

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Department of Financial
3 Services; amending s. 17.56, F.S.; requiring the
4 Division of Treasury to maintain certain warrants
5 rather than turning them over to the Division of
6 Accounting and Auditing; amending s. 497.263, F.S.;
7 revising the requirements for cemetery companies
8 licenses; amending s. 497.266, F.S.; conforming
9 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
10 497.376, F.S.; providing requirements for a
11 combination license as funeral director and embalmer;
12 amending s. 497.377, F.S.; revising the requirements
13 for combination funeral director and embalmer
14 internships; amending s. 497.380, F.S.; revising the
15 requirements for a funeral establishment and the
16 requirements and responsibilities of a funeral
17 director in charge; amending s. 497.385, F.S.;
18 revising the requirements for a licensed embalming
19 facility; amending s. 497.452, F.S.; revising the
20 applicability of specified provisions related to
21 cemeteries; amending s. 497.453, F.S.; providing
22 reporting requirements for certain preneed licensees;
23 amending s. 497.458, F.S.; revising the requirements
24 for the disposition of proceeds received on preneed
25 contracts; amending s. 497.459, F.S.; requiring

26 | preneed licensees, under certain circumstances, to
27 | provide certain persons with a written notice of
28 | intent to distribute funds under the preneed contract;
29 | specifying how and where such notice must be sent;
30 | providing that funds held in trust must be distributed
31 | in accordance with the contract terms if certain
32 | persons fail to respond to the notice within a certain
33 | timeframe; providing construction; providing
34 | rulemaking authority; amending s. 497.464, F.S.;;
35 | revising the requirements of certain preneed
36 | contracts; amending s. 497.604, F.S.;; revising the
37 | requirements for a direct disposal establishment;
38 | amending s. 497.606, F.S.;; revising the requirements
39 | for a cinerator facility; amending s. 626.175, F.S.;;
40 | revising the requirements for a specified nonrenewable
41 | temporary license; revising the types of nonrenewable
42 | temporary licenses issued by the Department of
43 | Financial Services; amending s. 626.207, F.S.;;
44 | authorizing disqualified persons meeting specified
45 | requirements to reapply for relicensure; amending s.
46 | 626.221, F.S.;; revising the language relating to an
47 | exemption from examination for specified license
48 | applicants under certain circumstances; amending s.
49 | 626.2815, F.S.;; deleting provisions requiring certain
50 | licensed customer representatives and insurance agents

51 to complete continuation education courses; amending
52 s. 626.321, F.S.; revising the requirements for
53 certain lines insurance licenses; prohibiting issuance
54 or reinstatement of certain lines insurance licenses
55 beginning on a specified date; amending s. 626.471,
56 F.S.; revising the method of delivery of certain
57 notice; amending s. 626.536, F.S.; deleting provisions
58 relating to reporting administrative actions taken
59 against an insurance agency; amending s. 626.6215,
60 F.S.; providing additional grounds for which the
61 department may take specified action against the
62 license of an insurance agency; amending s. 626.729,
63 F.S.; redefining the term "industrial fire insurance";
64 amending ss. 626.8437 and 626.844, F.S.; specifying
65 grounds for certain administrative actions against
66 licenses or appointments of specified insurance agents
67 or agencies; amending s. 626.8732, F.S.; revising the
68 requirements for nonresident public adjuster's
69 licenses; amending s. 627.7015, F.S.; requiring
70 mediators to report mediation settlements and
71 settlement amounts to all parties at the close of
72 mediation; amending s. 627.748, F.S.; defining the
73 term "luxury ground transportation network company" or
74 "luxury ground TNC"; authorizing a luxury ground
75 transportation network company to elect to be

76 regulated as a transportation network company;
77 providing requirements; providing exceptions to
78 applicable statutes; prohibiting local governmental
79 entities from regulating certain aspects of luxury
80 ground transportation network companies; providing an
81 exception; amending s. 633.218, F.S.; deleting a
82 provision that requires the identification of
83 specified buildings or space for firesafety purposes;
84 amending s. 633.306, F.S.; providing standards for
85 fire equipment installation; amending s. 633.312,
86 F.S.; specifying the delivery methods of a firesafety
87 inspection report; requiring the State Fire Marshal to
88 adopt rules; amending s. 633.520, F.S.; requiring the
89 Division of State Fire Marshal to adopt rules to
90 establish cancer prevention best practices; amending
91 s. 648.49, F.S.; requiring the department to meet
92 certain requirements when suspending a person's
93 eligibility to apply for a license or appointment;
94 revising methods for reinstatement of a license, an
95 appointment, or certain eligibility; amending s.
96 717.124, F.S.; providing disbursement processes for
97 unclaimed property claims; providing rulemaking
98 authority; repealing ss. 626.521 and 626.7355, F.S.,
99 relating to credit and character reports and to a
100 temporary license as customer representative pending

101 examination, respectively; amending ss. 626.022,
102 626.025, and 633.216, F.S.; conforming cross-
103 references; providing legislative findings;
104 establishing the Florida Blockchain Task Force within
105 the department; requiring the task force to develop a
106 specified master plan; specifying the composition of
107 the task force; specifying duties and procedures of
108 the task force; providing that task force members
109 shall serve without compensation and are not entitled
110 to certain reimbursement; requiring the task force to
111 submit a specified report to the Governor and the
112 Legislature and to make presentations; providing that
113 the task force is entitled to assistance and services
114 of state governmental entities; requiring the
115 department to provide support staff and other
116 assistance to the task force; providing for
117 termination of the task force; providing effective
118 dates.

119
120 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

121
122 Section 1. Section 17.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to
123 read:

124 17.56 Division of Treasury to maintain ~~turn over to the~~
125 ~~Division of Accounting and Auditing~~ all warrants paid.—The

126 Division of Treasury shall maintain ~~turn over to the Division of~~
 127 ~~Accounting and Auditing~~ all warrants drawn by the Chief
 128 Financial Officer ~~or the Comptroller~~ and paid by the Division of
 129 Treasury for 10 years after the date on which a warrant was
 130 presented for payment. ~~The warrants shall be turned over as soon~~
 131 ~~as the Division of Treasury shall have recorded such warrants~~
 132 ~~and charged the same against the accounts upon which such~~
 133 ~~warrants are drawn.~~

134 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
 135 497.263, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

136 497.263 Cemetery companies; license required; licensure
 137 requirements and procedures.—

138 (3) ACTION CONCERNING APPLICATIONS.—If the licensing
 139 authority finds that the applicant meets the criteria
 140 established in subsection (2), the applicant shall be notified
 141 that a license will be issued when all of the following
 142 conditions are satisfied:

143 (a) The establishment of a care and maintenance trust fund
 144 containing not less than \$50,000 has been certified by a trust
 145 company ~~operating pursuant to chapter 660,~~ a state or national
 146 bank holding trust powers, or a savings and loan association
 147 holding trust powers as provided in s. 497.458, pursuant to a
 148 trust agreement approved by the licensing authority. The \$50,000
 149 required for the care and maintenance trust fund shall be over
 150 and above the \$50,000 net worth required by subsection (2).

151 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 497.266, Florida
152 Statutes, is amended to read:

153 497.266 Care and maintenance trust fund; remedy of
154 department for noncompliance.—

155 (1) A ~~No~~ cemetery company may not establish a cemetery, or
156 operate a cemetery if already established, without providing for
157 the future care and maintenance of the cemetery, for which a
158 care and maintenance trust fund shall be established, to be
159 known as "the care and maintenance trust fund of" The
160 trust fund shall be established with a trust company ~~operating~~
161 ~~pursuant to chapter 660~~, with a state or national bank holding
162 trust powers, or with a federal or state savings and loan
163 association holding trust powers. Trust funds which are with a
164 state or national bank or savings and loan association licensed
165 in this state on October 1, 1993, shall remain in force;
166 however, when the amount of any such trust fund exceeds the
167 amount that is insured by an agency of the Federal Government,
168 the cemetery company shall transfer that trust fund to a trust
169 company ~~operating pursuant to chapter 660~~, to a state or
170 national bank holding trust powers, or to a federal or state
171 savings and loan association holding trust powers.

