removing the requirement that Triumph

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30	Gulf Coast, Inc., retain an independent financial
31	advisor and an economic advisor; revising provisions
32	relating to conflict of interest restrictions imposed
33	on retained staff; amending s. 288.8015, F.S.;
34	conforming a provision to changes made by the act;
35	amending s. 288.8016, F.S.; requiring Triumph Gulf
36	Coast, Inc., to publish on its website specified
37	information before making an award; amending s.
38	288.8017, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made
39	by the act; revising provisions governing the uses of
40	awards from Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.; repealing s.
41	377.43, F.S., relating to the disbursement of funds
42	received for damages caused by the Deepwater Horizon
43	oil spill; specifying that certain conflict of
44	interest restrictions imposed on board members of the
45	Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., apply to members serving
46	after a specified date; providing a directive to the
47	Division of Law Revision and Information; providing an
48	effective date.
49	
50	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
51	
52	Section 1. Section 288.80, Florida Statutes, is amended to
53	read:
54	288.80 Short title-This section and <u>ss. 288.8011-288.8018</u>
55	ss. 288.8011-288.8017 may be cited as the "Gulf Coast Economic
56	Corridor Act."
57	Section 2. Section 288.8012, Florida Statutes, is amended
58	to read:
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59	288.8012 Definitions.—As used in <u>ss. 288.8011-288.8018</u> ss.
60	288.80-288.8017 , the term:
61	(1) "Awardee" means a person, organization, or local
62	government granted an award of funds as authorized in s.
63	288.8017 from the Recovery Fund for a project or program.
64	(2) "Department" means the Department of Economic
65	Opportunity.
66	(3)(2) "Disproportionately affected county" means Bay
67	County, Escambia County, Franklin County, Gulf County, Okaloosa
68	County, Santa Rosa County, Walton County, or Wakulla County.
69	(4) "Public infrastructure" means roads, bridges, seaports,
70	rail transport, traffic signalization, underground and above
71	ground utilities, transmission and storage of fossil fuels and
72	renewable sources; hazardous waste disposal and handling,
73	information storage and distribution, and distribution and
74	maintenance of water supply; and disposal and treatment of
75	wastewater.
76	(3) "Earnings" means all the income generated by
77	investments and interest.
78	(5)(4) "Settlement agreement" means the agreement entitled
79	"Settlement Agreement Between the Gulf States and the BP
80	Entities with Respect to Economic and Other Claims Arising from
81	the Deepwater Horizon Incident," which was entered into on
82	October 5, 2015, in the case styled In re: Oil Spill by the Oil
83	Rig "Deepwater Horizon" in the Gulf of Mexico, on April 20,
84	2010, MDL 2179 in the United States District Court for the
85	Eastern District of Louisiana "Recovery Fund" means a trust
86	account established by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., for the benefit
87	of the disproportionately affected counties.

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576-03517-17 2017364c2 88 Section 3. Section 288.8013, Florida Statutes, is amended 89 to read: 288.8013 Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.; Recovery Fund; creation; 90 91 funding; investment.-92 (1) There is created within the department of Economic 93 Opportunity a nonprofit corporation, to be known as Triumph Gulf 94 Coast, Inc., which shall be registered, incorporated, organized, 95 and operated in compliance with chapter 617, and which is not a 96 unit or entity of state government. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., 97 may receive, hold, invest, and administer the Recovery Fund in support of this act. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., is a separate 98 budget entity and is not subject to control, supervision, or 99 100 direction by the department of Economic Opportunity in any 101 manner, including, but not limited to, personnel, purchasing, 102 transactions involving real or personal property, and budgetary 103 matters. (2) Seventy-five percent of all payments to the state 104 pursuant to the settlement agreement shall be transferred 105 106 immediately from the General Revenue Fund to the Triumph Gulf

107 Coast Trust Fund within the department to be allocated by the 108 board of directors of the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Triumph Gulf 109 Coast, Inc., must create and administer the Recovery Fund for 110 the benefit of the disproportionately affected counties. The 111 principal of the fund shall derive from 75 percent of all funds 112 recovered by the Attorney General for economic damage to the 113 state resulting from the Deepwater Horizon disaster, after 114 payment of reasonable and necessary attorney fees, costs, and 115 expenses, including such attorney fees, costs, and expenses 116 pursuant to s. 16.0155.

