A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Florida Hurrican

An act relating to the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund; amending s. 215.555, F.S.; providing a retention multiple for a specified coverage level; providing an additional coverage option after a specified date; revising the calculation and application of the cash build-up factor; revising the authority to levy emergency assessments by the Office of Insurance Regulation; providing legislative intent; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2), paragraph (b) of subsection (4), paragraph (b) of subsection (5), and paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section 215.555, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

215.555 Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund.-

- (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:
- (e) "Retention" means the amount of losses below which an insurer is not entitled to reimbursement from the fund. An insurer's retention shall be calculated as follows:
- 1. The board shall calculate and report to each insurer the retention multiples for that year. For the contract year beginning June 1, 2005, the retention multiple shall be equal to

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\$4.5 billion divided by the total estimated reimbursement premium for the contract year; for subsequent years, the retention multiple shall be equal to \$4.5 billion, adjusted based upon the reported exposure for the contract year occurring 2 years before the particular contract year to reflect the percentage growth in exposure to the fund for covered policies since 2004, divided by the total estimated reimbursement premium for the contract year. Total reimbursement premium for purposes of the calculation under this subparagraph shall be estimated using the assumption that all insurers have selected the 90-percent coverage level.

- 2. The retention multiple as determined under subparagraph 1. shall be adjusted to reflect the coverage level elected by the insurer. For insurers electing the 90-percent coverage level, the adjusted retention multiple is 100 percent of the amount determined under subparagraph 1. For insurers electing the 75-percent coverage level, the retention multiple is 120 percent of the amount determined under subparagraph 1. For insurers electing the 60-percent coverage level, the retention multiple is 150 percent of the amount determined under subparagraph 1. For insurers electing the 45-percent coverage level, the adjusted retention multiple is 200 percent of the amount determined under subparagraph 1.
- 3. An insurer shall determine its provisional retention by multiplying its provisional reimbursement premium by the

applicable adjusted retention multiple and shall determine its actual retention by multiplying its actual reimbursement premium by the applicable adjusted retention multiple.

- 4. For insurers who experience multiple covered events causing loss during the contract year, beginning June 1, 2005, each insurer's full retention shall be applied to each of the covered events causing the two largest losses for that insurer. For each other covered event resulting in losses, the insurer's retention shall be reduced to one-third of the full retention. The reimbursement contract shall provide for the reimbursement of losses for each covered event based on the full retention with adjustments made to reflect the reduced retentions on or after January 1 of the contract year provided the insurer reports its losses as specified in the reimbursement contract.
 - (4) REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACTS.-

- (b)1. The contract shall contain a promise by the board to reimburse the insurer for 45 percent, 60 percent, 75 percent, or 90 percent of its losses from each covered event in excess of the insurer's retention, plus 5 percent of the reimbursed losses to cover loss adjustment expenses. The 60-percent coverage level is available beginning in the 2019-2020 contract year.
- 2. The insurer must elect one of the percentage coverage levels specified in this paragraph and may, upon renewal of a reimbursement contract, elect a lower percentage coverage level if no revenue bonds issued under subsection (6) after a covered

event are outstanding, or elect a higher percentage coverage level, regardless of whether or not revenue bonds are outstanding. All members of an insurer group must elect the same percentage coverage level. Any joint underwriting association, risk apportionment plan, or other entity created under s. 627.351 must elect the 90-percent coverage level.

- 3. The contract shall provide that reimbursement amounts shall not be reduced by reinsurance paid or payable to the insurer from other sources.
 - (5) REIMBURSEMENT PREMIUMS.—

(b) The State Board of Administration shall select an independent consultant to develop a formula for determining the actuarially indicated premium to be paid to the fund. The formula shall specify, for each zip code or other limited geographical area, the amount of premium to be paid by an insurer for each \$1,000 of insured value under covered policies in that zip code or other area. In establishing premiums, the board shall consider the coverage elected under paragraph (4)(b) and any factors that tend to enhance the actuarial sophistication of ratemaking for the fund, including deductibles, type of construction, type of coverage provided, relative concentration of risks, and other such factors deemed by the board to be appropriate. Beginning with the premium formula for the 2019-2020 contract year, the premium formula must provide for a cash build-up factor as follows:

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1. As used in this paragraph, the term "projected fund balance" means the projected year-end balance of the fund as of December 31 of the prior contract year as published in the Florida Administrative Register in October, adjusted for any changes in the fund's total incurred losses made on or before the date on which the independent actuarial consultant signs the report of the proposed premium formula.

- 2. When the projected fund balance is less than \$14 billion, the factor is 25 percent. When the projected fund balance is at least \$14 billion, but less than \$14.5 billion, the factor is 20 percent. When the projected fund balance is at least \$14.5 billion, but less than \$15 billion, the factor is 15 percent. When the projected fund balance is at least \$15 billion, but less than \$15.5 billion, the factor is 10 percent. When the projected fund balance is at least \$15.5 billion, but less than \$16 billion, the factor is 5 percent. When the projected fund balance is at least \$16 billion, the factor is zero. For the 2009-2010 contract year, the factor is 10 percent. For the 2011-2012 contract year, the factor is 15 percent. For the 2012-2013 contract year, the factor is 20 percent. For the 2013-2014 contract year, the factor is 25 percent.
- 3. The formula may provide for a procedure to determine the premiums to be paid by new insurers that begin writing covered policies after the beginning of a contract year, taking

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into consideration when the insurer starts writing covered policies, the potential exposure of the insurer, the potential exposure of the fund, the administrative costs to the insurer and to the fund, and any other factors deemed appropriate by the board. The formula must be approved by unanimous vote of the board. The board may, at any time, revise the formula pursuant to the procedure provided in this paragraph.