172 Section 4. Section 497.376, Florida Statutes, is amended
173 to read:

174 497.376 License as funeral director and embalmer
175 permitted.—

176 (1) This chapter does not prohibit a person from holding a
 177 license as an embalmer and a license as a funeral director at
 178 the same time. There may be issued and renewed by the licensing
 179 authority a combination license as both funeral director and
 180 embalmer to persons meeting the separate requirements for both
 181 licenses as set forth in this chapter. The licensing authority
 182 may adopt rules providing procedures for applying for and
 183 renewing such combination license. The licensing authority may
 184 by rule establish application, renewal, and other fees for such
 185 combination license, which fees may ~~shall~~ not exceed the sum of
 186 the maximum fees for the separate funeral director and embalmer
 187 license categories as provided in this chapter. A person ~~Persons~~
 188 holding a combination license as a funeral director and an
 189 embalmer is ~~shall be~~ subject to regulation under this chapter
 190 both as a funeral director and an embalmer.

191 (2) Except as provided in s. 497.377, an applicant for a
 192 combination license as both a funeral director and an embalmer
 193 must hold the educational credentials required for licensure of
 194 a funeral director under s. 497.373(1)(d).

195 Section 5. Section 497.377, Florida Statutes, is amended
 196 to read:

197 497.377 Combination funeral directors and embalmers;
 198 ~~Concurrent~~ internships.-

199 (1) The internship requirements ~~requirement~~ for a
 200 combination license as both funeral director and embalmer

201 ~~embalmers and funeral directors~~ may be served concurrently
202 pursuant to rules adopted by the licensing authority.

203 (2) (a) An applicant who has not completed the educational
204 credentials required for a combination license as both funeral
205 director and embalmer is eligible for licensure as a combination
206 funeral director and embalmer intern if the applicant:

207 1. Is currently enrolled in and attending a college
208 accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education
209 (ABFSE) in a course of study in mortuary science accredited by
210 ABFSE.

211 2. Has completed at least 75 percent of the course of
212 study in mortuary science as certified by the college in which
213 the applicant is currently enrolled.

214 3. Has taken and received a passing grade in a college
215 credit course in mortuary law or funeral service law and has
216 taken and received a passing grade in a college credit course in
217 ethics.

218 (b) An application for a combination funeral director and
219 embalmer intern license must include the name and address of the
220 funeral director licensed under s. 497.373 or s. 497.374(1) and
221 the embalmer licensed under s. 497.368 or s. 497.369 under whose
222 supervision the intern will receive training and the name of the
223 licensed funeral establishment at which the training will be
224 conducted.

225 (c) A combination funeral director and embalmer intern may

226 perform only the tasks, functions, and duties relating to
227 funeral directing and embalming which are performed under the
228 direct supervision of a licensed funeral director who has an
229 active, valid license under s. 497.373 or s. 497.374(1) and an
230 embalmer who has an active, valid license under s. 497.368 or s.
231 497.369. However, a combination funeral director and embalmer
232 intern may perform such tasks, functions, and duties under the
233 general supervision of a licensed funeral director and embalmer
234 upon graduation from a college accredited by ABFSE with a degree
235 as specified in s. 497.373(1)(d) and upon passage of the
236 examination required under s. 497.373(2)(b) if the funeral
237 director in charge of the internship training establishment,
238 after 6 months of direct supervision, certifies to the licensing
239 authority that the intern is competent to complete the
240 internship under general supervision.

241 (d)1. A combination funeral director and embalmer intern
242 license expires 1 year after issuance and, except as provided in
243 subparagraph 2., may not be renewed.

244 2. The licensing authority may adopt rules that allow a
245 combination funeral director and embalmer intern to renew her or
246 his combination funeral director and embalmer intern license for
247 an additional 1 year if the combination funeral director and
248 embalmer intern demonstrates her or his failure to complete the
249 internship before expiration of the license due to illness,
250 personal injury, or other substantial hardship beyond her or his

251 reasonable control or demonstrates that she or he has completed
 252 the requirements for licensure as a combination funeral director
 253 and embalmer but is awaiting the results of a licensure
 254 examination.

255 Section 6. Subsection (7) of section 497.380, Florida
 256 Statutes, is amended to read:

257 497.380 Funeral establishment; licensure; display of
 258 license.-

259 (7) Each licensed funeral establishment shall have a ~~one~~
 260 ~~full-time~~ funeral director in charge and shall have a licensed
 261 funeral director reasonably available to the public during
 262 normal business hours for the establishment. The ~~full-time~~
 263 funeral director in charge is responsible for ensuring that the
 264 facility, its operation, and all persons employed in the
 265 facility comply with all applicable state and federal laws and
 266 rules. A funeral director in charge, with appropriate, active
 267 licenses, may serve as such for up to a total of four funeral
 268 establishments, centralized embalming facilities, direct
 269 disposal establishments, or cinerator facilities, as long as the
 270 two farthest locations are no more than 75 miles apart, as
 271 measured in a straight line. ~~The full-time funeral director in~~
 272 ~~charge must have an active license and may not be the full-time~~
 273 ~~funeral director in charge of any other funeral establishment or~~
 274 ~~of any other direct disposal establishment. Effective October 1,~~
 275 ~~2010,~~ The ~~full-time~~ funeral director in charge must hold an

276 active, valid funeral director license and an active, valid
277 embalmer license, or combination license as a funeral director
278 and an embalmer. However, a funeral director may serve as
279 funeral director in charge without an embalmer license or
280 combination license if the establishment does not have an
281 embalming room on site or may continue as the ~~full-time~~ funeral
282 director in charge without an embalmer or combination license
283 if, as of September 30, 2010:

284 (a) The funeral establishment and the funeral director
285 both have active, valid licenses.

286 (b) The funeral director is currently the full-time
287 funeral director in charge of the funeral establishment.

288 (c) The name of the funeral director was included, as
289 required in subsection (4), in the funeral establishment's most
290 recent application for issuance or renewal of its license or was
291 included in the establishment's report of change provided under
292 paragraph (12)(c).

293 Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
294 497.385, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

295 497.385 Removal services; refrigeration facilities;
296 centralized embalming facilities.—In order to ensure that the
297 removal, refrigeration, and embalming of all dead human bodies
298 is conducted in a manner that properly protects the public's
299 health and safety, the licensing authority shall adopt rules to
300 provide for the licensure of removal services, refrigeration

301 facilities, and centralized embalming facilities operated
302 independently of funeral establishments, direct disposal
303 establishments, and cinerator facilities.

304 (2) CENTRALIZED EMBALMING FACILITIES.—In order to ensure
305 that all funeral establishments have access to embalming
306 facilities that comply with all applicable health and safety
307 requirements, the licensing authority shall adopt rules to
308 provide for the licensure and operation of centralized embalming
309 facilities and shall require, at a minimum, the following:

310 (b) Each licensed centralized embalming facility shall
311 have at least one ~~full-time~~ embalmer in charge. The ~~full-time~~
312 embalmer in charge must have an active, valid embalmer license
313 or combination license as a funeral director and embalmer and
314 ~~may not be the full-time embalmer in charge, full-time funeral~~
315 ~~director in charge, or full-time direct disposer in charge of~~
316 ~~any other establishment licensed under this chapter. A funeral~~
317 director in charge, with appropriate, active licenses, may serve
318 as such for up to a total of four funeral establishments,
319 centralized embalming facilities, direct disposal
320 establishments, or cinerator facilities, as long as the two
321 farthest locations are no more than 75 miles apart, as measured
322 in a straight line.

323 Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
324 497.452, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (a) of that
325 subsection is republished, to read:

326 497.452 Preneed license required.—

327 (2) (a) No person may receive any funds for payment on a
 328 preneed contract who does not hold a valid preneed license.

329 (b) ~~The provisions of~~ Paragraph (a) does de not apply to a
 330 trust company ~~operating pursuant to chapter 660,~~ to a national
 331 or state bank holding trust powers, or to a federal or state
 332 savings and loan association having trust powers which company,
 333 bank, or association receives any money in trust pursuant to the
 334 sale of a preneed contract.

