

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate Comm: FAV 02/13/2019 House

The Committee on Ethics and Elections (Baxley) recommended the following:

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9 10 Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause

and insert:

Section 1. Section 112.31446, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

112.31446 Electronic filing system for financial

<u>disclosure.-</u>

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Disclosure of financial interests" or "disclosure"

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11	includes a full and public disclosure of financial interests and
12	a final full and public disclosure of financial interests, and
13	any amendments thereto.
14	(b) "Electronic filing system" means an Internet-based
15	system for receiving, reporting, and publishing disclosures of
16	financial interests, statements of financial interests, or any
17	other form that is required under s. 112.3144 or s. 112.3145.
18	(c) "Statement of financial interests" or "statement"
19	includes a statement of financial interests and a final
20	statement of financial interests, and any amendments thereto.
21	(2) By January 1, 2022, the commission shall procure and
22	test an electronic filing system. At a minimum, the electronic
23	filing system must:
24	(a) Provide access through the Internet for the completion
25	and submission of disclosures of financial interests, statements
26	of financial interests, or any other form that is required under
27	<u>s. 112.3144 or s. 112.3145.</u>
28	(b) Upload submitted information to the commission using
29	software that is approved by the commission.
30	(c) Allow for a procedure to make filings available in a
31	searchable format that is accessible by an individual using
32	standard Internet-browsing software.
33	(d) Issue a verification or receipt that the commission has
34	received the submitted disclosure or statement.
35	(e) Provide security that prevents unauthorized access to
36	the electronic filing system's functions or data.
37	(f) Provide a method for an attorney or a certified public
38	accountant licensed in this state to complete the disclosure or
39	statement and certify that he or she prepared the disclosure or

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40 statement in accordance with s. 112.3144 or s. 112.3145 and the 41 instructions for completing the disclosure or statement, and 42 that, upon his or her reasonable knowledge and belief, the 43 information on the disclosure or statement is true and correct. 44 (3) Each unit of government shall provide an e-mail address 45 to any of its officers, members, or employees who must file a disclosure of financial interests or a statement of financial 46 47 interests, and provide such e-mail addresses to the commission 48 by February 1 of each year. A person required to file a 49 disclosure of financial interests or statement of financial 50 interests must inform the commission immediately of any change 51 in his or her e-mail address. 52 (4) The commission shall provide each person required to 53 file a disclosure of financial interests or statement of 54 financial interests a secure log-in to the electronic filing 55 system. Such person is responsible for protecting his or her 56 secure log-in credentials from disclosure and is responsible for 57 all filings submitted to the commission with such credentials, unless the person has notified the commission that his or her 58 59 credentials have been compromised. 60 (5) If the Governor declares the electronic filing system 61 to be inoperable, the commission must accept submissions of 62 disclosures of financial interests or statements of financial interests required under s. 112.3144 or s. 112.3145, 63 64 respectively, through other methods as specified by order of the 65 Governor. Section 2. Effective January 1, 2020, subsection (10) of 66 67 section 112.312, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 68 112.312 Definitions.-As used in this part and for purposes

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69 of the provisions of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, 70 unless the context otherwise requires: (10) "Disclosure period" means the calendar taxable year, 71 72 if disclosure is required for the entire year, or the portion of 73 a calendar year ending with the last day of the period for which 74 disclosure is required for the person or business entity, 75 whether based on a calendar or fiscal year, immediately 76 preceding the date on which, or the last day of the period 77 during which, the financial disclosure statement required by 78 this part is required to be filed. 79 Section 3. Section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, is amended 80 to read: 81 112.3144 Full and public disclosure of financial 82 interests.-83 (1) An officer who is required by s. 8, Art. II of the 84 State Constitution to file a full and public disclosure of his 85 or her financial interests for any calendar or fiscal year, or 86 any other person required by law to file a disclosure under this section, shall file that disclosure with the Florida Commission 87 on Ethics. Additionally, beginning January 1, 2015, an officer 88 89 who is required to complete annual ethics training pursuant to 90 s. 112.3142 must certify on his or her full and public disclosure of financial interests that he or she has completed 91 the required training. 92

(2) Beginning January 1, 2022, a full and public disclosure of financial interests and a final full and public disclosure of financial interests, and amendments thereto, or any other form 95 96 required by this section, must be filed electronically through 97 an electronic filing system created and maintained by the

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98 commission as provided in s. 112.31446.

99 (3) A person who is required, pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of 100 the State Constitution, to file a full and public disclosure of 101 financial interests and who has filed a full and public 102 disclosure of financial interests for any calendar or fiscal 103 year shall not be required to file a statement of financial 104 interests pursuant to s. 112.3145(2) and (3) for the same year 105 or for any part thereof notwithstanding any requirement of this part. Until the electronic filing system required by subsection 106 107 (2) is implemented, if an incumbent in an elective office has 108 filed the full and public disclosure of financial interests to 109 qualify for election to the same office or if a candidate for 110 office holds another office subject to the annual filing 111 requirement, the qualifying officer shall forward an electronic 112 copy of the full and public disclosure of financial interests to 113 the commission no later than July 1. The electronic copy of the 114 full and public disclosure of financial interests satisfies the 115 annual disclosure requirement of this section. A candidate who 116 does not qualify until after the annual full and public 117 disclosure of financial interests has been filed pursuant to 118 this section shall file a copy of his or her disclosure with the 119 officer before whom he or she qualifies.

120 (4) (3) For purposes of full and public disclosure under s. 8(a), Art. II of the State Constitution, the following items, if 121 122 not held for investment purposes and if valued at over \$1,000 in 123 the aggregate, may be reported in a lump sum and identified as 124 "household goods and personal effects":

(a) Jewelry;

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(b) Collections of stamps, guns, and numismatic properties;



127	(c) Art objects;
128	(d) Household equipment and furnishings;
129	(e) Clothing;
130	(f) Other household items; and
131	(g) Vehicles for personal use.
132	<u>(5)(a)</u> (4) (a) With respect to reporting, on forms prescribed
133	under this section, assets valued in excess of \$1,000 which the
134	reporting individual holds jointly with another person, the
135	amount reported shall be based on the reporting individual's
136	legal percentage of ownership in the property. However, assets
137	that are held jointly, with right of survivorship, must be
138	reported at 100 percent of the value of the asset. For purposes
139	of this subsection, a reporting individual is deemed to own a
140	percentage of a partnership which is equal to the reporting
141	individual's interest in the capital or equity of the
142	partnership.

