

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; creating s. 553.7921, F.S.;;
40 | requiring a contractor to file a fire alarm permit
41 | application and receive the permit under certain
42 | circumstances; providing requirements for the
43 | application; amending s. 626.175. F.S.;; revising the
44 | requirements for a specified nonrenewable temporary
45 | license; revising the types of nonrenewable temporary
46 | licenses issued by the Department of Financial
47 | Services; amending s. 626.207, F.S.;; authorizing
48 | disqualified persons meeting specified requirements to
49 | reapply for relicensure; amending s. 626.221, F.S.;;
50 | revising the language relating to an exemption from

51 examination for specified license applicants under
52 certain circumstances; amending s. 626.2815, F.S.;
53 deleting provisions requiring certain licensed
54 customer representatives and insurance agents to
55 complete continuation education courses; amending s.
56 626.321, F.S.; revising the requirements for certain
57 lines insurance licenses; prohibiting issuance or
58 reinstatement of certain lines insurance licenses
59 beginning on a specified date; amending s. 626.471,
60 F.S.; revising the method of delivery of certain
61 notice; amending s. 626.536, F.S.; deleting provisions
62 relating to reporting administrative actions taken
63 against an insurance agency; amending s. 626.6215,
64 F.S.; providing additional grounds for which the
65 department may take specified action against the
66 license of an insurance agency; amending s. 626.729,
67 F.S.; redefining the term "industrial fire insurance";
68 amending ss. 626.8437 and 626.844, F.S.; specifying
69 grounds for certain administrative actions against
70 licenses or appointments of specified insurance agents
71 or agencies; amending s. 626.8732, F.S.; revising the
72 requirements for nonresident public adjuster's
73 licenses; amending s. 627.7015, F.S.; requiring
74 mediators to report mediation settlements and
75 settlement amounts to all parties at the close of

76 mediation; amending s. 633.218, F.S.; deleting a
77 provision that requires the identification of
78 specified buildings or space for firesafety purposes;
79 amending s. 633.306, F.S.; providing standards for
80 fire equipment installation; amending s. 633.312,
81 F.S.; specifying the delivery methods of a firesafety
82 inspection report; requiring the State Fire Marshal to
83 adopt rules; amending s. 633.520, F.S.; requiring the
84 Division of State Fire Marshal to adopt rules to
85 establish cancer prevention best practices; amending
86 s. 648.49, F.S.; requiring the department to meet
87 certain requirements when suspending a person's
88 eligibility to apply for a license or appointment;
89 revising methods for reinstatement of a license, an
90 appointment, or certain eligibility; amending s.
91 717.124, F.S.; providing disbursement processes for
92 unclaimed property claims; providing rulemaking
93 authority; repealing ss. 626.521 and 626.7355, F.S.,
94 relating to credit and character reports and to a
95 temporary license as customer representative pending
96 examination, respectively; amending ss. 626.022,
97 626.025, and 633.216, F.S.; conforming cross-
98 references; providing legislative findings;
99 establishing the Florida Blockchain Task Force within
100 the department; requiring the task force to develop a

101 specified master plan; specifying the composition of
102 the task force; specifying duties and procedures of
103 the task force; providing that task force members
104 shall serve without compensation and are not entitled
105 to certain reimbursement; requiring the task force to
106 submit a specified report to the Governor and the
107 Legislature and to make presentations; providing that
108 the task force is entitled to assistance and services
109 of state governmental entities; requiring the
110 department to provide support staff and other
111 assistance to the task force; providing for
112 termination of the task force; providing effective
113 dates.

114
115 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

116
117 Section 1. Section 17.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to
118 read:

119 17.56 Division of Treasury to maintain ~~turn over to the~~
120 ~~Division of Accounting and Auditing~~ all warrants paid.—The
121 Division of Treasury shall maintain ~~turn over to the Division of~~
122 ~~Accounting and Auditing~~ all warrants drawn by the Chief
123 Financial Officer ~~or the Comptroller~~ and paid by the Division of
124 Treasury for 10 years after the date on which a warrant was
125 presented for payment. ~~The warrants shall be turned over as soon~~

126 | ~~as the Division of Treasury shall have recorded such warrants~~
 127 | ~~and charged the same against the accounts upon which such~~
 128 | ~~warrants are drawn.~~

129 | Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
 130 | 497.263, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

131 | 497.263 Cemetery companies; license required; licensure
 132 | requirements and procedures.—

133 | (3) ACTION CONCERNING APPLICATIONS.—If the licensing
 134 | authority finds that the applicant meets the criteria
 135 | established in subsection (2), the applicant shall be notified
 136 | that a license will be issued when all of the following
 137 | conditions are satisfied:

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

146 | Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 497.266, Florida
 147 | Statutes, is amended to read:

148 | 497.266 Care and maintenance trust fund; remedy of
 149 | department for noncompliance.—

150 | (1) A ~~No~~ cemetery company may not establish a cemetery, or

151 operate a cemetery if already established, without providing for
152 the future care and maintenance of the cemetery, for which a
153 care and maintenance trust fund shall be established, to be
154 known as "the care and maintenance trust fund of" The
155 trust fund shall be established with a trust company ~~operating~~
156 ~~pursuant to chapter 660~~, with a state or national bank holding
157 trust powers, or with a federal or state savings and loan
158 association holding trust powers. Trust funds which are with a
159 state or national bank or savings and loan association licensed
160 in this state on October 1, 1993, shall remain in force;
161 however, when the amount of any such trust fund exceeds the
162 amount that is insured by an agency of the Federal Government,
163 the cemetery company shall transfer that trust fund to a trust
164 company ~~operating pursuant to chapter 660~~, to a state or
165 national bank holding trust powers, or to a federal or state
166 savings and loan association holding trust powers.

167 Section 4. Section 497.376, Florida Statutes, is amended
168 to read:

169 497.376 License as funeral director and embalmer
170 permitted.—

171 (1) This chapter does not prohibit a person from holding a
172 license as an embalmer and a license as a funeral director at
173 the same time. There may be issued and renewed by the licensing
174 authority a combination license as both funeral director and
175 embalmer to persons meeting the separate requirements for both

176 licenses as set forth in this chapter. The licensing authority
177 may adopt rules providing procedures for applying for and
178 renewing such combination license. The licensing authority may
179 by rule establish application, renewal, and other fees for such
180 combination license, which fees may ~~shall~~ not exceed the sum of
181 the maximum fees for the separate funeral director and embalmer
182 license categories as provided in this chapter. A person ~~Persons~~
183 holding a combination license as a funeral director and an
184 embalmer is ~~shall be~~ subject to regulation under this chapter
185 both as a funeral director and an embalmer.