335 Section 9. Subsection (8) of section 497.453, Florida
 336 Statutes, is amended to read:

337 497.453 Application for preneed license, procedures and
 338 criteria; renewal; reports.—

339 (8) ANNUAL TRUST REPORTS.—

340 (a) On or before April 1 of each year, the preneed
 341 licensee shall file in the form prescribed by rule a full and
 342 true statement as to the activities of any trust established by
 343 it pursuant to this part for the preceding calendar year.

344 (b) Any preneed licensee or group of preneed licensees
 345 under common control that in aggregate sold in this state 15,000
 346 or more preneed contracts in the preceding year shall
 347 additionally comply with this paragraph.

348 1. As to each year, which is referred to in this paragraph
 349 as "Year 1," in which any preneed licensee or group of preneed
 350 licensees under common control in aggregate sell in this state

351 15,000 or more preneed contracts, the licensee or licensees
352 shall, during the following year, which is referred to in this
353 paragraph as "Year 2":

354 a. Prepare in regard to each such licensee a report of
355 preneed operations in this state in Year 1, on a form prescribed
356 by department rule;

357 b. Cause and pay for the report to be audited by an
358 independent certified public accounting firm concerning the
359 accuracy and fairness of the presentation of the data provided
360 in the report; and

361 c. By December 31 of Year 2, provide the report to the
362 division, along with a written and signed opinion of the
363 certified public accounting firm concerning the accuracy and
364 fairness of the presentation of the data reported in the report.

365 2. The report required under subparagraph 1. shall be
366 prepared and submitted using forms and procedures specified by
367 department rule. The department may adopt rules specifying the
368 format of, and procedures for, the report and the information to
369 be included in the report.

370 Section 10. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
371 497.458, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

372 497.458 Disposition of proceeds received on contracts.—

373 (1)

374 (c) Such deposits shall be made within 30 days after the
375 end of the calendar month in which payment is received, under

376 | the terms of a revocable trust instrument entered into with a
377 | trust company ~~operating pursuant to chapter 660~~, with a national
378 | or state bank holding trust powers, or with a federal or state
379 | savings and loan association holding trust powers.

380 | Section 11. Subsection (7) is added to section 497.459,
381 | Florida Statutes, to read:

382 | 497.459 Cancellation of, or default on, preneed contracts;
383 | required notice.—

384 | (7) NOTICE TO PURCHASER OR LEGALLY AUTHORIZED PERSON.—

385 | (a) To ensure the performance of unfulfilled preneed
386 | contracts, upon the occurrence of the earliest of any of the
387 | following events, a preneed licensee shall provide to the
388 | purchaser or to the beneficiary's legally authorized person
389 | written notice of the preneed licensee's intent to distribute
390 | funds in accordance with the terms of the preneed contract, if
391 | any obligation of the preneed licensee remains to be fulfilled
392 | under the contract:

393 | 1. Fifty years after the date of execution of the preneed
394 | contract by the purchaser.

395 | 2. The beneficiary of the preneed contract attains the age
396 | of 105 years of age or older.

397 | 3. The social security number of the beneficiary of the
398 | preneed contract, as shown on the contract, is contained within
399 | the United States Social Security Administration Death Master
400 | File.

401 (b)1. The notice in paragraph (a) must be provided by
402 certified mail, registered mail, or permitted delivery service,
403 return receipt requested, to the last known mailing address of
404 the purchaser or the beneficiary's legally authorized person,
405 whichever is applicable, as provided to the preneed licensee. If
406 the notice is returned as undeliverable within 30 calendar days
407 after the preneed licensee sent the notice, the trustee shall
408 perform a diligent search and inquiry to obtain a different
409 address for the purchaser or the beneficiary's legally
410 authorized person, whichever is applicable. For purposes of this
411 subparagraph, any address known and used by the purchaser or the
412 beneficiary's legally authorized person, whichever is
413 applicable, for sending regular mailings or other communications
414 from the purchaser or the beneficiary's legally authorized
415 person, whichever is applicable, to the preneed licensee or any
416 address produced through a current address service or searchable
417 database shall be included with other addresses produced from
418 the diligent search and inquiry, if any. If the trustee's
419 diligent search and inquiry produces an address different from
420 the notice address, the trustee shall mail a copy of the notice
421 by certified mail, registered mail, or permitted delivery
422 service, return receipt requested, to any and all addresses
423 produced as a result of the diligent search and inquiry.

424 2. If the purchaser or the beneficiary's legally
425 authorized person, whichever is applicable, fails to respond to

426 such notice within 120 days after delivery of the last mailed
427 notice under subparagraph 1., the funds held in trust must be
428 distributed in accordance with the terms of the preneed
429 contract, the trust agreement, and any applicable provisions of
430 chapter 717.

431 (c) This subsection does not affect a purchaser's rights
432 to cancel the preneed contract and receive a refund or a preneed
433 licensee's obligations to refund established by this chapter.

434 (d) The licensing authority shall have authority to adopt
435 rules for the review and approval of notice forms used by
436 preneed licensees to provide notice under this subsection.

437 Section 12. Subsection (2) of section 497.464, Florida
438 Statutes, is amended to read:

439 497.464 Alternative preneed contracts.—

440 (2) The contract must require that a trust be established
441 by the preneed licensee on behalf of, and for the use, benefit,
442 and protection of, the purchaser and that the trustee must be a
443 trust company ~~operating pursuant to chapter 660~~, a national or
444 state bank holding trust powers, or a federal or state savings
445 and loan association holding trust powers.

446 Section 13. Subsection (8) of section 497.604, Florida
447 Statutes, is amended to read:

448 497.604 Direct disposal establishments, license required;
449 licensing procedures and criteria; license renewal; regulation;
450 display of license.—

451 (8) SUPERVISION OF FACILITIES.—

452 (a) ~~Effective October 1, 2010,~~ Each direct disposal
453 establishment shall have a ~~one full-time licensed~~ funeral
454 director ~~acting as the direct disposer~~ in charge, subject to s.
455 497.380(7). However, a licensed direct disposer may continue
456 acting as the direct disposer in charge, ~~if,~~ as of September 30,
457 2010:

458 1. The direct disposal establishment and the licensed
459 direct disposer both have active, valid licenses.

460 2. The licensed direct disposer is currently acting as the
461 direct disposer in charge of the direct disposal establishment.

462 3. The name of the licensed direct disposer was included,
463 as required in paragraph (2)(c), in the direct disposal
464 establishment's most recent application for issuance or renewal
465 of its license or was included in the establishment's notice of
466 change provided under subsection (7).

467 (b) The ~~licensed~~ funeral director in charge or ~~licensed~~
468 direct disposer in charge of a direct disposal establishment
469 must be reasonably available to the public during normal
470 business hours for the establishment ~~and may be in charge of~~
471 ~~only one direct disposal establishment~~. The ~~licensed~~ funeral
472 director in charge or ~~licensed~~ direct disposer in charge of the
473 establishment is responsible for making sure the facility, its
474 operations, and all persons employed in the facility comply with
475 all applicable state and federal laws and rules. A funeral

476 director in charge, with appropriate, active licenses, may serve
 477 as such for up to a total of four funeral establishments,
 478 centralized embalming facilities, direct disposal
 479 establishments, or cinerator facilities, as long as the two
 480 farthest locations are no more than 75 miles apart, as measured
 481 in a straight line.

482 Section 14. Subsection (8) of section 497.606, Florida
 483 Statutes, is amended to read:

484 497.606 Cinerator facility, licensure required; licensing
 485 procedures and criteria; license renewal; regulation.—

486 (8) SUPERVISION OF FACILITIES.—Each cinerator facility
 487 shall have a ~~one full-time licensed~~ direct disposer in charge or
 488 a licensed funeral director in charge for that facility. ~~Such~~
 489 ~~person may be in charge of only one facility.~~ Such licensed
 490 funeral director in charge or licensed direct disposer in charge
 491 shall be responsible for making sure the facility, its
 492 operations, and all persons employed in the facility comply with
 493 all applicable state and federal laws and rules. A funeral
 494 director in charge, with appropriate, active licenses, may serve
 495 as such for up to a total of four funeral establishments,
 496 centralized embalming facilities, direct disposal
 497 establishments, or cinerator facilities, as long as the two
 498 farthest locations are no more than 75 miles apart, as measured
 499 in a straight line.