143 (b)1. With respect to reporting, on forms prescribed under this section, liabilities valued in excess of \$1,000 on forms 144 145 prescribed under this section for which the reporting individual 146 is jointly and severally liable, the amount reported shall be 147 based on the reporting individual's percentage of liability rather than the total amount of the liability. However, 148 149 liability for a debt that is secured by property owned by the 150 reporting individual but that is held jointly, with right of 151 survivorship, must be reported at 100 percent of the total 152 amount owed.

153 2. A separate section of the form shall be created to
154 provide for the reporting of the amounts of joint and several
155 liability of the reporting individual not otherwise reported in

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156 subparagraph 1.

157 (c) With respect to reporting income, on forms prescribed 158 under this section, each separate source and amount of income 159 which exceeds \$1,000 must be identified. For purposes of 160 reporting income, a person required to file a full and public 161 disclosure of financial interests may not provide, and the 162 commission may not accept, a federal income tax return or a copy 163 thereof.

(6) The commission may not request, and a public officer, 164 165 candidate, or any other person may not provide, in any filing or submission, a federal income tax return or a copy thereof; a 166 167 social security number; a bank, mortgage, or brokerage account 168 number; a debit, charge, or credit card number; a personal 169 identification number; a taxpayer identification number; or any 170 other personal or account information that is legally protected 171 from disclosure under state or federal law. Once the electronic 172 filing system is implemented, if a public officer, candidate, or 173 other person voluntarily provides such information, the 174 information is not subject to any confidentiality or public 175 records exemptions found in s. 119.071. The commission shall 176 redact a filer's social security number; bank, mortgage, or brokerage account number; debit, charge, or credit card number; 177 178 or any other personal or account information that is legally 179 protected from disclosure under state or federal law upon 180 written notification from the filer of its inadvertent 181 inclusion. Such notice must specify the information 182 inadvertently included and the specific section or sections of 183 the disclosure in which it was included. 184 (7) (5) Until the electronic filing system required by

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185 <u>subsection (2) is implemented,</u> forms for compliance with the 186 full and public disclosure requirements of s. 8, Art. II of the 187 State Constitution shall be <u>prescribed</u> created by the commission 188 on Ethics. The commission shall give notice of disclosure 189 deadlines and delinquencies and distribute forms in the 190 following manner:

191 (a) Not later than May 1 of each year, the commission shall 192 prepare a current list of the names, e-mail addresses, and 193 physical addresses of and the offices held by every person 194 required to file full and public disclosure annually by s. 8, 195 Art. II of the State Constitution, or other state law. In 196 compiling the list, the commission shall be assisted by Each 197 unit of government shall assist the commission in compiling the 198 list by in providing to the commission not later than February 1 199 of each year at the request of the commission the name, e-mail 200 address, physical address, and name of the office held by such 201 person each public official within the respective unit of 202 government as of December 31 of the preceding year.

(b) Not later than <u>June 1</u> 30 days before July 1 of each year, the commission shall <u>distribute</u> mail a copy of the form prescribed for compliance with full and public disclosure and a notice of the filing deadline to each person on the <u>mailing</u> list. <u>Beginning January 1, 2022, notice required under this</u> <u>paragraph must be delivered by e-mail or other electronic means.</u>

(c) Not later than <u>August 1</u> 30 days after July 1 of each year, the commission shall determine which persons on the mailing list have failed to file full and public disclosure and shall send delinquency notices by certified mail to such persons. Each notice <u>must</u> shall state that a grace period is in

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214 effect until September 1 of the current year. Beginning January 215 <u>1, 2022, notice required under this paragraph must be delivered</u> 216 <u>by e-mail or other electronic means and must be redelivered on a</u> 217 weekly basis so long as a person remains delinquent.

218 (d) Disclosures Statements must be received by the 219 commission filed not later than 5 p.m. of the due date. However, 220 any disclosure statement that is postmarked by the United States 221 Postal Service by midnight of the due date is deemed to have been filed in a timely manner, and a certificate of mailing 222 223 obtained from and dated by the United States Postal Service at 224 the time of the mailing, or a receipt from an established 225 courier company which bears a date on or before the due date, 226 constitutes proof of mailing in a timely manner. Beginning 227 January 1, 2022, upon request of the filer, the commission must 228 provide verification to the filer that the commission has 229 received the submitted disclosure.

(e) <u>Beginning January 1, 2022, a written declaration, as</u> provided for under s. 92.525(2), accompanied by an electronic signature satisfies the requirement that the disclosure be sworn.

234 (f) Any person who is required to file full and public 235 disclosure of financial interests and whose name is on the 236 commission's mailing list, and to whom notice has been sent, but 237 who fails to timely file is assessed a fine of \$25 per day for 238 each day late up to a maximum of \$1,500; however this \$1,500 239 limitation on automatic fines does not limit the civil penalty 240 that may be imposed if the statement is filed more than 60 days after the deadline and a complaint is filed, as provided in s. 241 112.324. The commission must provide by rule the grounds for 242

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243 waiving the fine and the procedures by which each person whose 244 name is on the mailing list and who is determined to have not 245 filed in a timely manner will be notified of assessed fines and 246 may appeal. The rule must provide for and make specific the 247 following:

1. The amount of the fine due is based upon the earliest of the following:

a. When a statement is actually received by the office.

b. When the statement is postmarked.

c. When the certificate of mailing is dated.

253 d. When the receipt from an established courier company is 254 dated.

2. Upon receipt of the disclosure statement or upon accrual of the maximum penalty, whichever occurs first, the commission 257 shall determine the amount of the fine which is due and shall notify the delinquent person. The notice must include an 259 explanation of the appeal procedure under subparagraph 3. Such 260 fine must be paid within 30 days after the notice of payment due 261 is transmitted, unless appeal is made to the commission pursuant 262 to subparagraph 3. The moneys shall be deposited into the 263 General Revenue Fund.