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117	(a) Seventy-five percent of the moneys received by the
118	state on or before July 1, 2017, shall be immediately
119	transferred to Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., and up to 0.75 percent
120	of such moneys may be used to pay administrative costs. Forty
121	percent of the remaining moneys shall be allocated by the board
122	to projects identified in s. 288.8017, and as reviewed and
123	approved by the appropriate board of county commissioners, in
124	the eight disproportionately affected counties, with no county
125	receiving less than 5 percent of the total allocation. Any
126	remaining funds shall be allocated by the board to projects
127	identified in s. 288.8017 in any disproportionately affected
128	county to address impacts of the Deepwater Horizon event.
129	(b) Seventy-five percent of the moneys received by the
130	state after July 1, 2017, pursuant to the settlement agreement
131	shall be deposited into the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund for
132	appropriation by the Legislature. Up to 0.75 percent of such
133	moneys may be used to pay for administrative costs. Thirty-two
134	percent of the remaining funds appropriated shall be allocated
135	by the board to projects identified in s. 288.8017, and as
136	reviewed and approved by the appropriate board of county
137	commissioners, to the eight disproportionately affected
138	counties, with no county receiving less than 4 percent of each
139	settlement distribution to the state. Any remaining funds shall
140	be allocated by the board to projects identified in s. 288.8017.
141	(c) Notwithstanding s. 216.301, and pursuant to s. 216.351,
142	funds transferred under this section to the trust fund for the
143	2017-2018 fiscal year may be expended at any time before the end
144	of the 2018-2019 fiscal year.
145	(3) The Recovery Fund must be maintained as a long-term and

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576-03517-17 2017364c2 146 stable source of revenue, which shall decline over a 30-year 147 period in equal amounts each year. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., 148 shall establish a trust account at a federally insured financial 149 institution to hold funds transferred or appropriated to it from 150 the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund and make deposits and 151 payments. Interest earned in the trust account shall be 152 deposited monthly into the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., may invest surplus funds in the Local 153 Government Surplus Funds Trust Fund, pursuant to s. 218.407, and 154 155 interest earned, net of fees, shall be transferred monthly into 156 the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund. Earnings generated by 157 investments and interest of the fund, plus the amount of 158 principal available each year, shall be available to make awards 159 pursuant to this act and pay administrative costs. Earnings 160 shall be accounted for separately from principal funds set forth in subsection (2). Administrative costs may not exceed the 161 162 amounts specifically appropriated for this purpose and may are 163 limited to 2.25 percent of the earnings in a calendar year. 164 Administrative costs include payment of investment fees, travel 165 and per diem expenses of board members, audits, salary or other 166 costs for employed or contracted staff, including required staff 167 under s. 288.8014(9), and other allowable costs. The annual 168 salary for any employee or contracted staff may not exceed 169 \$130,000 and associated benefits may not exceed 35 percent of 170 salary. Any funds remaining in the Recovery Fund after 30 years 171 shall revert to the State Treasury. 172 (4) Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., shall invest and reinvest the 173 principal of the Recovery Fund in accordance with s. 617.2104, 174 in such a manner not to subject the funds to state or federal

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576-03517-17 2017364c2 taxes, and consistent with an investment policy statement 175 176 adopted by the corporation. (a) The board of directors shall formulate an investment 177 178 policy governing the investment of the principal of the Recovery 179 Fund. The policy shall pertain to the types, kinds, or nature of 180 investment of any of the funds, and any limitations, conditions 181 or restrictions upon the methods, practices, or procedures for investment, reinvestments, purchases, sales, or exchange 182 183 transactions, provided such policies shall not conflict with nor be in derogation of any state constitutional provision or law. 184 185 The policy shall be formulated with the advice of the financial 186 advisor in consultation with the State Board of Administration. 187 (b) Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., must competitively procure 188 one or more money managers, under the advice of the financial advisor in consultation with the State Board of Administration, 189 190 to invest the principal of the Recovery Fund. The applicant 191 manager or managers may not include representatives from the 192 financial institution housing the trust account for the Recovery 193 Fund. The applicant manager or managers must present a plan to 194 invest the Recovery Fund to maximize earnings while prioritizing 195 the preservation of Recovery Fund principal. Any agreement with 196 a money manager must be reviewed by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., 197 for continuance at least every 5 years. Plans should include 198 investment in technology and growth businesses domiciled in, or

199 that will be domiciled in, this state or businesses whose 200 principal address is in this state.