500 Section 15. Subsection (1) of section 626.175, Florida

501 Statutes, is amended to read:

502 626.175 Temporary licensing.—

503 (1) The department may issue a nonrenewable temporary
 504 license for a period not to exceed 6 months authorizing
 505 appointment of a general lines insurance agent, ~~or~~ a life agent,
 506 or a personal lines ~~an industrial fire or burglary~~ agent,
 507 subject to the conditions described in this section. The fees
 508 paid for a temporary license and appointment shall be as
 509 specified in s. 624.501. Fees paid are ~~shall~~ not ~~be~~ refunded
 510 after a temporary license has been issued.

511 (a) An applicant for a temporary license must be:

- 512 1. A natural person at least 18 years of age.
- 513 2. A United States citizen or legal alien who possesses
 514 work authorization from the United States Bureau of Citizenship
 515 and Immigration Services.

516 (b)1. In the case of a general lines agent, the department
 517 may issue a temporary license to an employee, a family member, a
 518 business associate, or a personal representative of a licensed
 519 general lines agent for the purpose of continuing or winding up
 520 the business affairs of the agent or agency in the event the
 521 licensed agent has died or become unable to perform his or her
 522 duties because of military service or illness or other physical
 523 or mental disability, subject to the following conditions:

- 524 a. No other individual connected with the agent's business
 525 may be licensed as a general lines agent.

526 b. The proposed temporary licensee shall be qualified for
527 a regular general lines agent license under this code except as
528 to residence, examination, education, or experience.

529 c. Application for the temporary license shall have been
530 made by the applicant upon statements and affidavit filed with
531 the department on forms prescribed and furnished by the
532 department.

533 d. Under a temporary license and appointment, the licensee
534 may ~~shall~~ not represent any insurer not last represented by the
535 agent being replaced and may ~~shall~~ not be licensed or appointed
536 as to any additional kind, line, or class of insurance other
537 than those covered by the last existing agency appointments of
538 the replaced agent. If an insurer withdraws from the agency
539 during the temporary license period, the temporary licensee may
540 be appointed by another similar insurer but only for the period
541 remaining under the temporary license.

542 2. A regular general lines agent license may be issued to
543 a temporary licensee upon meeting the qualifications for a
544 general lines agent license under s. 626.731.

545 (c) In the case of a life agent, the department may issue
546 a temporary license:

547 1. To the executor or administrator of the estate of a
548 deceased individual licensed and appointed as a life agent at
549 the time of death;

550 2. To a surviving next of kin of the deceased individual,

551 if no administrator or executor has been appointed and
552 qualified; however, any license and appointment under this
553 subparagraph shall be canceled upon issuance of a license to an
554 executor or administrator under subparagraph 1.; or

555 3. To an individual otherwise qualified to be licensed as
556 an agent who has completed the educational or training
557 requirements prescribed in s. 626.7851 and who is appointed ~~has~~
558 ~~successfully sat for the required examination prior to~~
559 ~~termination of such 6-month period. The department may issue~~
560 ~~this temporary license only in the case of a life agent to~~
561 represent an insurer of the industrial or ordinary-combination
562 class solely for the purpose of collecting premiums and
563 servicing in-force policies. Such licensee may not directly or
564 indirectly solicit, negotiate, or effect contracts of insurance.

565 (d) In the case of a personal lines ~~limited license~~
566 ~~authorizing appointment as an industrial fire or burglary agent,~~
567 the department may issue a temporary license:

568 1. To the executor or administrator of the estate of a
569 deceased individual licensed and appointed as a personal lines
570 agent at the time of death;

571 2. To a surviving next of kin of the deceased individual,
572 if no administrator or executor has been appointed and
573 qualified. Any license and appointment under this subparagraph
574 shall be canceled upon issuance of a license to an executor or
575 administrator under subparagraph 1.; or

576 3. To an individual otherwise qualified to be licensed as
577 an agent who has completed the educational or training
578 requirements prescribed in s. 626.732 and who is appointed to
579 represent an insurer of the industrial or ordinary-combination
580 class solely for the purpose of collecting premiums and
581 servicing in-force policies. Such licensee may not directly or
582 indirectly solicit, negotiate, or effect contracts of insurance
583 ~~has successfully sat for the required examination prior to~~
584 ~~termination of the 6-month period.~~

585 Section 16. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section
586 626.207, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

587 626.207 Disqualification of applicants and licensees;
588 penalties against licensees; rulemaking authority.—

589 (3) An applicant who has been found guilty of or has
590 pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to a crime not included in
591 subsection (2), regardless of adjudication, is subject to:

592 (b) A 7-year disqualifying period for all felonies to
593 which neither the permanent bar in subsection (2) nor the 15-
594 year disqualifying period in paragraph (a) applies.

595 Notwithstanding subsection (4), an applicant who served at least
596 half of the disqualifying period may reapply for a license if,
597 during that time, the applicant has not been found guilty of or
598 has not pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to a crime. The
599 department may issue the applicant a license on a probationary
600 basis for the remainder of the disqualifying period. The

601 applicant's probationary period ends at the end of the
602 disqualifying period.

603 Section 17. Subsection (1) and paragraph (e) of subsection
604 (2) of section 626.221, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

605 626.221 Examination requirement; exemptions.—

606 (1) The department may ~~shall~~ not issue any license as
607 agent or adjuster to any individual who has not qualified for,
608 taken, and passed to the satisfaction of the department a
609 written examination of the scope prescribed in s. 626.241.

610 (2) However, an examination is not necessary for any of
611 the following:

612 (e) An applicant who has been licensed as an all-lines
613 adjuster and appointed as an independent adjuster or company
614 employee adjuster and who files ~~if~~ an application for an all-
615 lines adjuster license licensure is filed with the department
616 within 48 months after ~~following~~ the date of cancellation or
617 expiration of the prior appointment.

618 Section 18. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section
619 626.2815, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

620 626.2815 Continuing education requirements.—

621 (3) Each licensee except a title insurance agent must
622 complete a 5-hour update course every 2 years which is specific
623 to the license held by the licensee. The course must be
624 developed and offered by providers and approved by the
625 department. The content of the course must address all lines of

626 insurance for which examination and licensure are required and
627 include the following subject areas: insurance law updates,
628 ethics for insurance professionals, disciplinary trends and case
629 studies, industry trends, premium discounts, determining
630 suitability of products and services, and other similar
631 insurance-related topics the department determines are relevant
632 to legally and ethically carrying out the responsibilities of
633 the license granted. A licensee who holds multiple insurance
634 licenses must complete an update course that is specific to at
635 least one of the licenses held. Except as otherwise specified,
636 any remaining required hours of continuing education are
637 elective and may consist of any continuing education course
638 approved by the department under this section.

639 (d) An individual who holds a license as a customer
640 representative, ~~limited customer representative, motor vehicle~~
641 ~~physical damage and mechanical breakdown insurance agent, or an~~
642 ~~industrial fire insurance or burglary insurance agent~~ and who is
643 not a licensed life or health agent, must also complete a
644 minimum of 5 hours of continuing education courses every 2
645 years.

646 Section 19. Paragraphs (b) and (f) of subsection (1) of
647 section 626.321, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

648 626.321 Limited licenses.—

649 (1) The department shall issue to a qualified applicant a
650 license as agent authorized to transact a limited class of

651 business in any of the following categories of limited lines
652 insurance:

653 (b) Industrial fire insurance or burglary insurance.—
654 License covering only industrial fire insurance or burglary
655 insurance. ~~The applicant for such a license must pass a written~~
656 ~~examination covering such insurance.~~ A licensee under this
657 paragraph may not hold a license as an agent for any other or
658 additional kind or class of insurance coverage except for life
659 insurance and health insurance. Effective July 1, 2019, all
660 licensees holding such limited license and appointment may renew
661 the license and appointment, but no new or additional licenses
662 may be issued pursuant to this paragraph, and a licensee whose
663 limited license under this paragraph has been terminated,
664 suspended, or revoked may not have such license reinstated.