264 3. Any reporting person may appeal or dispute a fine, based 265 upon unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on the designated due date, and may request and is entitled to a 2.66 267 hearing before the commission, which may waive the fine in whole 268 or in part for good cause shown. Any such request must be in 269 writing and received by the commission made within 30 days after 270 the notice of payment due is transmitted. In such a case, the reporting person must, within the 30-day period, notify the 271

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272 person designated to review the timeliness of reports in writing 273 of his or her intention to bring the matter before the 274 commission. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "unusual 275 circumstances" does not include the failure to monitor an e-mail 276 account or failure to receive notice if the person has not 277 notified the commission of a change in his or her e-mail 278 address.

279 (q) (f) Any person subject to the annual filing of full and 280 public disclosure under s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, 281 or other state law, whose name is not on the commission's 282 mailing list of persons required to file full and public 283 disclosure is not subject to the fines or penalties provided in 284 this part for failure to file full and public disclosure in any 285 year in which the omission occurred, but nevertheless is 286 required to file the disclosure statement.

287 (h) - (q) The notification requirements and fines of this 288 subsection do not apply to candidates or to the first filing 289 required of any person appointed to elective constitutional 290 office or other position required to file full and public 291 disclosure, unless the person's name is on the commission's 292 notification list and the person received notification from the 293 commission. The appointing official shall notify such newly 294 appointed person of the obligation to file full and public disclosure by July 1. The notification requirements and fines of 295 296 this subsection do not apply to the final filing provided for in 297 subsection (9) (7).

298 <u>(i) (h)</u> Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 120, any 299 fine imposed under this subsection which is not waived by final 300 order of the commission and which remains unpaid more than 60



301 days after the notice of payment due or more than 60 days after 302 the commission renders a final order on the appeal must be 303 submitted to the Department of Financial Services as a claim, 304 debt, or other obligation owed to the state, and the department 305 shall assign the collection of such fine to a collection agent 306 as provided in s. 17.20.

307 (8) (6) If a person holding public office or public 308 employment fails or refuses to file a full and public disclosure 309 of financial interests for any year in which the person received 310 notice from the commission regarding the failure to file and has 311 accrued the maximum automatic fine authorized under this 312 section, regardless of whether the fine imposed was paid or 313 collected, the commission shall initiate an investigation and 314 conduct a public hearing without receipt of a complaint to 315 determine whether the person's failure to file is willful. Such 316 investigation and hearing must be conducted in accordance with s. 112.324. Except as provided in s. 112.324(4), if the 317 318 commission determines that the person willfully failed to file a 319 full and public disclosure of financial interests, the 320 commission shall enter an order recommending that the officer or 321 employee be removed from his or her public office or public 322 employment. The commission shall forward its recommendations as 323 provided in s. 112.324.

324 <u>(9)(7)</u> Each person required to file full and public 325 disclosure of financial interests shall file a final disclosure 326 statement within 60 days after leaving his or her public 327 position for the period between January 1 of the year in which 328 the person leaves and the last day of office or employment, 329 unless within the 60-day period the person takes another public

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330 position requiring financial disclosure under s. 8, Art. II of 331 the State Constitution, or is otherwise required to file full and public disclosure for the final disclosure period. The head 332 333 of the agency of each person required to file full and public 334 disclosure for the final disclosure period shall notify such 335 persons of their obligation to file the final disclosure and may 336 designate a person to be responsible for the notification 337 requirements of this subsection.

338 (10) (a) (8) (a) The commission shall treat an amendment to a 339 amended full and public disclosure of financial interests which 340 is filed before September 1 of the year in which the disclosure 341 is due as part of the original filing, regardless of whether a 342 complaint has been filed. If a complaint alleges only an 343 immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis error or omission, 344 the commission may not take any action on the complaint other 345 than notifying the filer of the complaint. The filer must be 346 given 30 days to file an amendment to the amended full and 347 public disclosure of financial interests correcting any errors. 348 If the filer does not file an amendment to the amended full and 349 public disclosure of financial interests within 30 days after 350 the commission sends notice of the complaint, the commission may 351 continue with proceedings pursuant to s. 112.324.

(b) For purposes of the final full and public disclosure of financial interests, the commission shall treat <u>an amendment to</u> a new final full and public disclosure of financial interests as <u>part of</u> the original filing if filed within 60 days after the original filing, regardless of whether a complaint has been filed. If, more than 60 days after a final full and public disclosure of financial interests is filed, a complaint is filed

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359 alleging a complete omission of any information required to be 360 disclosed by this section, the commission may immediately follow 361 the complaint procedures in s. 112.324. However, if the 362 complaint alleges an immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis 363 error or omission, the commission may not take any action on the 364 complaint, other than notifying the filer of the complaint. The 365 filer must be given 30 days to file an amendment to the a new 366 final full and public disclosure of financial interests correcting any errors. If the filer does not file an amendment 367 368 to the a new final full and public disclosure of financial 369 interests within 30 days after the commission sends notice of 370 the complaint, the commission may continue with proceedings 371 pursuant to s. 112.324.

(c) For purposes of this section, an error or omission is 373 immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis if the original 374 filing provided sufficient information for the public to 375 identify potential conflicts of interest. However, failure to certify completion of annual ethics training required under s. 377 112.3142 does not constitute an immaterial, inconsequential, or 378 de minimis error or omission.

379 (11) (a) (9) (a) An individual required to file a disclosure 380 pursuant to this section may have the disclosure prepared by an 381 attorney in good standing with The Florida Bar or by a certified public accountant licensed under chapter 473. After preparing a 382 383 disclosure form, the attorney or certified public accountant 384 must sign the form indicating that he or she prepared the form 385 in accordance with this section and the instructions for 386 completing and filing the disclosure forms and that, upon his or 387 her reasonable knowledge and belief, the disclosure is true and

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388 correct. If a complaint is filed alleging a failure to disclose 389 information required by this section, the commission shall 390 determine whether the information was disclosed to the attorney 391 or certified public accountant. The failure of the attorney or 392 certified public accountant to accurately transcribe information 393 provided by the individual required to file is not a violation 394 of this section.