201 (c) Costs and fees for investment services shall be
 202 deducted from the earnings as administrative costs. Fees for
 203 investment services shall be no greater than 150 basis points.

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204
          (d) Annually, Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., shall cause an
     audit to be conducted of the investment of the Recovery Fund by
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     the independent certified public accountant retained in s.
207
     288.8014. The expense of such audit shall be paid from earnings
208
     for administrative purposes.
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          (4) (5) Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., shall report on June 30
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     and December 30 each year to the Governor, the President of the
211
     Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the
     financial status of the Recovery Fund and its investments, the
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213
     established priorities, the project and program selection
     process, including a list of all submitted projects and programs
214
215
     and reasons for approval or denial, and the status of all
216
     approved awards.
217
          (5) (6) The Auditor General shall conduct an operational
218
     audit of the Recovery Fund and Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.,
219
     annually. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., shall provide to the Auditor
220
     General any detail or supplemental data required.
221
          Section 4. Subsections (2), (3), (4), (7), and (9) of
222
     section 288.8014, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
223
          288.8014 Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.; organization; board of
224
     directors.-
225
          (2) Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., shall initially be governed
226
     by a five-member 5-member board of directors. Each of the
227
     Trustees of the State Board of Administration, the President of
228
     the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
229
     shall each appoint one member from the private sector. As of the
230
     effective date of this act, the number of board members is
231
     increased to seven, with the President of the Senate and the
232
     Speaker of the House of Representatives each appointing an
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576-03517-17 2017364c2 233 additional member from the private sector in one of the four 234 least populous disproportionately affected counties as 235 identified by the United States Census Bureau in its March 2017 236 estimates of county populations, to ensure that two such 237 counties are represented on the board. The board of directors 238 shall annually elect a chairperson from among the board's 239 members. The chairperson may be removed by a majority vote of 240 the members. His or her successor shall be elected to serve for 241 the balance of the removed chairperson's term. The chairperson 242 is responsible to ensure records are kept of the proceedings of 243 the board of directors and is the custodian of all books, 244 documents, and papers filed with the board; the minutes of 245 meetings of the board; and the official seal of Triumph Gulf 246 Coast, Inc. 247

(3) Notwithstanding s. 20.052(4)(c), each initial 248 appointment to the board of directors by the Board of Trustees 249 of the State Board of Administration shall serve for a term that 250 ends 4 years after the Legislature appropriates funds to Triumph 251 Gulf Coast, Inc. the Recovery Fund. To achieve staggered terms 252 among the members of the board, each initial appointment to the 253 board of directors by the President of the Senate and the 254 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall serve for a term 255 that ends 5 years after the Legislature appropriates funds to 256 Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. the Recovery Fund. Thereafter, each 257 member of the board of directors shall serve for a term of 4 258 years. A member is not eligible for reappointment to the board, 259 except, however, any member appointed to fill a vacancy for a 260 term of 2 years or less may be reappointed for an additional 261 term of 4 years. The initial appointments to the board must be

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262 made by November 15, 2013. Vacancies on the board of directors 263 shall be filled by the officer who originally appointed the 264 member. A vacancy that occurs before the scheduled expiration of 265 the term of the member shall be filled for the remainder of the 266 unexpired term.