665 (f) Crop hail and multiple-peril crop insurance.—License
666 for insurance covering crops subject to unfavorable weather
667 conditions, fire or lightning ~~lightening~~, flood, hail, insect
668 infestation, disease, or other yield-reducing conditions or
669 perils which is provided by the private insurance market, or
670 which is subsidized by the Federal Group Insurance Corporation
671 including multi-peril crop insurance. Notwithstanding any other
672 provision of law, the limited license may be issued to a bona
673 fide salaried employee of an association chartered under the
674 Farm Credit Act of 1971, 12 U.S.C. ss. 2001 et seq., ~~who~~
675 ~~satisfactorily completes the examination prescribed by the~~

676 ~~department pursuant to s. 626.241(5).~~ The agent must be
677 appointed by, and his or her limited license requested by, a
678 licensed general lines agent. All business transacted by the
679 agent must be on behalf of, in the name of, and countersigned by
680 the agent by whom he or she is appointed. Sections 626.561 and
681 626.748, relating to records, apply to all business written
682 pursuant to this section. The licensee may be appointed by and
683 licensed for only one general lines agent or agency.

684 Section 20. Subsection (1) of section 626.471, Florida
685 Statutes, is amended to read:

686 626.471 Termination of appointment.—

687 (1) Subject to an appointee's contract rights, an
688 appointing entity may terminate its appointment of any appointee
689 at any time. Except when termination is upon a ground that ~~which~~
690 would subject the appointee to suspension or revocation of his
691 or her license and appointment under s. 626.611 or s. 626.621,
692 and except as provided by contract between the appointing entity
693 and the appointee, the appointing entity shall give at least 60
694 days' advance written notice of its intention to terminate such
695 appointment to the appointee, ~~either~~ by delivery thereof to the
696 appointee in person, ~~or~~ by mailing it, postage prepaid, or by e-
697 mail. If delivery is by mail or e-mail, the notice must be
698 addressed to the appointee at his or her last mailing or e-mail
699 address of record with the appointing entity. Notice ~~is so~~
700 ~~mailed shall be~~ deemed to have been given when deposited in a

701 United States Postal Service mail depository or when the e-mail
 702 is sent, as applicable.

703 Section 21. Section 626.536, Florida Statutes, is amended
 704 to read:

705 626.536 Reporting of administrative actions.—Within 30
 706 days after the final disposition of an administrative action
 707 taken against a licensee ~~or insurance agency~~ by a governmental
 708 agency or other regulatory agency in this or any other state or
 709 jurisdiction relating to the business of insurance, the sale of
 710 securities, or activity involving fraud, dishonesty,
 711 trustworthiness, or breach of a fiduciary duty, the licensee ~~or~~
 712 ~~insurance agency~~ must submit a copy of the order, consent to
 713 order, or other relevant legal documents to the department. The
 714 department may adopt rules to administer this section.

715 Section 22. Subsection (7) is added to section 626.6215,
 716 Florida Statutes, to read:

717 626.6215 Grounds for discretionary refusal, suspension, or
 718 revocation of insurance agency license.—The department may, in
 719 its discretion, deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to continue the
 720 license of any insurance agency if it finds, as to any insurance
 721 agency or as to any majority owner, partner, manager, director,
 722 officer, or other person who manages or controls such insurance
 723 agency, that any one or more of the following applicable grounds
 724 exist:

725 (7) A denial, suspension, or revocation of, or any other

726 adverse administrative action against, a license to practice or
 727 conduct any regulated profession, business, or vocation by this
 728 state, any other state, any nation, any possession or district
 729 of the United States, or any court or any lawful agency thereof.

730 Section 23. Section 626.729, Florida Statutes, is amended
 731 to read:

732 626.729 "Industrial fire insurance" defined.—As used in
 733 ~~For the purposes of~~ this code, the term "industrial fire
 734 insurance" means: is

735 (1) Insurance against loss by fire of either buildings and
 736 other structures or contents, which may include extended
 737 coverage;

738 (2) Windstorm insurance;

739 (3) Basic limits owners, landlords, or tenants liability
 740 insurance with single limits of \$25,000;

741 (4) Comprehensive personal liability insurance with a
 742 single limit of \$25,000; or

743 (5) Burglary insurance, under which the premiums are
 744 collected quarterly or more often and the face amount of the
 745 insurance provided by the policy on one risk is not more than
 746 \$50,000, including the contents of such buildings and other
 747 structures, ~~and the insurer issuing such policy is operating~~
 748 ~~under a system of collecting a debit by its agents. A temporary~~
 749 ~~license for an industrial fire or burglary agent issued pursuant~~
 750 ~~to s. 626.175 shall be solely for the purpose of collecting~~

751 ~~premiums and servicing in force policies, and such licensee~~
752 ~~shall not directly or indirectly solicit, negotiate, or effect~~
753 ~~contracts of insurance.~~

754 Section 24. Subsection (9) of section 626.8437, Florida
755 Statutes, is amended to read:

756 626.8437 Grounds for denial, suspension, revocation, or
757 refusal to renew license or appointment.—The department shall
758 deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew or continue the
759 license or appointment of any title insurance agent or agency,
760 and it shall suspend or revoke the eligibility to hold a license
761 or appointment of such person, if it finds that as to the
762 applicant, licensee, appointee, or any principal thereof, any
763 one or more of the following grounds exist:

764 (9) Willful failure to comply with, or willful violation
765 of, any proper order or rule of the department or willful
766 violation of any provision of the Florida Insurance Code ~~this~~
767 ~~act.~~

768 Section 25. Subsection (2) of section 626.844, Florida
769 Statutes, is amended to read:

770 626.844 Grounds for discretionary refusal, suspension, or
771 revocation of license or appointment.—The department may, in its
772 discretion, deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew or
773 continue the license or appointment of any title insurance agent
774 or agency, and it may suspend or revoke the eligibility to hold
775 a license or appointment of any such title insurance agent or

776 agency if it finds that as to the applicant or licensee or
 777 appointee, or any principal thereof, any one or more of the
 778 following grounds exist under circumstances for which such
 779 denial, suspension, revocation, or refusal is not mandatory
 780 under s. 626.8437:

781 (2) Violation of any provision of the Florida Insurance
 782 Code ~~this act~~ in the course of dealing under the license or
 783 appointment.

784 Section 26. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) and paragraphs
 785 (b) and (c) of subsection (2) of section 626.8732, Florida
 786 Statutes, are amended to read:

787 626.8732 Nonresident public adjuster's qualifications,
 788 bond.—

789 (1) The department shall, upon application therefor, issue
 790 a license to an applicant for a nonresident public adjuster's
 791 license upon determining that the applicant has paid the
 792 applicable license fees required under s. 624.501 and:

793 (e) Has been licensed and employed as a public adjuster in
 794 the applicant's state of residence on a continual basis for the
 795 past 6 months ~~year~~, or, if the applicant's state of residence
 796 does not issue licenses to individuals who act as public
 797 adjusters, the applicant has been licensed and employed as a
 798 resident insurance company adjuster, a public adjuster, or an
 799 independent adjuster in his or her state of residence or any
 800 other state on a continual basis for the past 6 months ~~year~~.

801 (2) The applicant shall furnish the following with his or
802 her application:

803 (b) If currently licensed as a resident public adjuster in
804 the applicant's state of residence, a certificate or letter of
805 authorization from the licensing authority of the applicant's
806 state of residence, stating that the applicant holds a current
807 or comparable license to act as a public adjuster and has held
808 the license continuously for the past 6 months ~~year~~. The
809 certificate or letter of authorization must be signed by the
810 insurance commissioner or his or her deputy or the appropriate
811 licensing official and must disclose whether the adjuster has
812 ever had any license or eligibility to hold any license
813 declined, denied, suspended, revoked, or placed on probation or
814 whether an administrative fine or penalty has been levied
815 against the adjuster and, if so, the reason for the action.