(b) An elected officer or candidate who chooses to use an attorney or a certified public accountant to prepare his or her disclosure may pay for the services of the attorney or certified public accountant from funds in an office account created pursuant to s. 106.141 or, during a year that the individual qualifies for election to public office, the candidate's campaign depository pursuant to s. 106.021.

402 (12) (10) The commission shall adopt rules and forms 403 specifying how a person who is required to file full and public 404 disclosure of financial interests may amend his or her 405 disclosure statement to report information that was not included 406 on the form as originally filed. If the amendment is the subject 407 of a complaint filed under this part, the commission and the 408 proper disciplinary official or body shall consider as a 409 mitigating factor when considering appropriate disciplinary 410 action the fact that the amendment was filed before any 411 complaint or other inquiry or proceeding, while recognizing that 412 the public was deprived of access to information to which it was 413 entitled.

414 <u>(13) The provisions of this section constitute a revision</u> 415 <u>to the schedule included in s. 8(i), Art. II of the State</u> 416 <u>Constitution.</u>

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417 Section 4. Section 112.3145, Florida Statutes, is amended 418 to read: 112.3145 Disclosure of financial interests and clients 419 420 represented before agencies.-421 (1) For purposes of this section, unless the context 422 otherwise requires, the term: 423 (a) "Local officer" means: 1. Every person who is elected to office in any political 424 425 subdivision of the state, and every person who is appointed to 426 fill a vacancy for an unexpired term in such an elective office. 427 2. Any appointed member of any of the following boards, 428 councils, commissions, authorities, or other bodies of any 429 county, municipality, school district, independent special 430 district, or other political subdivision of the state: 431 a. The governing body of the political subdivision, if 432 appointed; 433 b. A community college or junior college district board of 434 trustees; 435 c. A board having the power to enforce local code 436 provisions; 437 d. A planning or zoning board, board of adjustment, board 438 of appeals, community redevelopment agency board, or other board 439 having the power to recommend, create, or modify land planning or zoning within the political subdivision, except for citizen 440 441 advisory committees, technical coordinating committees, and such 442 other groups who only have the power to make recommendations to 443 planning or zoning boards; 444 e. A pension board or retirement board having the power to invest pension or retirement funds or the power to make a 445



446 binding determination of one's entitlement to or amount of a 447 pension or other retirement benefit; or

f. Any other appointed member of a local government board who is required to file a statement of financial interests by the appointing authority or the enabling legislation, ordinance, or resolution creating the board.

452 3. Any person holding one or more of the following 453 positions: mayor; county or city manager; chief administrative 454 employee of a county, municipality, or other political 455 subdivision; county or municipal attorney; finance director of a 456 county, municipality, or other political subdivision; chief 457 county or municipal building code inspector; county or municipal 458 water resources coordinator; county or municipal pollution 459 control director; county or municipal environmental control 460 director; county or municipal administrator, with power to grant 461 or deny a land development permit; chief of police; fire chief; 462 municipal clerk; district school superintendent; community college president; district medical examiner; or purchasing agent having the authority to make any purchase exceeding the threshold amount provided for in s. 287.017 for CATEGORY TWO ONE, on behalf of any political subdivision of the state or any entity thereof.

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(b) "Specified state employee" means:

1. Public counsel created by chapter 350, an assistant 470 state attorney, an assistant public defender, a criminal 471 conflict and civil regional counsel, an assistant criminal 472 conflict and civil regional counsel, a full-time state employee 473 who serves as counsel or assistant counsel to any state agency, 474 the Deputy Chief Judge of Compensation Claims, a judge of

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475 compensation claims, an administrative law judge, or a hearing 476 officer.

477 2. Any person employed in the office of the Governor or in 478 the office of any member of the Cabinet if that person is exempt 479 from the Career Service System, except persons employed in 480 clerical, secretarial, or similar positions.

481 3. The State Surgeon General or each appointed secretary, 482 assistant secretary, deputy secretary, executive director, 483 assistant executive director, or deputy executive director of 484 each state department, commission, board, or council; unless 485 otherwise provided, the division director, assistant division 486 director, deputy director, and bureau chief, and assistant 487 bureau chief of any state department or division; or any person 488 having the power normally conferred upon such persons, by 489 whatever title.

490 4. The superintendent or institute director of a state 491 mental health institute established for training and research in 492 the mental health field or the warden or director of any major 493 state institution or facility established for corrections, 494 training, treatment, or rehabilitation.

495 5. Business managers, purchasing agents having the power to 496 make any purchase exceeding the threshold amount provided for in s. 287.017 for CATEGORY TWO ONE, finance and accounting 498 directors, personnel officers, or grants coordinators for any 499 state agency.

500 6. Any person, other than a legislative assistant exempted 501 by the presiding officer of the house by which the legislative 502 assistant is employed, who is employed in the legislative branch of government, except persons employed in maintenance, clerical, 503

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504 secretarial, or similar positions. 505 7. Each employee of the Commission on Ethics. (c) "State officer" means: 506 1. Any elected public officer, excluding those elected to 507 508 the United States Senate and House of Representatives, not covered elsewhere in this part and any person who is appointed 509 510 to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term in such an elective 511 office. 512 2. An appointed member of each board, commission, 513 authority, or council having statewide jurisdiction, excluding a 514 member of an advisory body. 3. A member of the Board of Governors of the State 515 516 University System or a state university board of trustees, the Chancellor and Vice Chancellors of the State University System, 517 518 and the president of a state university. 519 4. A member of the judicial nominating commission for any 520 district court of appeal or any judicial circuit. 521 (2) (a) A person seeking nomination or election to a state 522 or local elective office shall file a statement of financial 523 interests together with, and at the same time he or she files, 524 qualifying papers. Until the electronic filing system is 525 implemented under paragraph (d), when a candidate has qualified 526 for office prior to the deadline to file an annual statement of financial interests, the statement of financial interests that 527 528 is filed with the candidate's qualifying papers shall be deemed 529 to satisfy the annual disclosure requirement of this section. 530 The qualifying officer must record that the statement of 531 financial interests was timely filed. However, if a candidate does not qualify until after the annual statement of financial 532

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533 interests has been filed, the candidate may file a copy of his 534 or her statement with the qualifying officer.