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

190 Section 5. Section 497.377, Florida Statutes, is amended
191 to read:

192 497.377 Combination funeral directors and embalmers;
193 ~~Concurrent~~ internships.-

194 (1) The internship requirements ~~requirement~~ for a
195 combination license as both funeral director and embalmer
196 ~~embalmers and funeral directors~~ may be served concurrently
197 pursuant to rules adopted by the licensing authority.

198 (2)(a) An applicant who has not completed the educational
199 credentials required for a combination license as both funeral
200 director and embalmer is eligible for licensure as a combination

201 funeral director and embalmer intern if the applicant:

202 1. Is currently enrolled in and attending a college
203 accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education
204 (ABFSE) in a course of study in mortuary science accredited by
205 ABFSE.

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

209 3. Has taken and received a passing grade in a college
210 credit course in mortuary law or funeral service law and has
211 taken and received a passing grade in a college credit course in
212 ethics.

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

220 (c) A combination funeral director and embalmer intern may
221 perform only the tasks, functions, and duties relating to
222 funeral directing and embalming which are performed under the
223 direct supervision of a licensed funeral director who has an
224 active, valid license under s. 497.373 or s. 497.374(1) and an
225 embalmer who has an active, valid license under s. 497.368 or s.

226 497.369. However, a combination funeral director and embalmer
227 intern may perform such tasks, functions, and duties under the
228 general supervision of a licensed funeral director and embalmer
229 upon graduation from a college accredited by ABFSE with a degree
230 as specified in s. 497.373(1)(d) and upon passage of the
231 examination required under s. 497.373(2)(b) if the funeral
232 director in charge of the internship training establishment,
233 after 6 months of direct supervision, certifies to the licensing
234 authority that the intern is competent to complete the
235 internship under general supervision.

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

239 2. The licensing authority may adopt rules that allow a
240 combination funeral director and embalmer intern to renew her or
241 his combination funeral director and embalmer intern license for
242 an additional 1 year if the combination funeral director and
243 embalmer intern demonstrates her or his failure to complete the
244 internship before expiration of the license due to illness,
245 personal injury, or other substantial hardship beyond her or his
246 reasonable control or demonstrates that she or he has completed
247 the requirements for licensure as a combination funeral director
248 and embalmer but is awaiting the results of a licensure
249 examination.

250 Section 6. Subsection (7) of section 497.380, Florida

251 Statutes, is amended to read:

252 497.380 Funeral establishment; licensure; display of
253 license.-

254 (7) Each licensed funeral establishment shall have a ~~one~~
255 ~~full-time~~ funeral director in charge and shall have a licensed
256 funeral director reasonably available to the public during
257 normal business hours for the establishment. The ~~full-time~~
258 funeral director in charge is responsible for ensuring that the
259 facility, its operation, and all persons employed in the
260 facility comply with all applicable state and federal laws and
261 rules. A funeral director in charge, with appropriate, active
262 licenses, may serve as a funeral director in charge for not more
263 than a total of two of the following: funeral establishments,
264 centralized embalming facilities, direct disposal
265 establishments, or cinerator facilities, as long as the two
266 locations are not more than 75 miles apart as measured in a
267 straight line ~~The full-time funeral director in charge must have~~
268 ~~an active license and may not be the full-time funeral director~~
269 ~~in charge of any other funeral establishment or of any other~~
270 ~~direct disposal establishment. Effective October 1, 2010, The~~
271 ~~full-time~~ funeral director in charge must hold an active, valid
272 funeral director license and an active, valid embalmer license,
273 or combination license as a funeral director and an embalmer.
274 However, a funeral director may serve as funeral director in
275 charge without an embalmer license or combination license if the

276 establishment does not have an embalming room on site or may
277 continue as the ~~full-time~~ funeral director in charge without an
278 embalmer or combination license if, as of September 30, 2010:

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

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

283 (c) The name of the funeral director was included, as
284 required in subsection (4), in the funeral establishment's most
285 recent application for issuance or renewal of its license or was
286 included in the establishment's report of change provided under
287 paragraph (12) (c).

288 Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
289 497.385, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

290 497.385 Removal services; refrigeration facilities;
291 centralized embalming facilities.—In order to ensure that the
292 removal, refrigeration, and embalming of all dead human bodies
293 is conducted in a manner that properly protects the public's
294 health and safety, the licensing authority shall adopt rules to
295 provide for the licensure of removal services, refrigeration
296 facilities, and centralized embalming facilities operated
297 independently of funeral establishments, direct disposal
298 establishments, and cinerator facilities.

299 (2) CENTRALIZED EMBALMING FACILITIES.—In order to ensure
300 that all funeral establishments have access to embalming

301 facilities that comply with all applicable health and safety
302 requirements, the licensing authority shall adopt rules to
303 provide for the licensure and operation of centralized embalming
304 facilities and shall require, at a minimum, the following:

305 (b) Each licensed centralized embalming facility shall
306 have at least one ~~full-time~~ embalmer in charge. The ~~full-time~~
307 embalmer in charge must have an active, valid embalmer license
308 or combination license as a funeral director and embalmer ~~and~~
309 ~~may not be the full-time embalmer in charge, full-time funeral~~
310 ~~director in charge, or full-time direct disposer in charge of~~
311 ~~any other establishment licensed under this chapter.~~ A funeral
312 director in charge, with appropriate, active licenses, may serve
313 as a funeral director in charge for not more than a total of two
314 of the following: funeral establishments, centralized embalming
315 facilities, direct disposal establishments, or cinerator
316 facilities, as long as the two locations are not more than 75
317 miles apart as measured in a straight line.

318 Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
319 497.452, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (a) of that
320 subsection is republished, to read:

321 497.452 Preneed license required.—

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

324 (b) ~~The provisions of Paragraph (a) does~~ de not apply to a
325 trust company ~~operating pursuant to chapter 660,~~ to a national

326 or state bank holding trust powers, or to a federal or state
327 savings and loan association having trust powers which company,
328 bank, or association receives any money in trust pursuant to the
329 sale of a preneed contract.

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

332 497.453 Application for preneed license, procedures and
333 criteria; renewal; reports.—

334 (8) ANNUAL TRUST REPORTS.—

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

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

343 1. As to each year, which is referred to in this paragraph
344 as "Year 1," in which any preneed licensee or group of preneed
345 licensees under common control in aggregate sell in this state
346 15,000 or more preneed contracts, the licensee or licensees
347 shall, during the following year, which is referred to in this
348 paragraph as "Year 2":

349 a. Prepare in regard to each such licensee a report of
350 preneed operations in this state in Year 1, on a form prescribed

351 by department rule;

352 b. Cause and pay for the report to be audited by an
353 independent certified public accounting firm concerning the
354 accuracy and fairness of the presentation of the data provided
355 in the report; and

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

360 2. The report required under subparagraph 1. shall be
361 prepared and submitted using forms and procedures specified by
362 department rule. The department may adopt rules specifying the
363 format of, and procedures for, the report and the information to
364 be included in the report.