816 (c) If the applicant's state of residence does not require
817 licensure as a public adjuster and the applicant has been
818 licensed as a resident insurance adjuster in his or her state of
819 residence or any other state, a certificate or letter of
820 authorization from the licensing authority stating that the
821 applicant holds or has held a license to act as such an
822 insurance adjuster and has held the license continuously for the
823 past 6 months ~~year~~. The certificate or letter of authorization
824 must be signed by the insurance commissioner or his or her
825 deputy or the appropriate licensing official and must disclose

826 whether or not the adjuster has ever had any license or
827 eligibility to hold any license declined, denied, suspended,
828 revoked, or placed on probation or whether an administrative
829 fine or penalty has been levied against the adjuster and, if so,
830 the reason for the action.

831 Section 27. Subsection (6) of section 627.7015, Florida
832 Statutes, is amended to read:

833 627.7015 Alternative procedure for resolution of disputed
834 property insurance claims.—

835 (6) (a) Mediation is nonbinding; however, if a written
836 settlement is reached, the policyholder has 3 business days
837 within which the policyholder may rescind the settlement unless
838 the policyholder has cashed or deposited any check or draft
839 disbursed to the policyholder for the disputed matters as a
840 result of the conference. If a settlement agreement is reached
841 and is not rescinded, it is binding and acts as a release of all
842 specific claims that were presented in that mediation
843 conference.

844 (b) At the conclusion of the mediation, the mediator shall
845 provide a written report of the results of mediation, including
846 any settlement amount, to the insurer, the policyholder, and the
847 policyholder's representative if the policyholder is represented
848 at the mediation.

849 Section 28. Effective upon this act becoming a law,
850 paragraphs (b) through (g) of subsection (1) of section 627.748,

851 Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (c) through
852 (h), respectively, a new paragraph (b) is added to that
853 subsection, and subsection (16) is added to that section, to
854 read:

855 627.748 Transportation network companies.—

856 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

857 (b) "Luxury ground transportation network company" or
858 "luxury ground TNC" means an entity that complies with all
859 applicable requirements for a TNC in accordance with subsection
860 (16), but uses its digital network to connect riders exclusively
861 to drivers who operate for-hire vehicles as defined in s.
862 320.01(15), including limousines and luxury sedans and excluding
863 taxicabs.

864 (16) LUXURY GROUND TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES.—

865 (a) A luxury ground TNC may elect, upon written
866 notification to the Department of Financial Services, to be
867 regulated pursuant to this section. In such instance, a luxury
868 ground TNC shall be required to comply with all requirements of
869 this section applicable to a TNC except subsections (7) and (8)
870 and except as specified in paragraph (b).

871 (b) To the extent an entity that owns and operates both a
872 TNC and a luxury ground TNC elects to be regulated pursuant to
873 this section, paragraphs (11)(e) and (f) shall apply exclusively
874 to the TNC and not to the luxury ground TNC.

875 (c) To the extent a luxury ground TNC elects to be

876 regulated pursuant to this section, a county, municipality,
877 special district, or other local governmental entity or
878 subdivision may not:

879 1. Require the luxury ground TNC, or drivers or for-hire
880 vehicles affiliated with such luxury ground TNC, to pay a tax or
881 hold a license, if such tax or license relates to providing
882 rides through the luxury ground TNC;

883 2. Subject the luxury ground TNC, or drivers or for-hire
884 vehicles affiliated with such luxury ground TNC, to any rate,
885 entry, operation, or other requirement of the county,
886 municipality, special district, or other local governmental
887 entity or subdivision, except that insurance requirements
888 applicable to for-hire vehicles, which include requirements
889 applicable to limousines or luxury sedans or the owners or
890 operators of such vehicles, shall remain in effect; or

891 3. Require the luxury ground TNC, or drivers or for-hire
892 vehicles affiliated with such luxury ground TNC, to obtain a
893 business license or any other type of similar authorization to
894 operate within the local governmental entity's jurisdiction.

895
896 This paragraph does not prohibit an airport or seaport from
897 requiring permits for for-hire vehicles and from charging
898 reasonable pickup fees for for-hire vehicles. As used in this
899 paragraph, the term "for-hire vehicle" has the same meaning as
900 provided in s. 320.01(15).

901 Section 29. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section
902 633.218, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraphs (a)
903 through (e) of that subsection are republished, to read:

904 633.218 Inspections of state buildings and premises; tests
905 of firesafety equipment; building plans to be approved.—

906 (1) (a) It is the duty of the State Fire Marshal and her or
907 his agents to inspect, or cause to be inspected, each state-
908 owned building on a recurring basis established by rule, and to
909 ensure that high-hazard occupancies are inspected at least
910 annually, for the purpose of ascertaining and causing to be
911 corrected any conditions liable to cause fire or endanger life
912 from fire and any violation of the firesafety standards for
913 state-owned buildings, this chapter, or the rules adopted
914 pursuant hereto. The State Fire Marshal shall, within 7 days
915 following an inspection, submit a report of such inspection to
916 the head of the state agency responsible for the building.

917 (b) Except as provided in s. 255.45, the department head
918 is responsible for ensuring that deficiencies noted in the
919 inspection are corrected as soon as practicable.

920 (c) Each department shall, in its annual budget proposal,
921 include requests for sufficient funds to correct any firesafety
922 deficiencies noted by the State Fire Marshal.

923 (d) Each department shall, in its annual budget proposal
924 and for all proposals for new construction or renovations to
925 existing structures, include requests for sufficient funds to

926 | pay for any charges or fees imposed by the State Fire Marshal
 927 | for review of plans, renovations, occupancy, or inspections,
 928 | whether recurring or high hazard.

929 | (e) For purposes of this section:

930 | 1.a. The term "high-hazard occupancy" means any building
 931 | or structure:

932 | (I) That contains combustible or explosive matter or
 933 | flammable conditions dangerous to the safety of life or
 934 | property;

935 | (II) At which persons receive educational instruction;

936 | (III) At which persons reside, excluding private
 937 | dwellings; or

938 | (IV) Containing three or more floor levels.

939 | b. As used in this subparagraph, the phrase "building or
 940 | structure":

941 | (I) Includes, but is not limited to, all hospitals and
 942 | residential health care facilities, nursing homes and other
 943 | adult care facilities, correctional or detention facilities,
 944 | public schools, public lodging establishments, migrant labor
 945 | camps, residential child care facilities, and self-service
 946 | gasoline stations.

947 | (II) Does not include any residential condominium where
 948 | the declaration of condominium or the bylaws provide that the
 949 | rental of units shall not be permitted for less than 90 days.

950 | 2. The term "state-owned building" includes private

951 correctional facilities as defined under s. 944.710(3).

952 ~~(f) A state-owned building or state-leased building or~~
953 ~~space shall be identified through use of the United States~~
954 ~~National Grid Coordinate System.~~

955 Section 30. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
956 633.306, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

957 633.306 Requirements for installation, inspection, and
958 maintenance of fire suppression equipment.—

959 (1) The requirements for installation of fire
960 extinguishers and preengineered systems are as follows:

961 (c) Equipment shall be installed in accordance with the
962 applicable standards of the National Fire Protection Association
963 and the manufacturer's drawings and specifications, using only
964 components and parts specified by the manufacturer or listed as
965 equal parts by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such
966 as Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., or Factory Mutual
967 Laboratories, Inc.

968 Section 31. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 633.312,
969 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5) and (6),
970 respectively, subsection (3) is amended, and a new subsection
971 (4) is added to that section, to read:

972 633.312 Inspection of fire control systems, fire hydrants,
973 and fire protection systems.—

974 (3)(a) The inspecting contractor shall provide to the
975 building owner or hydrant owner and the local authority having

976 jurisdiction a copy of the applicable uniform summary inspection
977 report established under this chapter. The local authority
978 having jurisdiction may accept uniform summary inspection
979 reports by United States mail, by hand delivery, by electronic
980 submission, or through a third-party vendor that collects the
981 reports on behalf of the local authority having jurisdiction.