535 (b) Each state or local officer and each specified state 536 employee shall file a statement of financial interests no later 537 than July 1 of each year. Each state officer, local officer, and 538 specified state employee shall file a final statement of 539 financial interests within 60 days after leaving his or her 540 public position for the period between January 1 of the year in 541 which the person leaves and the last day of office or 542 employment, unless within the 60-day period the person takes 543 another public position requiring financial disclosure under 544 this section or s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or 545 otherwise is required to file full and public disclosure or a 546 statement of financial interests for the final disclosure 547 period. Each state or local officer who is appointed and each 548 specified state employee who is employed shall file a statement 549 of financial interests within 30 days from the date of 550 appointment or, in the case of a specified state employee, from 551 the date on which the employment begins, except that any person 552 whose appointment is subject to confirmation by the Senate shall 553 file prior to confirmation hearings or within 30 days from the 554 date of appointment, whichever comes first.

(c) State officers and specified state employees shall file their statements of financial interests with the commission on Ethics. Local officers shall file their statements of financial interests with the supervisor of elections of the county in which they permanently reside. Local officers who do not permanently reside in any county in the state shall file their statements of financial interests with the supervisor of

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562 elections of the county in which their agency maintains its 563 headquarters. Persons seeking to qualify as candidates for local 564 public office shall file their statements of financial interests 565 with the officer before whom they qualify.

(d) Beginning January 1, 2023, a statement of financial interests and a final statement of financial interests, and amendments thereto, or any other form required by this section, must be filed electronically through an electronic filing system created and maintained by the commission as provided in s. 112.31446.

572 (3) The statement of financial interests for state 573 officers, specified state employees, local officers, and persons 574 seeking to qualify as candidates for state or local office shall 575 be filed even if the reporting person holds no financial 576 interests requiring disclosure in a particular category, in 577 which case that section of the statement shall be marked "not 578 applicable." Otherwise, the statement of financial interests 579 must shall include the information under paragraph (a) or 580 paragraph (b). The reporting person shall indicate on the 581 statement whether he or she is using the reporting method under 582 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b). However, beginning January 1, 583 2023, only the reporting method specified under paragraph (b) 584 may be used. , at the filer's option, either:

(a) 1. All sources of income in excess of 5 percent of the gross income received during the disclosure period by the person in his or her own name or by any other person for his or her use or benefit, excluding public salary. However, this shall not be construed to require disclosure of a business partner's sources of income. The person reporting shall list such sources in

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591 descending order of value with the largest source first; 592

2. All sources of income to a business entity in excess of 593 10 percent of the gross income of a business entity in which the 594 reporting person held a material interest and from which he or 595 she received an amount which was in excess of 10 percent of his 596 or her gross income during the disclosure period and which 597 exceeds \$1,500. The period for computing the gross income of the 598 business entity is the fiscal year of the business entity which ended on, or immediately prior to, the end of the disclosure 599 600 period of the person reporting;

3. The location or description of real property in this 602 state, except for residences and vacation homes, owned directly or indirectly by the person reporting, when such person owns in excess of 5 percent of the value of such real property, and a general description of any intangible personal property worth in excess of 10 percent of such person's total assets. For the purposes of this paragraph, indirect ownership does not include ownership by a spouse or minor child; and

4. Every individual liability that equals more than the reporting person's net worth; or

611 (b)1. All sources of gross income in excess of \$2,500 612 received during the disclosure period by the person in his or 613 her own name or by any other person for his or her use or benefit, excluding public salary. However, this shall not be 614 615 construed to require disclosure of a business partner's sources 616 of income. The person reporting shall list such sources in 617 descending order of value with the largest source first;

618 2. All sources of income to a business entity in excess of 10 percent of the gross income of a business entity in which the 619

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620 reporting person held a material interest and from which he or 621 she received gross income exceeding \$5,000 during the disclosure period. The period for computing the gross income of the 622 623 business entity is the fiscal year of the business entity which 624 ended on, or immediately prior to, the end of the disclosure 625 period of the person reporting; 626 3. The location or description of real property in this 627 state, except for residence and vacation homes, owned directly 628 or indirectly by the person reporting, when such person owns in 629 excess of 5 percent of the value of such real property, and a 630 general description of any intangible personal property worth in 631 excess of \$10,000. For the purpose of this paragraph, indirect 632 ownership does not include ownership by a spouse or minor child; 633 and 634 4. Every liability in excess of \$10,000. 635 636 A person filing a statement of financial interests shall 637 indicate on the statement whether he or she is using the method 638 specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b). 639 (4) The commission may not request, and a local or state 640 officer or specified state employee may not provide, in any 641 filing or submission, a federal income tax return or a copy 642 thereof; a social security number; a bank, mortgage, or 643 brokerage account number; a debit, charge, or credit card 644 number; a personal identification number; a taxpayer 645 identification number; or any other personal or account 646 information that is legally protected from disclosure under 647 state or federal law. Once the electronic filing system is implemented, if a public officer, candidate, or other person 648

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649 voluntarily provides such information, the information is not 650 subject to any confidentiality or public records exemptions found in s. 119.071. The commission shall redact a filer's 651 652 social security number; bank, mortgage, or brokerage account 653 number; debit, charge, or credit card number; or any other 654 personal or account information that is legally protected from 655 disclosure under state or federal law upon written notification 656 from the filer of its inadvertent inclusion. Such notice must 657 specify the information inadvertently included and the specific 658 section or sections of the disclosure in which it was included.

(5) Beginning January 1, 2015, An officer who is required to complete annual ethics training pursuant to s. 112.3142 must certify on his or her statement of financial interests that he or she has completed the required training.

663 (6) (5) Each elected constitutional officer, state officer, 664 local officer, and specified state employee shall file a 665 quarterly report of the names of clients represented for a fee 666 or commission, except for appearances in ministerial matters, 667 before agencies at his or her level of government. For the 668 purposes of this part, agencies of government shall be 669 classified as state-level agencies or agencies below state 670 level. Each local officer shall file such report with the 671 supervisor of elections of the county in which the officer is principally employed or is a resident. Each state officer, 672 673 elected constitutional officer, and specified state employee 674 shall file such report with the commission. The report shall be 675 filed only when a reportable representation is made during the 676 calendar quarter and shall be filed no later than the last day 677 of each calendar quarter, for the previous calendar quarter.