365 Section 10. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
366 497.458, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

367 497.458 Disposition of proceeds received on contracts.—

368 (1)

369 (c) Such deposits shall be made within 30 days after the
370 end of the calendar month in which payment is received, under
371 the terms of a revocable trust instrument entered into with a
372 trust company ~~operating pursuant to chapter 660~~, with a national
373 or state bank holding trust powers, or with a federal or state
374 savings and loan association holding trust powers.

375 Section 11. Subsection (7) is added to section 497.459,

376 Florida Statutes, to read:

377 497.459 Cancellation of, or default on, preneed contracts;
378 required notice.—

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

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

388 1. Fifty years after the date of execution of the preneed
389 contract by the purchaser.

390 2. The beneficiary of the preneed contract attains the age
391 of 105 years of age or older.

392 3. The social security number of the beneficiary of the
393 preneed contract, as shown on the contract, is contained within
394 the United States Social Security Administration Death Master
395 File.

396 (b)1. The notice in paragraph (a) must be provided by
397 certified mail, registered mail, or permitted delivery service,
398 return receipt requested, to the last known mailing address of
399 the purchaser or the beneficiary's legally authorized person,
400 whichever is applicable, as provided to the preneed licensee. If

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

419 2. If the purchaser or the beneficiary's legally
420 authorized person, whichever is applicable, fails to respond to
421 such notice within 120 days after delivery of the last mailed
422 notice under subparagraph 1., the funds held in trust must be
423 distributed in accordance with the terms of the preneed
424 contract, the trust agreement, and any applicable provisions of
425 chapter 717.

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

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

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

434 497.464 Alternative preneed contracts.—

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

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

443 497.604 Direct disposal establishments, license required;
 444 licensing procedures and criteria; license renewal; regulation;
 445 display of license.—

446 (8) SUPERVISION OF FACILITIES.—

447 (a) ~~Effective October 1, 2010,~~ Each direct disposal
 448 establishment shall have a ~~one full-time licensed~~ funeral
 449 director ~~acting as the direct disposer~~ in charge, subject to s.
 450 497.380(7). However, a licensed direct disposer may continue

451 acting as the direct disposer in charge, if, as of September 30,
 452 2010:

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

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

457 3. The name of the licensed direct disposer was included,
 458 as required in paragraph (2)(c), in the direct disposal
 459 establishment's most recent application for issuance or renewal
 460 of its license or was included in the establishment's notice of
 461 change provided under subsection (7).

462 (b) The ~~licensed~~ funeral director in charge or ~~licensed~~
 463 direct disposer in charge of a direct disposal establishment
 464 must be reasonably available to the public during normal
 465 business hours for the establishment ~~and may be in charge of~~
 466 ~~only one direct disposal establishment~~. The ~~licensed~~ funeral
 467 director in charge or ~~licensed~~ direct disposer in charge of the
 468 establishment is responsible for making sure the facility, its
 469 operations, and all persons employed in the facility comply with
 470 all applicable state and federal laws and rules. A funeral
 471 director in charge, with appropriate, active licenses, may serve
 472 as a funeral director in charge for not more than a total of two
 473 of the following: funeral establishments, centralized embalming
 474 facilities, direct disposal establishments, or cinerator
 475 facilities, as long as the two locations are not more than 75

476 miles apart as measured in a straight line.

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

479 497.606 Cinerator facility, licensure required; licensing
480 procedures and criteria; license renewal; regulation.—

481 (8) SUPERVISION OF FACILITIES.—Each cinerator facility
482 shall have a one full-time licensed direct disposer in charge or
483 a licensed funeral director in charge for that facility. ~~Such~~
484 ~~person may be in charge of only one facility.~~ Such ~~licensed~~
485 funeral director in charge or ~~licensed~~ direct disposer in charge
486 shall be responsible for making sure the facility, its
487 operations, and all persons employed in the facility comply with
488 all applicable state and federal laws and rules. A funeral
489 director in charge, with appropriate, active licenses, may serve
490 as a funeral director in charge for not more than a total of two
491 of the following: funeral establishments, centralized embalming
492 facilities, direct disposal establishments, or cinerator
493 facilities, as long as the two locations are not more than 75
494 miles apart as measured in a straight line.

495 Section 15. Section 553.7921, Florida Statutes, is created
496 to read:

497 553.7921 Fire alarm permit application to local
498 enforcement agency.—

499 (1) A contractor must file a Uniform Fire Alarm Permit
500 Application as provided in subsection (2) with the local

501 enforcement agency and must receive the fire alarm permit
 502 before:

503 (a) Installing or replacing a fire alarm if the local
 504 enforcement agency requires a plan review for the installation
 505 or replacement; or

506 (b) Repairing an existing alarm system that was previously
 507 permitted by the local enforcement agency if the local
 508 enforcement agency requires a fire alarm permit for the repair.

509 (2) A Uniform Fire Alarm Permit Application must be
 510 submitted with any drawing, plan, and supporting documentation
 511 required by a local enforcement agency for a project for which a
 512 plan review or fire alarm permit is required under subsection
 513 (1). The application may be submitted electronically or by
 514 facsimile and must be signed by the owner, or the owner's
 515 authorized representative, and the contractor, or the
 516 contractor's agent. The application must contain the following
 517 information, in a substantially similar form:

518
 519 UNIFORM FIRE ALARM PERMIT APPLICATION

520
 521 Tax Folio No. _____ Application No. _____
 522 Owner's or Representative's Name _____
 523 Property Address _____
 524 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 525 Phone Number _____

526 Fee Simple Titleholder's Name (if other than owner)
 527 _____
 528 Fee Simple Titleholder's Address (if other than owner)
 529 _____
 530 Description of Work
 531 _____
 532 New Install _____ Replacement _____ Addition _____ Other _____
 533 Construction Type
 534 Proposed Use
 535 Alarm Contractor's Name
 536 Alarm Contractor's Address
 537 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 538 Phone Number
 539 Alarm Contractor's License Number
 540 _____
 541 Application is hereby made to obtain a permit to do the work or
 542 installation as indicated. I certify that no work or
 543 installation has commenced before the filing of this permit
 544 application and that all of the foregoing information is true
 545 and accurate.
 546 _____
 547 Signature of Owner or Owner's Representative
 548 _____
 549 _____
 550 Printed Name _____

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Signature of Contractor or Agent

Printed Name

Section 16. Subsection (1) of section 626.175, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.175 Temporary licensing.—

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

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

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

(b)1. In the case of a general lines agent, the department may issue a temporary license to an employee, a family member, a

576 business associate, or a personal representative of a licensed
577 general lines agent for the purpose of continuing or winding up
578 the business affairs of the agent or agency in the event the
579 licensed agent has died or become unable to perform his or her
580 duties because of military service or illness or other physical
581 or mental disability, subject to the following conditions:

582 a. No other individual connected with the agent's business
583 may be licensed as a general lines agent.