982 (b) The State Fire Marshal shall adopt rules to implement
983 a uniform summary inspection report and submission procedures to
984 be used by all third-party vendors and local authorities having
985 jurisdiction. For purposes of this section, a uniform summary
986 inspection report must record the address where the fire
987 protection system or hydrant is located, the company and person
988 conducting the inspection and their license number, the date of
989 the inspection, and the fire protection system or hydrant
990 inspection status, including a brief summary of each deficiency,
991 critical deficiency, noncritical deficiency, or impairment
992 found. A contractor's detailed inspection report is not required
993 to follow the uniform summary inspection report format. The
994 State Fire Marshal shall establish by rule a submission
995 procedure for each means provided under paragraph (a) by which a
996 local authority having jurisdiction may accept uniform summary
997 inspection reports. Each of the submission procedures must allow
998 a contractor to attach additional documents with the submission
999 of a uniform summary inspection report, including a physical
1000 copy of the contractor's detailed inspection report. A

1001 submission procedure may not require a contractor to submit
1002 information contained within the detailed inspection report
1003 unless the information is required to be included in the uniform
1004 summary inspection report.

1005 (4) The maintenance of fire hydrant and fire protection
1006 systems as well as corrective actions on deficient systems is
1007 the responsibility of the owner of the system or hydrant.
1008 Equipment requiring periodic testing or operation to ensure its
1009 maintenance shall be tested or operated as specified in the Fire
1010 Prevention Code, Life Safety Code, National Fire Protection
1011 Association standards, or as directed by the appropriate
1012 authority, provided that such appropriate authority may not
1013 require a sprinkler system not required by the Fire Prevention
1014 Code, Life Safety Code, or National Fire Protection Association
1015 standards to be removed regardless of its condition. This
1016 section does not prohibit governmental entities from inspecting
1017 and enforcing firesafety codes.

1018 Section 32. Section 633.520, Florida Statutes, is amended
1019 to read:

1020 633.520 Safety; firefighter employer responsibilities.—

1021 (1) Each ~~Every~~ firefighter employer shall furnish and use
1022 safety devices and safeguards, adopt and use methods and
1023 processes reasonably adequate to render such an employment and
1024 place of employment safe, and do every other thing reasonably
1025 necessary to protect the lives, health, and safety of such

1026 firefighter employees. As used in this section, the terms "safe"
 1027 and "safety," as applied to any employment or place of
 1028 employment, mean such freedom from danger as is reasonably
 1029 necessary for the protection of the lives, health, and safety of
 1030 firefighter employees, including conditions and methods of
 1031 sanitation and hygiene. Safety devices and safeguards required
 1032 to be furnished by the firefighter employer by this section or
 1033 by the division under authority of this section do not include
 1034 personal apparel and protective devices that replace personal
 1035 apparel normally worn by firefighter employees during regular
 1036 working hours.

1037 (2) The division shall adopt rules to establish employers'
 1038 cancer prevention best practices related to personal protective
 1039 equipment, decontamination, fire suppression equipment, and fire
 1040 stations.

1041 Section 33. Subsection (1) of section 648.49, Florida
 1042 Statutes, is amended to read:

1043 648.49 Duration of suspension or revocation.—

1044 (1) The department shall, in its order suspending a
 1045 license or appointment or in its order suspending the
 1046 eligibility of a person to hold or apply for a license or
 1047 appointment, specify the period during which the suspension is
 1048 to be in effect, but such period may not exceed 2 years. The
 1049 license, ~~or~~ appointment, ~~or~~ ~~and~~ eligibility to hold or apply for
 1050 a license or appointment remains ~~shall remain~~ suspended during

1051 the period so specified, subject, however, to any rescission or
 1052 modification of the order by the department, or modification or
 1053 reversal thereof by the court, before the ~~prior to~~ expiration of
 1054 the suspension period. A license or appointment that ~~which~~ has
 1055 been suspended may not be reinstated, nor shall the eligibility
 1056 to hold such license or appointment be reinstated, except upon
 1057 the filing and approval of an application ~~request~~ for such
 1058 reinstatement, but the department may not approve an application
 1059 for ~~grant~~ such reinstatement if it finds that the circumstances
 1060 for which the license or appointment was suspended still exist
 1061 or are likely to recur. In each case involving suspension, the
 1062 department has the discretion to require the former licensee to
 1063 successfully complete a basic certification course in the
 1064 criminal justice system, consisting of not less than 80 hours
 1065 approved by the department.

1066 Section 34. Subsection (8) of section 717.124, Florida
 1067 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (11), and a new subsection
 1068 (8) and subsections (9) and (10) are added to that section, to
 1069 read:

1070 717.124 Unclaimed property claims.—

1071 (8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,
 1072 the department may develop and implement an identification
 1073 verification and disbursement process by which an account valued
 1074 at \$2,000 or less, after being received by the department and
 1075 added to the unclaimed property database, may be disbursed to an

1076 apparent owner after the department has verified that the
1077 apparent owner is living and that the apparent owner's current
1078 address is correct. The department shall include with the
1079 payment a notification and explanation of the dollar amount, the
1080 source, and the property type of each account included in the
1081 disbursement. The department shall adopt rules to implement this
1082 subsection.

1083 (9) (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
1084 chapter, the department may develop and implement a verification
1085 and disbursement process by which an account, after being
1086 received by the department and added to the unclaimed property
1087 database, for which the apparent owner entity is:

1088 1. A state agency in this state or a subdivision or
1089 successor agency thereof;

1090 2. A county government in this state or a subdivision
1091 thereof;

1092 3. A public school district in this state or a subdivision
1093 thereof;

1094 4. A municipality in this state or a subdivision thereof;
1095 or

1096 5. A special taxing district or authority in this state,

1097
1098 may be disbursed to the apparent owner entity or successor
1099 entity. The department shall include with the payment a
1100 notification and explanation of the dollar amount, the source,

1101 and the property type of each account included in the
1102 disbursement.

1103 (b) The department may adopt rules to implement this
1104 subsection.

1105 (10) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,
1106 the department may develop a process by which a registered
1107 claimant's representative or a buyer of unclaimed property may
1108 electronically submit to the department an electronic image of a
1109 completed claim and claims-related documents pursuant to this
1110 chapter, including a limited power of attorney or purchase
1111 agreement that has been manually signed and dated by a claimant
1112 or seller pursuant to s. 717.135 or s. 717.1351, after the
1113 claimant's representative or the buyer of unclaimed property
1114 receives the original documents provided by the claimant or the
1115 seller for any claim. Each claim filed by a registered
1116 claimant's representative or a buyer of unclaimed property must
1117 include a statement by the claimant's representative or the
1118 buyer of unclaimed property attesting that all documents are
1119 true copies of the original documents and that all original
1120 documents are physically in the possession of the claimant's
1121 representative or the buyer of unclaimed property. All original
1122 documents must be kept in the original form, by claim number,
1123 under the secure control of the claimant's representative or the
1124 buyer of unclaimed property and must be available for inspection
1125 by the department in accordance with s. 717.1315. The department

1126 | may adopt rules to implement this subsection.

1127 | Section 35. Section 626.521, Florida Statutes, is
 1128 | repealed.

1129 | Section 36. Section 626.7355, Florida Statutes, is
 1130 | repealed.

1131 | Section 37. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
 1132 | 626.022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1133 | 626.022 Scope of part.—

1134 | (1) This part applies as to insurance agents, service
 1135 | representatives, adjusters, and insurance agencies; as to any
 1136 | and all kinds of insurance; and as to stock insurers, mutual
 1137 | insurers, reciprocal insurers, and all other types of insurers,
 1138 | except that:

1139 | (a) It does not apply as to reinsurance, except that ss.
 1140 | 626.011-626.022, ss. 626.112-626.181, ss. 626.191-626.211, ss.
 1141 | 626.291-626.301, s. 626.331, ss. 626.342-626.511 ~~ss. 626.342-~~
 1142 | ~~626.521~~, ss. 626.541-626.591, and ss. 626.601-626.711 shall
 1143 | apply as to reinsurance intermediaries as defined in s.
 1144 | 626.7492.

1145 | Section 38. Subsection (4) of section 626.025, Florida
 1146 | Statutes, is amended to read:

1147 | 626.025 Consumer protections.—To transact insurance,
 1148 | agents shall comply with consumer protection laws, including the
 1149 | following, as applicable:

1150 | (4) The submission of credit and character reports, as

1151 required by s. 626.171 ~~or s. 626.521~~.