678 Representation before any agency shall be deemed to include 679 representation by such officer or specified state employee or by 680 any partner or associate of the professional firm of which he or 681 she is a member and of which he or she has actual knowledge. For 682 the purposes of this subsection, the term "representation before 683 any agency" does not include appearances before any court or the 684 Deputy Chief Judge of Compensation Claims or judges of 685 compensation claims or representations on behalf of one's agency in one's official capacity. Such term does not include the 686 687 preparation and filing of forms and applications merely for the 688 purpose of obtaining or transferring a license based on a quota 689 or a franchise of such agency or a license or operation permit 690 to engage in a profession, business, or occupation, so long as 691 the issuance or granting of such license, permit, or transfer 692 does not require substantial discretion, a variance, a special 693 consideration, or a certificate of public convenience and 694 necessity.

695 (7) (6) Each elected constitutional officer and each 696 candidate for such office, any other public officer required 697 pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution to file a 698 full and public disclosure of his or her financial interests, 699 and each state officer, local officer, specified state employee, 700 and candidate for elective public office who is or was during the disclosure period an officer, director, partner, proprietor, 701 702 or agent, other than a resident agent solely for service of 703 process, of, or owns or owned during the disclosure period a 704 material interest in, any business entity which is granted a 705 privilege to operate in this state shall disclose such facts as a part of the disclosure form filed pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of 706

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707 the State Constitution or this section, as applicable. The 708 statement shall give the name, address, and principal business 709 activity of the business entity and shall state the position 710 held with such business entity or the fact that a material 711 interest is owned and the nature of that interest.

(8)-(7) Forms for compliance with the disclosure requirements of this section and a current list of persons subject to disclosure shall be created by the commission and provided to each supervisor of elections. The commission and each supervisor of elections shall give notice of disclosure deadlines and delinquencies and distribute forms in the following manner:

(a)1. Not later than May 1 of each year, the commission shall prepare a current list of the names, e-mail addresses, and <u>physical</u> addresses of, and the offices or positions held by, every state officer, local officer, and specified employee. In compiling the list, the commission shall be assisted by Each unit of government <u>shall assist the commission in compiling the</u> <u>list by in providing to the commission not later than February 1</u> of each year , at the request of the commission, the name, <u>e-</u> <u>mail address, physical</u> address, and name of agency of, and the office or position held by, each state officer, local officer, or specified state employee within the respective unit of government <u>as of December 31 of the preceding year</u>.

731 2. Not later than May 15 of each year, the commission shall 732 provide each supervisor of elections with a current mailing list 733 of all local officers required to file with such supervisor of 734 elections.

(b) Not later than <u>June 1</u> $\frac{30 \text{ days before July 1}}{30 \text{ days before July 1}}$ of each

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year, the commission and each supervisor of elections, as appropriate, shall <u>distribute</u> mail a copy of the form prescribed for compliance with subsection (3) and a notice of all applicable disclosure forms and filing deadlines to each person required to file a statement of financial interests. <u>Beginning</u> January 1, 2023, notice required under this paragraph must be delivered by e-mail or other electronic means.

743 (c) Not later than August 1 30 days after July 1 of each 744 year, the commission and each supervisor of elections shall 745 determine which persons required to file a statement of 746 financial interests in their respective offices have failed to 747 do so and shall send delinquency notices by certified mail, 748 return receipt requested, to these persons. Each notice must 749 shall state that a grace period is in effect until September 1 750 of the current year; that no investigative or disciplinary 751 action based upon the delinquency will be taken by the agency 752 head or commission if the statement is filed by September 1 of 753 the current year; that, if the statement is not filed by 754 September 1 of the current year, a fine of \$25 for each day late 755 will be imposed, up to a maximum penalty of \$1,500; for notices 756 distributed sent by a supervisor of elections, that he or she is 757 required by law to notify the commission of the delinquency; and 758 that, if upon the filing of a sworn complaint the commission 759 finds that the person has failed to timely file the statement 760 within 60 days after September 1 of the current year, such 761 person will also be subject to the penalties provided in s. 762 112.317. Beginning January 1, 2023, notice required under this 763 paragraph must be delivered by e-mail or other electronic means 764 and must be redelivered on a weekly basis so long as a person

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765 <u>remains delinquent.</u>

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766 (d) No later than November 15 of each year, the supervisor 767 of elections in each county shall certify to the commission a 768 list of the names and addresses of, and the offices or positions 769 held by, all persons who have failed to timely file the required 770 statements of financial interests. The certification must 771 include the earliest of the dates described in subparagraph 772 (q)1. (f)1. The certification shall be on a form prescribed by 773 the commission and shall indicate whether the supervisor of 774 elections has provided the disclosure forms and notice as 775 required by this subsection to all persons named on the 776 delinquency list.

(e) Statements must be <u>received by the commission</u> filed not later than 5 p.m. of the due date. However, any statement that is postmarked by the United States Postal Service by midnight of the due date is deemed to have been filed in a timely manner, and a certificate of mailing obtained from and dated by the United States Postal Service at the time of the mailing, or a receipt from an established courier company which bears a date on or before the due date, constitutes proof of mailing in a timely manner. <u>Beginning January 1, 2023, upon request of the filer, the commission must provide verification to the filer that the commission has received the submitted statement.</u>

(f) <u>Beginning January 1, 2023, the statement must be</u> <u>accompanied by a declaration as provided in s. 92.525(2) and an</u> <u>electronic acknowledgement thereof.</u>

791 (g) Any person who is required to file a statement of 792 financial interests and whose name is on the commission's 793 mailing list, and to whom notice has been sent, but who fails to



794 timely file is assessed a fine of \$25 per day for each day late 795 up to a maximum of \$1,500; however, this \$1,500 limitation on 796 automatic fines does not limit the civil penalty that may be 797 imposed if the statement is filed more than 60 days after the 798 deadline and a complaint is filed, as provided in s. 112.324. 799 The commission must provide by rule the grounds for waiving the 800 fine and procedures by which each person whose name is on the 801 mailing list and who is determined to have not filed in a timely 802 manner will be notified of assessed fines and may appeal. The 803 rule must provide for and make specific the following:

804 1. The amount of the fine due is based upon the earliest of 805 the following:

a. When a statement is actually received by the office.