267 (4) The Legislature determines that it is in the public 268 interest for the members of the board of directors to be subject to the requirements of ss. 112.313, 112.3135, and 112.3143, 269 270 notwithstanding the fact that the board members are not public 271 officers or employees. For purposes of those sections, the board 272 members shall be considered to be public officers or employees. 273 In addition to the postemployment restrictions of s. 112.313(9), 274 a person appointed to the board of directors must agree to 275 refrain from having any direct interest in any contract, 276 franchise, privilege, project, program, or other benefit arising 277 from an award by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., during the term of 278 his or her appointment and for 6 - 2 years after the termination 279 of such appointment. It is a misdemeanor of the first degree, 280 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, for a person 281 to accept appointment to the board of directors in violation of 282 this subsection or to accept a direct interest in any contract, 283 franchise, privilege, project, program, or other benefit granted 284 by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., to an awardee within 6 2 years 285 after the termination of his or her service on the board. 286 Further, each member of the board of directors who is not 287 otherwise required to file financial disclosure under s. 8, Art. 288 II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144 shall file 289 disclosure of financial interests under s. 112.3145. 290 (7) The board of directors shall meet at least quarterly,

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291	upon the call of the chairperson or at the request of a majority
292	of the membership, to review the Recovery Fund, establish and
293	review priorities for economic recovery, diversification, and
294	enhancement of the in disproportionately affected counties, and
295	determine use of <u>funds</u> the earnings available. A majority of the
296	members of the board of directors constitutes a quorum. Members
297	may not vote by proxy.
298	(9)(a) Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., is permitted to hire or
299	contract for all staff necessary to the proper execution of its
300	powers and duties to implement this act. The corporation is
301	required to retain:
302	1. An independent certified public accountant licensed in
303	this state pursuant to chapter 473 to inspect the records of and
304	to annually audit the expenditure of <u>funds</u> the earnings and
305	available principal disbursed by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
306	2. An independent financial advisor to assist Triumph Gulf
307	Coast, Inc., in the development and implementation of a
308	strategic plan consistent with the requirements of this act.
309	3. An economic advisor who will assist in the award
310	process, including the development of priorities, allocation
311	decisions, and the application and process; will assist the
312	board in determining eligibility of award applications and the
313	evaluation and scoring of applications; and will assist in the
314	development of award documentation.
315	2.4. A legal advisor with expertise in not-for-profit
316	investing and contracting and who is a member of The Florida Bar
317	to assist with contracting and carrying out the intent of this
318	act.
319	(b) <u>All</u> Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., shall require all

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320	employees of the corporation $\underline{shall} \ \overline{to}$ comply with the code of
321	ethics for public employees under part III of chapter 112.
322	Retained staff under paragraph (a) must agree to refrain from
323	having any direct interest in any contract, franchise,
324	privilege, project, program, or other benefit arising from an
325	award <u>of funds</u> by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., during the term of
326	his or her appointment and for $\underline{6}$ $\frac{2}{2}$ years after the termination
327	of such appointment.
328	(c) Retained staff under paragraph (a) shall be available
329	to consult with the board of directors and shall attend meetings
330	of the board of directors. These individuals shall not be
331	permitted to vote on any matter before the board.
332	Section 5. Subsection (2) of section 288.8015, Florida
333	Statutes, is amended to read:
334	288.8015 Board of directors; powersIn addition to the
335	powers and duties prescribed in chapter 617 and the articles and
336	bylaws adopted in compliance with that chapter, the board of
337	directors may:
338	(2) Make expenditures including any necessary
339	administrative expenditure from earnings consistent with its
340	powers.
341	
342	Under no circumstances may the credit of the State of Florida be
343	pledged on behalf of Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
344	Section 6. Subsection (4) of section 288.8016, Florida
345	Statutes, is amended to read:
346	288.8016 Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.; duties.—Triumph Gulf
347	Coast, Inc., shall have the following duties:
348	(4) Operate in a transparent manner, providing public
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349	access to information, notice of meetings, awards, and the
350	status of projects and programs. To this end, Triumph Gulf
351	Coast, Inc., shall maintain a website that provides public
352	access to this information. At least 14 calendar days before
353	approving an award pursuant to s. 288.8017, Triumph Gulf Coast,
354	Inc., shall publish on the website a summary of the project or
355	program and indicate its intent to approve the award.
356	Section 7. Section 288.8017, Florida Statutes, is amended
357	to read:
358	288.8017 Awards
359	(1) Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., shall make awards from
360	available funds earnings and principal derived under s.
361	288.8013(2) to projects or programs that meet the priorities for
362	economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the
363	disproportionately affected counties, notwithstanding s. 377.43.
364	Awards may be provided for:
365	(a) Ad valorem tax <u>rate</u> reduction within disproportionately
366	affected counties;
367	(b) Payment of impact fees adopted pursuant to s. 163.31801
368	and imposed within disproportionately affected counties;
369	(c) Administrative funding for economic development
370	organizations located within the disproportionately affected
371	counties;
372	<u>(c)</u> Local match requirements of <u>s. 288.0655</u> ss.
373	288.0655, 288.0659, 288.1045, and 288.106 for projects in the
374	disproportionately affected counties;
375	(e) Economic development projects in the disproportionately
376	affected counties;
377	(d) (f) Public infrastructure projects for construction,
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576-03517-172017364c2378expansion, or maintenance which that are shown to enhance379economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of380development in the disproportionately affected counties;