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

587 c. Application for the temporary license shall have been
588 made by the applicant upon statements and affidavit filed with
589 the department on forms prescribed and furnished by the
590 department.

591 d. Under a temporary license and appointment, the licensee
592 may ~~shall~~ not represent any insurer not last represented by the
593 agent being replaced and may ~~shall~~ not be licensed or appointed
594 as to any additional kind, line, or class of insurance other
595 than those covered by the last existing agency appointments of
596 the replaced agent. If an insurer withdraws from the agency
597 during the temporary license period, the temporary licensee may
598 be appointed by another similar insurer but only for the period
599 remaining under the temporary license.

600 2. A regular general lines agent license may be issued to

601 a temporary licensee upon meeting the qualifications for a
602 general lines agent license under s. 626.731.

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

605 1. To the executor or administrator of the estate of a
606 deceased individual licensed and appointed as a life agent at
607 the time of death;

608 2. To a surviving next of kin of the deceased individual,
609 if no administrator or executor has been appointed and
610 qualified; however, any license and appointment under this
611 subparagraph shall be canceled upon issuance of a license to an
612 executor or administrator under subparagraph 1.; or

613 3. To an individual otherwise qualified to be licensed as
614 an agent who has completed the educational or training
615 requirements prescribed in s. 626.7851 and who is appointed ~~has~~
616 ~~successfully sat for the required examination prior to~~
617 ~~termination of such 6-month period. The department may issue~~
618 ~~this temporary license only in the case of a life agent to~~
619 represent an insurer of the industrial or ordinary-combination
620 class solely for the purpose of collecting premiums and
621 servicing in-force policies. Such licensee may not directly or
622 indirectly solicit, negotiate, or effect contracts of insurance.

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

626 1. To the executor or administrator of the estate of a
 627 deceased individual licensed and appointed as a personal lines
 628 agent at the time of death;

629 2. To a surviving next of kin of the deceased individual,
 630 if no administrator or executor has been appointed and
 631 qualified. Any license and appointment under this subparagraph
 632 shall be canceled upon issuance of a license to an executor or
 633 administrator under subparagraph 1.; or

634 3. To an individual otherwise qualified to be licensed as
 635 an agent who has completed the educational or training
 636 requirements prescribed in s. 626.732 and who is appointed to
 637 represent an insurer of the industrial or ordinary-combination
 638 class solely for the purpose of collecting premiums and
 639 servicing in-force policies. Such licensee may not directly or
 640 indirectly solicit, negotiate, or effect contracts of insurance
 641 ~~has successfully sat for the required examination prior to~~
 642 ~~termination of the 6-month period.~~

643 Section 17. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section
 644 626.207, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

645 626.207 Disqualification of applicants and licensees;
 646 penalties against licensees; rulemaking authority.—

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

650 (b) A 7-year disqualifying period for all felonies to

651 | which neither the permanent bar in subsection (2) nor the 15-
 652 | year disqualifying period in paragraph (a) applies.
 653 | Notwithstanding subsection (4), an applicant who served at least
 654 | half of the disqualifying period may reapply for a license if,
 655 | during that time, the applicant has not been found guilty of or
 656 | has not pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to a crime. The
 657 | department may issue the applicant a license on a probationary
 658 | basis for the remainder of the disqualifying period. The
 659 | applicant's probationary period ends at the end of the
 660 | disqualifying period.

661 | Section 18. Subsection (1) and paragraph (e) of subsection
 662 | (2) of section 626.221, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

663 | 626.221 Examination requirement; exemptions.—

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

668 | (2) However, an examination is not necessary for any of
 669 | the following:

670 | (e) An applicant who has been licensed as an all-lines
 671 | adjuster and appointed as an independent adjuster or company
 672 | employee adjuster and who files ~~if~~ an application for an all-
 673 | lines adjuster license licensure is filed with the department
 674 | within 48 months after ~~following~~ the date of cancellation or
 675 | expiration of the prior appointment.

676 Section 19. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section
677 626.2815, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

678 626.2815 Continuing education requirements.—

679 (3) Each licensee except a title insurance agent must
680 complete a 5-hour update course every 2 years which is specific
681 to the license held by the licensee. The course must be
682 developed and offered by providers and approved by the
683 department. The content of the course must address all lines of
684 insurance for which examination and licensure are required and
685 include the following subject areas: insurance law updates,
686 ethics for insurance professionals, disciplinary trends and case
687 studies, industry trends, premium discounts, determining
688 suitability of products and services, and other similar
689 insurance-related topics the department determines are relevant
690 to legally and ethically carrying out the responsibilities of
691 the license granted. A licensee who holds multiple insurance
692 licenses must complete an update course that is specific to at
693 least one of the licenses held. Except as otherwise specified,
694 any remaining required hours of continuing education are
695 elective and may consist of any continuing education course
696 approved by the department under this section.

697 (d) An individual who holds a license as a customer
698 representative, ~~limited customer representative, motor vehicle~~
699 ~~physical damage and mechanical breakdown insurance agent, or an~~
700 ~~industrial fire insurance or burglary insurance agent~~ and who is

701 not a licensed life or health agent, must also complete a
 702 minimum of 5 hours of continuing education courses every 2
 703 years.

704 Section 20. Paragraphs (b) and (f) of subsection (1) of
 705 section 626.321, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

706 626.321 Limited licenses.—

707 (1) The department shall issue to a qualified applicant a
 708 license as agent authorized to transact a limited class of
 709 business in any of the following categories of limited lines
 710 insurance:

711 (b) Industrial fire insurance or burglary insurance.—
 712 License covering only industrial fire insurance or burglary
 713 insurance. ~~The applicant for such a license must pass a written~~
 714 ~~examination covering such insurance.~~ A licensee under this
 715 paragraph may not hold a license as an agent for any other or
 716 additional kind or class of insurance coverage except for life
 717 insurance and health insurance. Effective July 1, 2019, all
 718 licensees holding such limited license and appointment may renew
 719 the license and appointment, but no new or additional licenses
 720 may be issued pursuant to this paragraph, and a licensee whose
 721 limited license under this paragraph has been terminated,
 722 suspended, or revoked may not have such license reinstated.

723 (f) Crop hail and multiple-peril crop insurance.—License
 724 for insurance covering crops subject to unfavorable weather
 725 conditions, fire or lightning ~~lightening~~, flood, hail, insect

726 infestation, disease, or other yield-reducing conditions or
 727 perils which is provided by the private insurance market, or
 728 which is subsidized by the Federal Group Insurance Corporation
 729 including multi-peril crop insurance. Notwithstanding any other
 730 provision of law, the limited license may be issued to a bona
 731 fide salaried employee of an association chartered under the
 732 Farm Credit Act of 1971, 12 U.S.C. ss. 2001 et seq., ~~who~~
 733 ~~satisfactorily completes the examination prescribed by the~~
 734 ~~department pursuant to s. 626.241(5).~~ The agent must be
 735 appointed by, and his or her limited license requested by, a
 736 licensed general lines agent. All business transacted by the
 737 agent must be on behalf of, in the name of, and countersigned by
 738 the agent by whom he or she is appointed. Sections 626.561 and
 739 626.748, relating to records, apply to all business written
 740 pursuant to this section. The licensee may be appointed by and
 741 licensed for only one general lines agent or agency.