- b. When the statement is postmarked.
- c. When the certificate of mailing is dated.

809 d. When the receipt from an established courier company is810 dated.

811 2. For a specified state employee or a state officer, upon 812 receipt of the disclosure statement by the commission or upon 813 accrual of the maximum penalty, whichever occurs first, and for 814 a local officer upon receipt by the commission of the 815 certification from the local officer's supervisor of elections 816 pursuant to paragraph (d), the commission shall determine the amount of the fine which is due and shall notify the delinquent 817 818 person. The notice must include an explanation of the appeal 819 procedure under subparagraph 3. The fine must be paid within 30 820 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted, unless 821 appeal is made to the commission pursuant to subparagraph 3. The 822 moneys are to be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

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823 3. Any reporting person may appeal or dispute a fine, based 824 upon unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on 825 the designated due date, and may request and is entitled to a hearing before the commission, which may waive the fine in whole 826 827 or in part for good cause shown. Any such request must be in 828 writing and received by the commission made within 30 days after 829 the notice of payment due is transmitted. In such a case, the 830 reporting person must, within the 30-day period, notify the 831 person designated to review the timeliness of reports in writing 832 of his or her intention to bring the matter before the 833 commission. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "unusual 834 circumstances" does not include the failure to monitor an e-mail 835 account or failure to receive notice if the person has not 836 notified the commission of a change in his or her e-mail 837 address.

(h) (g) Any state officer, local officer, or specified 838 839 employee whose name is not on the mailing list of persons 840 required to file an annual statement of financial interests is 841 not subject to the penalties provided in s. 112.317 or the fine 842 provided in this section for failure to timely file a statement 843 of financial interests in any year in which the omission 844 occurred, but nevertheless is required to file the disclosure 845 statement.

846 <u>(i) (h)</u> The notification requirements and fines of this 847 subsection do not apply to candidates or to the first or final 848 filing required of any state officer, specified employee, or 849 local officer as provided in paragraph (2) (b).

850 <u>(j)(i)</u> Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 120, any 851 fine imposed under this subsection which is not waived by final



852 order of the commission and which remains unpaid more than 60 853 days after the notice of payment due or more than 60 days after 854 the commission renders a final order on the appeal must be 855 submitted to the Department of Financial Services as a claim, 856 debt, or other obligation owed to the state, and the department 857 shall assign the collection of such a fine to a collection agent 858 as provided in s. 17.20.

859 (9) (a) (8) (a) The appointing official or body shall notify each newly appointed local officer, state officer, or specified 860 861 state employee, not later than the date of appointment, of the 862 officer's or employee's duty to comply with the disclosure 863 requirements of this section. The agency head of each employing 864 agency shall notify each newly employed local officer or 865 specified state employee, not later than the day of employment, 866 of the officer's or employee's duty to comply with the 867 disclosure requirements of this section. The appointing official 868 or body or employing agency head may designate a person to be 869 responsible for the notification requirements of this paragraph.

(b) The agency head of the agency of each local officer, state officer, or specified state employee who is required to 872 file a statement of financial interests for the final disclosure 873 period shall notify such persons of their obligation to file the final disclosure and may designate a person to be responsible 875 for the notification requirements of this paragraph.

876 (c) If a person holding public office or public employment 877 fails or refuses to file an annual statement of financial 878 interests for any year in which the person received notice from 879 the commission regarding the failure to file and has accrued the 880 maximum automatic fine authorized under this section, regardless

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881 of whether the fine imposed was paid or collected, the 882 commission shall initiate an investigation and conduct a public 883 hearing without receipt of a complaint to determine whether the 884 person's failure to file is willful. Such investigation and 885 hearing must be conducted in accordance with s. 112.324. Except 886 as provided in s. 112.324(4), if the commission determines that 887 the person willfully failed to file a statement of financial 888 interests, the commission shall enter an order recommending that 889 the officer or employee be removed from his or her public office 890 or public employment. The commission shall forward its 891 recommendation as provided in s. 112.324.

892 <u>(10) (9)</u> A public officer who has filed a disclosure for any 893 calendar or fiscal year shall not be required to file a second 894 disclosure for the same year or any part thereof, 895 notwithstanding any requirement of this act, except that any 896 public officer who qualifies as a candidate for public office 897 shall file a copy of the disclosure with the officer before whom 898 he or she qualifies as a candidate at the time of qualification.

899 (11) (a) (10) (a) The commission shall treat an amendment to 900 an amended annual statement of financial interests which is 901 filed before September 1 of the year in which the statement is due as part of the original filing, regardless of whether a 902 903 complaint has been filed. If a complaint alleges only an 904 immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis error or omission, 905 the commission may not take any action on the complaint other 906 than notifying the filer of the complaint. The filer must be 907 given 30 days to file an amendment to the amended statement of 908 financial interests correcting any errors. If the filer does not 909 file an amendment to the amended statement of financial

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910 interests within 30 days after the commission sends notice of 911 the complaint, the commission may continue with proceedings 912 pursuant to s. 112.324.

913 (b) For purposes of the final statement of financial 914 interests, the commission shall treat an amendment to a new 915 final statement of financial interests as part of the original 916 filing, if filed within 60 days of the original filing 917 regardless of whether a complaint has been filed. If, more than 60 days after a final statement of financial interests is filed, 918 919 a complaint is filed alleging a complete omission of any information required to be disclosed by this section, the 920 921 commission may immediately follow the complaint procedures in s. 922 112.324. However, if the complaint alleges an immaterial, 923 inconsequential, or de minimis error or omission, the commission 924 may not take any action on the complaint other than notifying 925 the filer of the complaint. The filer must be given 30 days to 926 file an amendment to the a new final statement of financial 927 interests correcting any errors. If the filer does not file an 928 amendment to the a new final statement of financial interests 929 within 30 days after the commission sends notice of the 930 complaint, the commission may continue with proceedings pursuant to s. 112.324. 931

932 (c) For purposes of this section, an error or omission is 933 immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis if the original 934 filing provided sufficient information for the public to 935 identify potential conflicts of interest. However, failure to 936 certify completion of annual ethics training required under s. 937 112.3142 does not constitute an immaterial, inconsequential, or 938 de minimis error or omission.