381 <u>(e) (g)</u> Grants to local governments in the 382 disproportionately affected counties to establish and maintain 383 equipment and trained personnel for local action plans of 384 response to respond to disasters, such as plans created for the 385 Coastal Impacts Assistance Program;

386 (f) (h) Grants to support programs of excellence that 387 prepare students for future occupations and careers at K-20 388 institutions that have home campuses in the disproportionately 389 affected counties. Eligible programs include those that increase 390 students' technology skills and knowledge; encourage industry 391 certifications; provide rigorous, alternative pathways for 392 students to meet high school graduation requirements; strengthen 393 career readiness initiatives; fund high-demand programs of 394 emphasis at the bachelor's and master's level designated by the 395 Board of Governors; and, similar to or the same as talent 396 retention programs created by the Chancellor of the State 397 University System and the Commission of Education, encourage 398 students with interest or aptitude for science, technology, 399 engineering, mathematics, and medical disciplines to pursue 400 postsecondary education at a state university or a Florida 401 College System institution within the disproportionately affected counties; and 402

403 (g) Grants to support programs that provide participants in 404 the disproportionately affected counties with transferrable, 405 sustainable workforce skills that are not confined to a single 406 employer; and

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436	(d) (e) Partner with local governments to provide funds,
437	infrastructure, land, or other assistance for the project.
438	(f) Have investment commitments from private equity or
439	private venture capital funds.
440	(g) Provide or encourage seed stage investments in start-up
441	companies.
442	(h) Provide advice and technical assistance to companies on
443	restructuring existing management, operations, or production to
444	attract advantageous business opportunities.
445	(e) (i) Benefit the environment in addition to the economy.
446	<u>(f)</u> Provide outcome measures for programs of excellence
447	support, including terms of intent and metrics.
448	<u>(g)</u> (k) Partner with K-20 educational institutions or school
449	districts located within the disproportionately affected
450	counties as of January 1, 2017.
451	(1) Partner with convention and visitor bureaus, tourist
452	development councils, or chambers of commerce located within the
453	disproportionately affected counties.
454	(3) Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., may make awards as
455	applications are received or may establish application periods
456	for selection. Awards may not be used to finance 100 percent of
457	any project or program. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., may require a
458	one-to-one private-sector match or higher for an award, if
459	applicable and deemed prudent by the board of directors. An
460	awardee may not receive all of the <u>funds</u> carnings or available
461	principal in any given year. <u>An award may supplement but may not</u>
462	supplant existing funding sources.
463	(4) A contract executed by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., with
464	an awardee must include provisions requiring a performance

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465	report on the contracted activities, must account for the proper
466	use of funds provided under the contract, and must include
467	provisions for recovery of awards in the event the award was
468	based upon fraudulent information or the awardee is not meeting
469	the performance requirements of the award. Awardees must
470	regularly report to Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., the <u>expenditure of</u>
471	funds and the status of the project or program on a schedule
472	determined by the corporation.
473	Section 8. Section 377.43, Florida Statutes, is repealed.
474	Section 9. The revision made by this act to s. 288.8014(4)
475	applies only to persons who serve on the board of trustees of
476	Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., on or after July 1, 2017.
477	Section 10. The Division of Law Revision and Information is
478	directed to replace the phrase "the effective date of this act"
479	where it occurs in this act with the date this act takes effect.
480	Section 11. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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