742 Section 21. Subsection (1) of section 626.471, Florida
 743 Statutes, is amended to read:

744 626.471 Termination of appointment.—

745 (1) Subject to an appointee's contract rights, an
 746 appointing entity may terminate its appointment of any appointee
 747 at any time. Except when termination is upon a ground that ~~which~~
 748 would subject the appointee to suspension or revocation of his
 749 or her license and appointment under s. 626.611 or s. 626.621,
 750 and except as provided by contract between the appointing entity

751 and the appointee, the appointing entity shall give at least 60
752 days' advance written notice of its intention to terminate such
753 appointment to the appointee, ~~either~~ by delivery thereof to the
754 appointee in person, ~~or~~ by mailing it, postage prepaid, or by e-
755 mail. If delivery is by mail or e-mail, the notice must be
756 addressed to the appointee at his or her last mailing or e-mail
757 address of record with the appointing entity. Notice ~~is~~ ~~so~~
758 ~~mailed shall be~~ deemed to have been given when deposited in a
759 United States Postal Service mail depository or when the e-mail
760 is sent, as applicable.

761 Section 22. Section 626.536, Florida Statutes, is amended
762 to read:

763 626.536 Reporting of administrative actions.—Within 30
764 days after the final disposition of an administrative action
765 taken against a licensee ~~or insurance agency~~ by a governmental
766 agency or other regulatory agency in this or any other state or
767 jurisdiction relating to the business of insurance, the sale of
768 securities, or activity involving fraud, dishonesty,
769 trustworthiness, or breach of a fiduciary duty, the licensee ~~or~~
770 ~~insurance agency~~ must submit a copy of the order, consent to
771 order, or other relevant legal documents to the department. The
772 department may adopt rules to administer this section.

773 Section 23. Subsection (7) is added to section 626.6215,
774 Florida Statutes, to read:

775 626.6215 Grounds for discretionary refusal, suspension, or

776 revocation of insurance agency license.—The department may, in
777 its discretion, deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to continue the
778 license of any insurance agency if it finds, as to any insurance
779 agency or as to any majority owner, partner, manager, director,
780 officer, or other person who manages or controls such insurance
781 agency, that any one or more of the following applicable grounds
782 exist:

783 (7) A denial, suspension, or revocation of, or any other
784 adverse administrative action against, a license to practice or
785 conduct any regulated profession, business, or vocation by this
786 state, any other state, any nation, any possession or district
787 of the United States, or any court or any lawful agency thereof.

788 Section 24. Section 626.729, Florida Statutes, is amended
789 to read:

790 626.729 "Industrial fire insurance" defined.—As used in
791 ~~For the purposes of~~ this code, the term "industrial fire
792 insurance" means: is

793 (1) Insurance against loss by fire of either buildings and
794 other structures or contents, which may include extended
795 coverage;

796 (2) Windstorm insurance;

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

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

801 (5) Burglary insurance, under which the premiums are
802 collected quarterly or more often and the face amount of the
803 insurance provided by the policy on one risk is not more than
804 \$50,000, including the contents of such buildings and other
805 structures, ~~and the insurer issuing such policy is operating~~
806 ~~under a system of collecting a debit by its agents. A temporary~~
807 ~~license for an industrial fire or burglary agent issued pursuant~~
808 ~~to s. 626.175 shall be solely for the purpose of collecting~~
809 ~~premiums and servicing in-force policies, and such licensee~~
810 ~~shall not directly or indirectly solicit, negotiate, or effect~~
811 ~~contracts of insurance.~~

812 Section 25. Subsection (9) of section 626.8437, Florida
813 Statutes, is amended to read:

814 626.8437 Grounds for denial, suspension, revocation, or
815 refusal to renew license or appointment.—The department shall
816 deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew or continue the
817 license or appointment of any title insurance agent or agency,
818 and it shall suspend or revoke the eligibility to hold a license
819 or appointment of such person, if it finds that as to the
820 applicant, licensee, appointee, or any principal thereof, any
821 one or more of the following grounds exist:

822 (9) Willful failure to comply with, or willful violation
823 of, any proper order or rule of the department or willful
824 violation of any provision of the Florida Insurance Code ~~this~~
825 ~~act.~~

826 Section 26. Subsection (2) of section 626.844, Florida
827 Statutes, is amended to read:

828 626.844 Grounds for discretionary refusal, suspension, or
829 revocation of license or appointment.—The department may, in its
830 discretion, deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew or
831 continue the license or appointment of any title insurance agent
832 or agency, and it may suspend or revoke the eligibility to hold
833 a license or appointment of any such title insurance agent or
834 agency if it finds that as to the applicant or licensee or
835 appointee, or any principal thereof, any one or more of the
836 following grounds exist under circumstances for which such
837 denial, suspension, revocation, or refusal is not mandatory
838 under s. 626.8437:

839 (2) Violation of any provision of the Florida Insurance
840 Code ~~this act~~ in the course of dealing under the license or
841 appointment.

842 Section 27. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) and paragraphs
843 (b) and (c) of subsection (2) of section 626.8732, Florida
844 Statutes, are amended to read:

845 626.8732 Nonresident public adjuster's qualifications,
846 bond.—

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

851 (e) Has been licensed and employed as a public adjuster in
852 the applicant's state of residence on a continual basis for the
853 past 6 months ~~year~~, or, if the applicant's state of residence
854 does not issue licenses to individuals who act as public
855 adjusters, the applicant has been licensed and employed as a
856 resident insurance company adjuster, a public adjuster, or an
857 independent adjuster in his or her state of residence or any
858 other state on a continual basis for the past 6 months ~~year~~.

859 (2) The applicant shall furnish the following with his or
860 her application:

861 (b) If currently licensed as a resident public adjuster in
862 the applicant's state of residence, a certificate or letter of
863 authorization from the licensing authority of the applicant's
864 state of residence, stating that the applicant holds a current
865 or comparable license to act as a public adjuster and has held
866 the license continuously for the past 6 months ~~year~~. The
867 certificate or letter of authorization must be signed by the
868 insurance commissioner or his or her deputy or the appropriate
869 licensing official and must disclose whether the adjuster has
870 ever had any license or eligibility to hold any license
871 declined, denied, suspended, revoked, or placed on probation or
872 whether an administrative fine or penalty has been levied
873 against the adjuster and, if so, the reason for the action.