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939 (12) (a) (11) (a) An individual required to file a statement 940 disclosure pursuant to this section may have the statement 941 disclosure prepared by an attorney in good standing with The 942 Florida Bar or by a certified public accountant licensed under 943 chapter 473. After preparing a statement disclosure form, the 944 attorney or certified public accountant must sign the form 945 indicating that he or she prepared the form in accordance with 946 this section and the instructions for completing and filing the 947 disclosure forms and that, upon his or her reasonable knowledge 948 and belief, the disclosure is true and correct. If a complaint 949 is filed alleging a failure to disclose information required by 950 this section, the commission shall determine whether the 951 information was disclosed to the attorney or certified public 952 accountant. The failure of the attorney or certified public 953 accountant to accurately transcribe information provided by the 954 individual who is required to file the statement disclosure does 955 not constitute a violation of this section.

(b) An elected officer or candidate who chooses to use an attorney or a certified public accountant to prepare his or her <u>statement</u> disclosure may pay for the services of the attorney or certified public accountant from funds in an office account created pursuant to s. 106.141 or, during a year that the individual qualifies for election to public office, the candidate's campaign depository pursuant to s. 106.021.

963 <u>(13)(12)</u> The commission shall adopt rules and forms 964 specifying how a state officer, local officer, or specified 965 state employee may amend his or her statement of financial 966 interests to report information that was not included on the 967 form as originally filed. If the amendment is the subject of a

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968 complaint filed under this part, the commission and the proper 969 disciplinary official or body shall consider as a mitigating 970 factor when considering appropriate disciplinary action the fact 971 that the amendment was filed before any complaint or other 972 inquiry or proceeding, while recognizing that the public was 973 deprived of access to information to which it was entitled.

Section 5. Section 112.31455, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.31455 Collection methods for unpaid automatic fines for failure to timely file disclosure of financial interests.-

(1) Before referring any unpaid fine accrued pursuant to <u>s.</u> <u>112.3144(7) or s. 112.3145(8)</u> <u>s. 112.3144(5) or s. 112.3145(7)</u> to the Department of Financial Services, the commission shall attempt to determine whether the individual owing such a fine is a current public officer or current public employee. If so, the commission may notify the Chief Financial Officer or the governing body of the appropriate county, municipality, or special district of the total amount of any fine owed to the commission by such individual.

987 (a) After receipt and verification of the notice from the 988 commission, the Chief Financial Officer or the governing body of 989 the county, municipality, or special district shall begin 990 withholding the lesser of 10 percent or the maximum amount 991 allowed under federal law from any salary-related payment. The 992 withheld payments shall be remitted to the commission until the 993 fine is satisfied.

(b) The Chief Financial Officer or the governing body of the county, municipality, or special district may retain an amount of each withheld payment, as provided in s. 77.0305, to

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997 cover the administrative costs incurred under this section. 998 (2) If the commission determines that the individual who is 999 the subject of an unpaid fine accrued pursuant to s. 112.3144(7) or s. 112.3145(8) s. 112.3144(5) or s. 112.3145(7) is no longer 1000 1001 a public officer or public employee or if the commission is 1002 unable to determine whether the individual is a current public officer or public employee, the commission may, 6 months after 1003 1004 the order becomes final, seek garnishment of any wages to satisfy the amount of the fine, or any unpaid portion thereof, 1005 1006 pursuant to chapter 77. Upon recording the order imposing the 1007 fine with the clerk of the circuit court, the order shall be 1008 deemed a judgment for purposes of garnishment pursuant to 1009 chapter 77. 1010

1010 (3) The commission may refer unpaid fines to the 1011 appropriate collection agency, as directed by the Chief 1012 Financial Officer, to utilize any collection methods provided by 1013 law. Except as expressly limited by this section, any other 1014 collection methods authorized by law are allowed.

(4) Action may be taken to collect any unpaid fine imposed by ss. 112.3144 and 112.3145 within 20 years after the date the final order is rendered.

Section 6. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

1023 Delete everything before the enacting clause 1024 and insert:

A bill to be entitled

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1026 An act relating to financial disclosure; creating s. 1027 112.31446, F.S.; providing definitions; requiring the Commission on Ethics to procure and test an electronic 1028 1029 filing system by a certain date; providing minimum 1030 requirements for such system; providing duties for 1031 units of government, the commission, and persons 1032 required to file specified financial disclosure forms; 1033 providing for alternative means of filing in the event 1034 the electronic filing system is inoperable; amending 1035 s. 112.312, F.S.; revising the definition of the term 1036 "disclosure period"; amending s. 112.3144, F.S.; 1037 requiring the electronic filing of full and public 1038 disclosures of financial interests beginning on a 1039 specified date; revising requirements with respect to 1040 reporting income; prohibiting the commission from 1041 requesting, accepting, or retaining certain 1042 information; providing for the redaction of protected 1043 information if certain conditions are met; modifying 1044 requirements regarding preparation of the list of 1045 reporting persons; requiring electronic delivery for 1046 certain notices; requiring the commission to provide 1047 certain verification to a filer upon request; 1048 requiring a declaration be submitted with a 1049 disclosure; specifying that certain actions do not 1050 constitute an unusual circumstance when appealing or 1051 disputing a fine; revising a schedule to the State 1052 Constitution; amending s. 112.3145, F.S.; revising the 1053 definition of the term "specified state employee"; requiring the electronic filing of statements of 1054



1055 financial interests beginning on a specified date; 1056 modifying the options for reporting thresholds on a 1057 statement of financial interests; prohibiting the 1058 commission from requesting, accepting, or retaining 1059 certain information; providing for the redaction of 1060 protected information if certain conditions are met; modifying requirements regarding preparation of the 1061 1062 list of reporting persons; requiring electronic 1063 delivery for certain notices; requiring the commission 1064 to provide certain verification to a filer upon 1065 request; requiring a declaration be submitted with a statement; specifying that certain actions do not 1066 1067 constitute an unusual circumstance when appealing or 1068 disputing a fine; amending s. 112.31455, F.S.; 1069 conforming cross-references to changes made by the 1070 act; providing effective dates.