1152 Section 39. Subsection (1) of section 633.216, Florida
1153 Statutes, is amended to read:

1154 633.216 Inspection of buildings and equipment; orders;
1155 firesafety inspection training requirements; certification;
1156 disciplinary action.—The State Fire Marshal and her or his
1157 agents or persons authorized to enforce laws and rules of the
1158 State Fire Marshal shall, at any reasonable hour, when the State
1159 Fire Marshal has reasonable cause to believe that a violation of
1160 this chapter or s. 509.215, or a rule adopted thereunder, or a
1161 minimum firesafety code adopted by the State Fire Marshal or a
1162 local authority, may exist, inspect any and all buildings and
1163 structures which are subject to the requirements of this chapter
1164 or s. 509.215 and rules adopted thereunder. The authority to
1165 inspect shall extend to all equipment, vehicles, and chemicals
1166 which are located on or within the premises of any such building
1167 or structure.

1168 (1) Each county, municipality, and special district that
1169 has firesafety enforcement responsibilities shall employ or
1170 contract with a firesafety inspector. Except as provided in s.
1171 633.312(2), ~~and~~ (3), and (4), the firesafety inspector must
1172 conduct all firesafety inspections that are required by law. The
1173 governing body of a county, municipality, or special district
1174 that has firesafety enforcement responsibilities may provide a
1175 schedule of fees to pay only the costs of inspections conducted

1176 pursuant to this subsection and related administrative expenses.
1177 Two or more counties, municipalities, or special districts that
1178 have firesafety enforcement responsibilities may jointly employ
1179 or contract with a firesafety inspector.

1180 Section 40. (1) The Legislature finds that:

1181 (a) Blockchain technology and distributed ledger
1182 technology allow the secure recording of transactions through
1183 cryptographic algorithms and distributed record sharing, and
1184 such technology has reached a point where the opportunities for
1185 efficiency, cost savings, and cybersecurity deserve study.

1186 (b) Blockchain technology is a promising way to facilitate
1187 more efficient government service delivery models and economies
1188 of scale, including facilitating safe paperless transactions and
1189 recordkeeping that are nearly impervious to cyberattacks and
1190 data destruction.

1191 (c) Blockchain technology can reduce the prevalence of
1192 disparate government computer systems, databases, and custom-
1193 built software interfaces; reduce costs associated with
1194 maintenance and implementation; streamline information sharing;
1195 and allow more areas of the state to electronically participate
1196 in government services.

1197 (d) Nations, other states, and municipalities across the
1198 world are studying and implementing governmental reforms that
1199 bolster trust and reduce bureaucracy through verifiable open
1200 source blockchain technology in a variety of areas, including,

1201 but not limited to, medical and health records, land records,
1202 banking, tax and fee payments, smart contracts, professional
1203 accrediting, and property auctions.

1204 (e) It is in the public interest to establish a Florida
1205 Blockchain Task Force comprised of government and industry
1206 representatives to study the ways in which state, county, and
1207 municipal governments can benefit from a transition to a
1208 blockchain-based system for recordkeeping, security, and service
1209 delivery and to develop and submit recommendations to the
1210 Governor and the Legislature concerning the potential for
1211 implementation of blockchain-based systems that promote
1212 government efficiencies, better services for citizens, economic
1213 development, and safer cyber-secure interaction between
1214 government and the public.

1215 (2) The Florida Blockchain Task Force, a task force as
1216 defined in s. 20.03, Florida Statutes, is established within the
1217 Department of Financial Services to explore and develop a master
1218 plan for fostering the expansion of the blockchain industry in
1219 the state, to recommend policies and state investments to help
1220 make this state a leader in blockchain technology, and to issue
1221 a report to the Governor and the Legislature. The task force
1222 shall study if and how state, county, and municipal governments
1223 can benefit from a transition to a blockchain-based system for
1224 recordkeeping, data security, financial transactions, and
1225 service delivery and identify ways to improve government

1226 interaction with businesses and the public.

1227 (a) The master plan shall:

1228 1. Identify the economic growth and development
1229 opportunities presented by blockchain technology.

1230 2. Assess the existing blockchain industry in the state.

1231 3. Identify innovative and successful blockchain
1232 applications currently used by industry and other governments to
1233 determine viability for state applications.

1234 4. Review workforce needs and academic programs required
1235 to build blockchain technology expertise across all relevant
1236 industries.

1237 5. Make recommendations to the Governor and the
1238 Legislature that will promote innovation and economic growth by
1239 reducing barriers to and expediting the expansion of the state's
1240 blockchain industry.

1241 (b) The task force shall consist of 12 members. Membership
1242 shall be as follows:

1243 1. Three agency heads or executive directors of cabinet
1244 agencies, or their designees, appointed by the Governor.

1245 2. Four members of the public or private sector with
1246 knowledge and experience in blockchain technology, appointed by
1247 the Governor.

1248 3. Three members from the public or private sector with
1249 knowledge and experience in blockchain technology, appointed by
1250 the Chief Financial Officer.

1251 4. One member from the private sector with knowledge and
1252 experience in blockchain technology, appointed by the President
1253 of the Senate.

1254 5. One member from the private sector with knowledge and
1255 experience in blockchain technology, appointed by the Speaker of
1256 the House of Representatives.

1257
1258 Members of the task force shall reflect the ethnic diversity of
1259 the state.

1260 (c) Within 90 days after the effective date of this act, a
1261 majority of the members of the task force must be appointed and
1262 the task force shall hold its first meeting. The task force
1263 shall elect one of its members to serve as chair. Members of the
1264 task force shall serve for the duration of the existence of the
1265 task force. Any vacancy that occurs shall be filled in the same
1266 manner as the original appointment. Task force members shall
1267 serve without compensation, and are not entitled to
1268 reimbursement for per diem or travel expenses.

1269 (d) The task force shall study blockchain technology,
1270 including, but not limited to, the following:

1271 1. Opportunities and risks associated with using
1272 blockchain and distributed ledger technology for state and local
1273 governments.

1274 2. Different types of blockchains, both public and
1275 private, and different consensus algorithms.

1276 3. Projects and cases currently under development in other
1277 states and local governments, and how these cases could be
1278 applied in this state.

1279 4. Ways the Legislature can modify general law to support
1280 secure paperless recordkeeping, increase cybersecurity, improve
1281 interactions with citizens, and encourage blockchain innovation
1282 for businesses in the state.

1283 5. Identifying potential economic incentives for companies
1284 investing in blockchain technologies in collaboration with the
1285 state.

1286 6. Recommending projects for potential blockchain
1287 solutions, including, but not limited to, use cases for state
1288 agencies that would improve services for citizens or businesses.

1289 7. Identifying the technical skills necessary to develop
1290 blockchain technology and ensuring that instruction in such
1291 skills is available at secondary and postsecondary educational
1292 institutions in this state.

1293 (3) The task force shall submit a report to the Governor,
1294 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
1295 Representatives and present its findings to the appropriate
1296 legislative committees in each house of the Legislature within
1297 180 days after the initial meeting of the task force. The report
1298 must include:

1299 (a) A general description of the costs and benefits of
1300 state and local government agencies using blockchain technology.

1301 (b) Recommendations concerning the feasibility of
1302 implementing blockchain technology in the state and the best
1303 approach to finance the cost of implementation.

1304 (c) Recommendations for specific implementations to be
1305 developed by relevant state agencies.

1306 (d) Any draft legislation the task force deems appropriate
1307 to implement such blockchain technologies.

1308 (e) Identification of one pilot project that may be
1309 implemented in the state.

1310 (f) Any other information deemed relevant by the task
1311 force.

1312 (4) The task force is entitled to the assistance and
1313 services of any state agency, board, bureau, or commission as
1314 necessary and available for the purposes of this section.

1315 (5) The Department of Financial Services shall provide
1316 support staff for the task force and any relevant studies, data,
1317 and materials in its possession to assist the task force in the
1318 performance of its duties.

1319 (6) The task force shall terminate upon submission of the
1320 report and the presentation of findings.

1321 (7) This section shall take effect upon this act becoming
1322 a law.

1323 Section 41. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
1324 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon
1325 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,

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