874 (c) If the applicant's state of residence does not require
875 licensure as a public adjuster and the applicant has been

876 licensed as a resident insurance adjuster in his or her state of
877 residence or any other state, a certificate or letter of
878 authorization from the licensing authority stating that the
879 applicant holds or has held a license to act as such an
880 insurance adjuster and has held the license continuously for the
881 past 6 months ~~year~~. The certificate or letter of authorization
882 must be signed by the insurance commissioner or his or her
883 deputy or the appropriate licensing official and must disclose
884 whether or not the adjuster has ever had any license or
885 eligibility to hold any license declined, denied, suspended,
886 revoked, or placed on probation or whether an administrative
887 fine or penalty has been levied against the adjuster and, if so,
888 the reason for the action.

889 Section 28. Subsection (6) of section 627.7015, Florida
890 Statutes, is amended to read:

891 627.7015 Alternative procedure for resolution of disputed
892 property insurance claims.—

893 (6) (a) Mediation is nonbinding; however, if a written
894 settlement is reached, the policyholder has 3 business days
895 within which the policyholder may rescind the settlement unless
896 the policyholder has cashed or deposited any check or draft
897 disbursed to the policyholder for the disputed matters as a
898 result of the conference. If a settlement agreement is reached
899 and is not rescinded, it is binding and acts as a release of all
900 specific claims that were presented in that mediation

901 conference.

902 (b) At the conclusion of the mediation, the mediator shall
903 provide a written report of the results of mediation, including
904 any settlement amount, to the insurer, the policyholder, and the
905 policyholder's representative if the policyholder is represented
906 at the mediation.

907 Section 29. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section
908 633.218, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraphs (a)
909 through (e) of that subsection are republished, to read:

910 633.218 Inspections of state buildings and premises; tests
911 of firesafety equipment; building plans to be approved.—

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

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

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

929 (d) Each department shall, in its annual budget proposal
 930 and for all proposals for new construction or renovations to
 931 existing structures, include requests for sufficient funds to
 932 pay for any charges or fees imposed by the State Fire Marshal
 933 for review of plans, renovations, occupancy, or inspections,
 934 whether recurring or high hazard.

935 (e) For purposes of this section:

936 1.a. The term "high-hazard occupancy" means any building
 937 or structure:

938 (I) That contains combustible or explosive matter or
 939 flammable conditions dangerous to the safety of life or
 940 property;

941 (II) At which persons receive educational instruction;

942 (III) At which persons reside, excluding private
 943 dwellings; or

944 (IV) Containing three or more floor levels.

945 b. As used in this subparagraph, the phrase "building or
 946 structure":

947 (I) Includes, but is not limited to, all hospitals and
 948 residential health care facilities, nursing homes and other
 949 adult care facilities, correctional or detention facilities,
 950 public schools, public lodging establishments, migrant labor

951 camps, residential child care facilities, and self-service
952 gasoline stations.

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

956 2. The term "state-owned building" includes private
957 correctional facilities as defined under s. 944.710(3).

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

961 Section 30. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
962 633.306, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

963 633.306 Requirements for installation, inspection, and
964 maintenance of fire suppression equipment.—

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

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

974 Section 31. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 633.312,
975 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5) and (6),

976 respectively, subsection (3) is amended, and a new subsection
977 (4) is added to that section, to read:

978 633.312 Inspection of fire control systems, fire hydrants,
979 and fire protection systems.—

980 (3)(a) The inspecting contractor shall provide to the
981 building owner or hydrant owner and the local authority having
982 jurisdiction a copy of the applicable uniform summary inspection
983 report established under this chapter. The local authority
984 having jurisdiction may accept uniform summary inspection
985 reports by United States mail, by hand delivery, by electronic
986 submission, or through a third-party vendor that collects the
987 reports on behalf of the local authority having jurisdiction.

988 (b) The State Fire Marshal shall adopt rules to implement
989 a uniform summary inspection report and submission procedures to
990 be used by all third-party vendors and local authorities having
991 jurisdiction. For purposes of this section, a uniform summary
992 inspection report must record the address where the fire
993 protection system or hydrant is located, the company and person
994 conducting the inspection and their license number, the date of
995 the inspection, and the fire protection system or hydrant
996 inspection status, including a brief summary of each deficiency,
997 critical deficiency, noncritical deficiency, or impairment
998 found. A contractor's detailed inspection report is not required
999 to follow the uniform summary inspection report format. The
1000 State Fire Marshal shall establish by rule a submission

1001 procedure for each means provided under paragraph (a) by which a
1002 local authority having jurisdiction may accept uniform summary
1003 inspection reports. Each of the submission procedures must allow
1004 a contractor to attach additional documents with the submission
1005 of a uniform summary inspection report, including a physical
1006 copy of the contractor's detailed inspection report. A
1007 submission procedure may not require a contractor to submit
1008 information contained within the detailed inspection report
1009 unless the information is required to be included in the uniform
1010 summary inspection report.

1011 (4) The maintenance of fire hydrant and fire protection
1012 systems as well as corrective actions on deficient systems is
1013 the responsibility of the owner of the system or hydrant.
1014 Equipment requiring periodic testing or operation to ensure its
1015 maintenance shall be tested or operated as specified in the Fire
1016 Prevention Code, Life Safety Code, National Fire Protection
1017 Association standards, or as directed by the appropriate
1018 authority, provided that such appropriate authority may not
1019 require a sprinkler system not required by the Fire Prevention
1020 Code, Life Safety Code, or National Fire Protection Association
1021 standards to be removed regardless of its condition. This
1022 section does not prohibit governmental entities from inspecting
1023 and enforcing firesafety codes.

1024 Section 32. Section 633.520, Florida Statutes, is amended
1025 to read:

1026 633.520 Safety; firefighter employer responsibilities.—
 1027 (1) Each ~~Every~~ firefighter employer shall furnish and use
 1028 safety devices and safeguards, adopt and use methods and
 1029 processes reasonably adequate to render such an employment and
 1030 place of employment safe, and do every other thing reasonably
 1031 necessary to protect the lives, health, and safety of such
 1032 firefighter employees. As used in this section, the terms "safe"
 1033 and "safety," as applied to any employment or place of
 1034 employment, mean such freedom from danger as is reasonably
 1035 necessary for the protection of the lives, health, and safety of
 1036 firefighter employees, including conditions and methods of
 1037 sanitation and hygiene. Safety devices and safeguards required
 1038 to be furnished by the firefighter employer by this section or
 1039 by the division under authority of this section do not include
 1040 personal apparel and protective devices that replace personal
 1041 apparel normally worn by firefighter employees during regular
 1042 working hours.

1043 (2) The division shall adopt rules to establish employers'
 1044 cancer prevention best practices related to personal protective
 1045 equipment, decontamination, fire suppression equipment, and fire
 1046 stations.

