By the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability; and Senators Montford and Torres

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to cost-of-living adjustments to state employee salaries; creating s. 110.195, F.S.; defining terms; authorizing annual cost-of-living adjustments to base rates of pay of eligible state employees, beginning in 2021; requiring the Office of Economic and Demographic Research to calculate the percentage for the adjustment in a specified manner; specifying conditions under which a cost-of-living adjustment is not implemented; requiring the office to certify the adjustment amount to the Governor and the Legislature; specifying eligibility for the cost-of-living adjustment; providing that implementation of cost-of-living adjustments is contingent upon funding by the Legislature; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 110.195, Florida Statutes, is created and incorporated into part I of chapter 110, Florida Statutes, to read:

110.195 Annual cost-of-living adjustments to state employee salaries.—

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

(a) "State agency" means any official, officer, commission, board, authority, council, committee, or department of the executive or judicial branches of state government.

(b) "State employee" means an employee filling an

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established position as an employee of a state agency or an employee of the State University System whose position is funded by the Legislature through an appropriation for the Education and General Activities Program.

- (2) Beginning January 1, 2021, and each January 1
  thereafter, the base rate of pay of each eligible state employee
  shall be increased by the percentage adjustment calculated
  pursuant to subsection (3); provided, however, only the portion
  of the base rate of pay of each eligible employee of the State
  University System funded from the General Revenue Fund will be
  increased by the percentage adjustment calculated pursuant to
  subsection (3).
- (3) (a) By November 1, 2020, and each November 1 thereafter, the Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall calculate the percentage increase, if any, in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers from the average for the third quarter of the current calendar year to the average for the third quarter of the preceding calendar year.
- (b) If the calculation made pursuant to paragraph (a) results in a positive number, the number must be rounded to the nearest tenth of 1 percent. If the calculation results in a negative number, or if the rounded result is zero, there is no cost-of-living adjustment for the year.
- (c) The Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall certify the result of the calculation to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (4) (a) To be eligible for the adjustment authorized in subsection (2), a state employee, at a minimum, must have met

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his or her required performance standard, if applicable, during the most recently completed fiscal year. If an otherwise eligible state employee achieves performance standards subsequent to the cost-of-living adjustment, but on or before the end of the fiscal year, the employee may receive the adjustment effective on the date the employee achieves such standards but not retroactively to the date of the cost-of-living adjustment.

- (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that all eligible state employees receive the increases authorized in subsection (2) even if the implementation of such increase results in an employee's salary exceeding the adjusted pay grade maximum.
- (5) Each increase authorized in subsection (2) is contingent upon a specific appropriation by the Legislature to fund the first year's costs of implementation of such increase.

  Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

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