(6) REVENUE BONDS.—

(b) Emergency assessments.-

1.a.1. If the board determines that the amount of revenue produced under subsection (5) is insufficient to fund the obligations, costs, and expenses of the fund and the corporation, including repayment of revenue bonds and that portion of the debt service coverage not met by reimbursement premiums, the board shall direct the Office of Insurance Regulation to levy, by order, an emergency assessment on direct premiums for all property and casualty lines of business in this state, including property and casualty business of surplus lines insurers regulated under part VIII of chapter 626, but not including any workers' compensation premiums or medical malpractice premiums.

<u>b.</u> As used in this subsection, the term "property and casualty business" includes all lines of business identified <u>in the on Form 2</u>, Exhibit of Premiums and Losses, in the annual statement required of authorized property and casualty insurers

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under by s. 624.424 and any rule adopted under this section, except for those lines identified as accident and health insurance and except for policies written under the National Flood Insurance Program. The assessment shall be specified as a percentage of direct written premium and is subject to annual adjustments by the board in order to meet debt obligations. The same percentage applies to all policies in lines of business subject to the assessment issued or renewed during the 12-month period beginning on the effective date of the assessment.

- 2. A premium is not subject to an annual assessment under this paragraph in excess of 6 percent of premium with respect to obligations arising out of losses attributable to any one contract year, and a premium is not subject to an aggregate annual assessment under this paragraph in excess of 10 percent of premium. An annual assessment under this paragraph continues as long as the revenue bonds issued with respect to which the assessment was imposed are outstanding, including any bonds the proceeds of which were used to refund the revenue bonds, unless adequate provision has been made for the payment of the bonds under the documents authorizing issuance of the bonds.
- 3. Emergency assessments shall be collected from policyholders. Emergency assessments shall be remitted by insurers as a percentage of direct written premium for the preceding calendar quarter as specified in the order from the Office of Insurance Regulation. The office shall verify the

accurate and timely collection and remittance of emergency assessments and shall report the information to the board in a form and at a time specified by the board. Each insurer collecting assessments shall provide the information with respect to premiums and collections as may be required by the office to enable the office to monitor and verify compliance with this paragraph.

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With respect to assessments of surplus lines premiums, each surplus lines agent shall collect the assessment at the same time as the agent collects the surplus lines tax required by s. 626.932, and the surplus lines agent shall remit the assessment to the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office created by s. 626.921 at the same time as the agent remits the surplus lines tax to the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office. The emergency assessment on each insured procuring coverage and filing under s. 626.938 shall be remitted by the insured to the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office at the time the insured pays the surplus lines tax to the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office. The Florida Surplus Lines Service Office shall remit the collected assessments to the fund or corporation as provided in the order levied by the Office of Insurance Regulation. The Florida Surplus Lines Service Office shall verify the proper application of such emergency assessments and shall assist the board in ensuring the accurate and timely collection and remittance of assessments as required by the board. The Florida

Surplus Lines Service Office shall annually calculate the aggregate written premium on property and casualty business, other than workers' compensation and medical malpractice, procured through surplus lines agents and insureds procuring coverage and filing under s. 626.938 and shall report the information to the board in a form and at a time specified by the board.

- 5. Any assessment authority not used for a particular contract year may be used for a subsequent contract year. If, for a subsequent contract year, the board determines that the amount of revenue produced under subsection (5) is insufficient to fund the obligations, costs, and expenses of the fund and the corporation, including repayment of revenue bonds and that portion of the debt service coverage not met by reimbursement premiums, the board shall direct the Office of Insurance Regulation to levy an emergency assessment up to an amount not exceeding the amount of unused assessment authority from a previous contract year or years, plus an additional 4 percent provided that the assessments in the aggregate do not exceed the limits specified in subparagraph 2.
- 6. The assessments otherwise payable to the corporation under this paragraph shall be paid to the fund unless the Office of Insurance Regulation and the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office received a notice from the corporation and the fund, which shall be conclusive and upon which they may rely without

further inquiry, that the corporation has issued bonds and the fund has no agreements in effect with local governments under paragraph (c). On or after the date of the notice and until the date the corporation has no bonds outstanding, the fund shall have no right, title, or interest in or to the assessments, except as provided in the fund's agreement with the corporation.

- 7. Emergency assessments are not premium and are not subject to the premium tax, to the surplus lines tax, to any fees, or to any commissions. An insurer is liable for all assessments that it collects and must treat the failure of an insured to pay an assessment as a failure to pay the premium. An insurer is not liable for uncollectible assessments.
- 8. If an insurer is required to return an unearned premium, it shall also return any collected assessment attributable to the unearned premium. A credit adjustment to the collected assessment may be made by the insurer with regard to future remittances that are payable to the fund or corporation, but the insurer is not entitled to a refund.
- 9. If a surplus lines insured or an insured who has procured coverage and filed under s. 626.938 is entitled to the return of an unearned premium, the Florida Surplus Lines Service Office shall provide a credit or refund to the agent or such insured for the collected assessment attributable to the unearned premium before remitting the emergency assessment collected to the fund or corporation.

10. The intent of the Legislature is that emergency	
assessments be levied only in the context of debt financing	
under this subsection. The authority of the board to direct	the
Office of Insurance Regulation to levy emergency assessments	
under this paragraph applies only in circumstances in which	debt
issued under this subsection is outstanding or in which the	
issuance of such debt has been authorized.	
Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a	law.

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