1047 Section 33. Subsection (1) of section 648.49, Florida
 1048 Statutes, is amended to read:

1049 648.49 Duration of suspension or revocation.—

1050 (1) The department shall, in its order suspending a

1051 license or appointment or in its order suspending the
1052 eligibility of a person to hold or apply for a license or
1053 appointment, specify the period during which the suspension is
1054 to be in effect, but such period may not exceed 2 years. The
1055 license, ~~or~~ appointment, or and eligibility to hold or apply for
1056 a license or appointment remains ~~shall remain~~ suspended during
1057 the period so specified, subject, however, to any rescission or
1058 modification of the order by the department, or modification or
1059 reversal thereof by the court, before the ~~prior to~~ expiration of
1060 the suspension period. A license or appointment that ~~which~~ has
1061 been suspended may not be reinstated, nor shall the eligibility
1062 to hold such license or appointment be reinstated, except upon
1063 the filing and approval of an application ~~request~~ for such
1064 reinstatement, but the department may not approve an application
1065 for ~~grant~~ such reinstatement if it finds that the circumstances
1066 for which the license or appointment was suspended still exist
1067 or are likely to recur. In each case involving suspension, the
1068 department has the discretion to require the former licensee to
1069 successfully complete a basic certification course in the
1070 criminal justice system, consisting of not less than 80 hours
1071 approved by the department.

1072 Section 34. Subsection (8) of section 717.124, Florida
1073 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (11), and a new subsection
1074 (8) and subsections (9) and (10) are added to that section, to
1075 read:

1076 717.124 Unclaimed property claims.—

1077 (8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,
1078 the department may develop and implement an identification
1079 verification and disbursement process by which an account valued
1080 at \$2,000 or less, after being received by the department and
1081 added to the unclaimed property database, may be disbursed to an
1082 apparent owner after the department has verified that the
1083 apparent owner is living and that the apparent owner's current
1084 address is correct. The department shall include with the
1085 payment a notification and explanation of the dollar amount, the
1086 source, and the property type of each account included in the
1087 disbursement. The department shall adopt rules to implement this
1088 subsection.

1089 (9) (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
1090 chapter, the department may develop and implement a verification
1091 and disbursement process by which an account, after being
1092 received by the department and added to the unclaimed property
1093 database, for which the apparent owner entity is:

1094 1. A state agency in this state or a subdivision or
1095 successor agency thereof;

1096 2. A county government in this state or a subdivision
1097 thereof;

1098 3. A public school district in this state or a subdivision
1099 thereof;

1100 4. A municipality in this state or a subdivision thereof;

1101 or

1102 5. A special taxing district or authority in this state,
1103
1104 may be disbursed to the apparent owner entity or successor
1105 entity. The department shall include with the payment a
1106 notification and explanation of the dollar amount, the source,
1107 and the property type of each account included in the
1108 disbursement.

1109 (b) The department may adopt rules to implement this
1110 subsection.

1111 (10) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,
1112 the department may develop a process by which a registered
1113 claimant's representative or a buyer of unclaimed property may
1114 electronically submit to the department an electronic image of a
1115 completed claim and claims-related documents pursuant to this
1116 chapter, including a limited power of attorney or purchase
1117 agreement that has been manually signed and dated by a claimant
1118 or seller pursuant to s. 717.135 or s. 717.1351, after the
1119 claimant's representative or the buyer of unclaimed property
1120 receives the original documents provided by the claimant or the
1121 seller for any claim. Each claim filed by a registered
1122 claimant's representative or a buyer of unclaimed property must
1123 include a statement by the claimant's representative or the
1124 buyer of unclaimed property attesting that all documents are
1125 true copies of the original documents and that all original

1126 documents are physically in the possession of the claimant's
 1127 representative or the buyer of unclaimed property. All original
 1128 documents must be kept in the original form, by claim number,
 1129 under the secure control of the claimant's representative or the
 1130 buyer of unclaimed property and must be available for inspection
 1131 by the department in accordance with s. 717.1315. The department
 1132 may adopt rules to implement this subsection.

1133 Section 35. Section 626.521, Florida Statutes, is
 1134 repealed.

1135 Section 36. Section 626.7355, Florida Statutes, is
 1136 repealed.

1137 Section 37. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
 1138 626.022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1139 626.022 Scope of part.—

1140 (1) This part applies as to insurance agents, service
 1141 representatives, adjusters, and insurance agencies; as to any
 1142 and all kinds of insurance; and as to stock insurers, mutual
 1143 insurers, reciprocal insurers, and all other types of insurers,
 1144 except that:

1145 (a) It does not apply as to reinsurance, except that ss.
 1146 626.011-626.022, ss. 626.112-626.181, ss. 626.191-626.211, ss.
 1147 626.291-626.301, s. 626.331, ss. 626.342-626.511 ~~ss. 626.342-~~
 1148 ~~626.521~~, ss. 626.541-626.591, and ss. 626.601-626.711 shall
 1149 apply as to reinsurance intermediaries as defined in s.
 1150 626.7492.

1151 Section 38. Subsection (4) of section 626.025, Florida
 1152 Statutes, is amended to read:

1153 626.025 Consumer protections.—To transact insurance,
 1154 agents shall comply with consumer protection laws, including the
 1155 following, as applicable:

1156 (4) The submission of credit and character reports, as
 1157 required by s. 626.171 ~~or s. 626.521~~.

1158 Section 39. Subsection (1) of section 633.216, Florida
 1159 Statutes, is amended to read:

1160 633.216 Inspection of buildings and equipment; orders;
 1161 firesafety inspection training requirements; certification;
 1162 disciplinary action.—The State Fire Marshal and her or his
 1163 agents or persons authorized to enforce laws and rules of the
 1164 State Fire Marshal shall, at any reasonable hour, when the State
 1165 Fire Marshal has reasonable cause to believe that a violation of
 1166 this chapter or s. 509.215, or a rule adopted thereunder, or a
 1167 minimum firesafety code adopted by the State Fire Marshal or a
 1168 local authority, may exist, inspect any and all buildings and
 1169 structures which are subject to the requirements of this chapter
 1170 or s. 509.215 and rules adopted thereunder. The authority to
 1171 inspect shall extend to all equipment, vehicles, and chemicals
 1172 which are located on or within the premises of any such building
 1173 or structure.

1174 (1) Each county, municipality, and special district that
 1175 has firesafety enforcement responsibilities shall employ or

1176 contract with a firesafety inspector. Except as provided in s.
1177 633.312(2), ~~and (3), and (4),~~ the firesafety inspector must
1178 conduct all firesafety inspections that are required by law. The
1179 governing body of a county, municipality, or special district
1180 that has firesafety enforcement responsibilities may provide a
1181 schedule of fees to pay only the costs of inspections conducted
1182 pursuant to this subsection and related administrative expenses.
1183 Two or more counties, municipalities, or special districts that
1184 have firesafety enforcement responsibilities may jointly employ
1185 or contract with a firesafety inspector.

1186 Section 40. (1) The Legislature finds that:

1187 (a) Blockchain technology and distributed ledger
1188 technology allow the secure recording of transactions through
1189 cryptographic algorithms and distributed record sharing, and
1190 such technology has reached a point where the opportunities for
1191 efficiency, cost savings, and cybersecurity deserve study.

1192 (b) Blockchain technology is a promising way to facilitate
1193 more efficient government service delivery models and economies
1194 of scale, including facilitating safe paperless transactions and
1195 recordkeeping that are nearly impervious to cyberattacks and
1196 data destruction.

1197 (c) Blockchain technology can reduce the prevalence of
1198 disparate government computer systems, databases, and custom-
1199 built software interfaces; reduce costs associated with
1200 maintenance and implementation; streamline information sharing;

1201 and allow more areas of the state to electronically participate
 1202 in government services.

1203 (d) Nations, other states, and municipalities across the
 1204 world are studying and implementing governmental reforms that
 1205 bolster trust and reduce bureaucracy through verifiable open
 1206 source blockchain technology in a variety of areas, including,
 1207 but not limited to, medical and health records, land records,
 1208 banking, tax and fee payments, smart contracts, professional
 1209 accrediting, and property auctions.

1210 (e) It is in the public interest to establish a Florida
 1211 Blockchain Task Force comprised of government and industry
 1212 representatives to study the ways in which state, county, and
 1213 municipal governments can benefit from a transition to a
 1214 blockchain-based system for recordkeeping, security, and service
 1215 delivery and to develop and submit recommendations to the
 1216 Governor and the Legislature concerning the potential for
 1217 implementation of blockchain-based systems that promote
 1218 government efficiencies, better services for citizens, economic
 1219 development, and safer cyber-secure interaction between
 1220 government and the public.

1221 (2) The Florida Blockchain Task Force, a task force as
 1222 defined in s. 20.03, Florida Statutes, is established within the
 1223 Department of Financial Services to explore and develop a master
 1224 plan for fostering the expansion of the blockchain industry in
 1225 the state, to recommend policies and state investments to help

1226 make this state a leader in blockchain technology, and to issue
1227 a report to the Governor and the Legislature. The task force
1228 shall study if and how state, county, and municipal governments
1229 can benefit from a transition to a blockchain-based system for
1230 recordkeeping, data security, financial transactions, and
1231 service delivery and identify ways to improve government
1232 interaction with businesses and the public.

1233 (a) The master plan shall:

1234 1. Identify the economic growth and development
1235 opportunities presented by blockchain technology.

1236 2. Assess the existing blockchain industry in the state.

1237 3. Identify innovative and successful blockchain
1238 applications currently used by industry and other governments to
1239 determine viability for state applications.

1240 4. Review workforce needs and academic programs required
1241 to build blockchain technology expertise across all relevant
1242 industries.

1243 5. Make recommendations to the Governor and the
1244 Legislature that will promote innovation and economic growth by
1245 reducing barriers to and expediting the expansion of the state's
1246 blockchain industry.

1247 (b) The task force shall consist of 13 members. Membership
1248 shall be as follows:

1249 1. Three agency heads or executive directors of cabinet
1250 agencies, or their designees, appointed by the Governor.

1251 2. Four members of the public or private sector with
1252 knowledge and experience in blockchain technology, appointed by
1253 the Governor.

1254 3. Three members from the public or private sector with
1255 knowledge and experience in blockchain technology, appointed by
1256 the Chief Financial Officer.

1257 4. One member from the private sector with knowledge and
1258 experience in blockchain technology, appointed by the President
1259 of the Senate.

1260 5. One member from the private sector with knowledge and
1261 experience in blockchain technology, appointed by the Speaker of
1262 the House of Representatives.

1263 6. One certified public accountant licensed pursuant to
1264 chapter 473 with knowledge and experience in blockchain
1265 technology, appointed by the Governor.

1266
1267 Members of the task force shall reflect the ethnic diversity of
1268 the state.

1269 (c) Within 90 days after the effective date of this act, a
1270 majority of the members of the task force must be appointed and
1271 the task force shall hold its first meeting. The task force
1272 shall elect one of its members to serve as chair. Members of the
1273 task force shall serve for the duration of the existence of the
1274 task force. Any vacancy that occurs shall be filled in the same
1275 manner as the original appointment. Task force members shall

1276 serve without compensation, and are not entitled to
1277 reimbursement for per diem or travel expenses.

1278 (d) The task force shall study blockchain technology,
1279 including, but not limited to, the following:

1280 1. Opportunities and risks associated with using
1281 blockchain and distributed ledger technology for state and local
1282 governments.

1283 2. Different types of blockchains, both public and
1284 private, and different consensus algorithms.

1285 3. Projects and cases currently under development in other
1286 states and local governments, and how these cases could be
1287 applied in this state.

1288 4. Ways the Legislature can modify general law to support
1289 secure paperless recordkeeping, increase cybersecurity, improve
1290 interactions with citizens, and encourage blockchain innovation
1291 for businesses in the state.

1292 5. Identifying potential economic incentives for companies
1293 investing in blockchain technologies in collaboration with the
1294 state.

1295 6. Recommending projects for potential blockchain
1296 solutions, including, but not limited to, use cases for state
1297 agencies that would improve services for citizens or businesses.

1298 7. Identifying the technical skills necessary to develop
1299 blockchain technology and ensuring that instruction in such
1300 skills is available at secondary and postsecondary educational

1301 institutions in this state.

1302 (3) The task force shall submit a report to the Governor,
1303 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
1304 Representatives and present its findings to the appropriate
1305 legislative committees in each house of the Legislature within
1306 180 days after the initial meeting of the task force. The report
1307 must include:

1308 (a) A general description of the costs and benefits of
1309 state and local government agencies using blockchain technology.

1310 (b) Recommendations concerning the feasibility of
1311 implementing blockchain technology in the state and the best
1312 approach to finance the cost of implementation.

1313 (c) Recommendations for specific implementations to be
1314 developed by relevant state agencies.

1315 (d) Any draft legislation the task force deems appropriate
1316 to implement such blockchain technologies.

1317 (e) Identification of one pilot project that may be
1318 implemented in the state.

1319 (f) Any other information deemed relevant by the task
1320 force.

1321 (4) The task force is entitled to the assistance and
1322 services of any state agency, board, bureau, or commission as
1323 necessary and available for the purposes of this section.

1324 (5) The Department of Financial Services shall provide
1325 support staff for the task force and any relevant studies, data,

1326 | and materials in its possession to assist the task force in the
1327 | performance of its duties.

1328 | (6) The task force shall terminate upon submission of the
1329 | report and the presentation of findings.

1330 | (7) This section shall take effect upon this act becoming
1331 | a law.

1332 | Section 41. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
1333 | act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon
1334 | this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,
1335 | 2019.