${\bf By}$  Senator Rodriguez

	39-00420A-21 20211208
1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to property assessed clean energy
3	program; amending s. 163.08, F.S.; revising
4	legislative intent regarding the types of improvements
5	that qualify for specified financing under this act;
6	defining and redefining terms; specifying that a
7	property owner may apply to a PACE program for certain
8	purposes; providing that costs incurred by the PACE
9	program may be collected as a non-ad valorem
10	assessment; authorizing a local government to enter
11	into agreements with PACE administrators and to incur
12	debt; authorizing a local government to enter into a
13	PACE assessment contract only with the record owner of
14	the affected property; revising the items a local
15	government or a PACE administrator must reasonably
16	determine before entering into a PACE contract;
17	requiring a qualifying improvement to be affixed or
18	plan to be affixed to specified properties before
19	final funding; authorizing a PACE assessment contract
20	to cover qualifying improvements on real properties
21	under new construction; specifying the information a
22	PACE administrator must provide each real property
23	owner or an authorized representative about the
24	qualifying improvements; requiring a PACE
25	administrator to make specified determinations about a
26	property owner's ability to pay the annual PACE
27	assessment; specifying information a PACE
28	administrator must provide to the residential real
29	property owner or an authorized representative before

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30	entering into a PACE assessment contract; specifying a
31	timeframe within which a residential real property
32	owner may cancel a PACE assessment contract;
33	prohibiting the term of a PACE assessment contract
34	from exceeding specified timeframes; prohibiting a
35	PACE administrator from offering specified types of
36	financing for residential real properties; prohibiting
37	a PACE administrator from enrolling certain PACE
38	contractors unless certain conditions are met;
39	providing requirements that must be met before a PACE
40	administrator may disburse funds; specifying marketing
41	and communications guidelines that PACE administrators
42	and PACE contractors must comply with when
43	communicating with residential real property owners;
44	prohibiting a PACE contractor from engaging in certain
45	practices regarding pricing of qualifying improvement
46	on residential real properties; providing an effective
47	date.
48	
49	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
50	
51	Section 1. Subsections (1), (2), (4), (6) through (10),
52	(12), (13), and (14) of section 163.08, Florida Statutes, are
53	amended, and subsections (17) through (25) are added to that
54	section, to read:
55	163.08 Supplemental authority for improvements to real
56	property
57	(1)(a) In chapter 2008-227, Laws of Florida, the
58	Legislature amended the energy goal of the state comprehensive
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39-00420A-21 20211208 59 plan to provide, in part, that the state shall reduce its energy 60 requirements through enhanced conservation and efficiency 61 measures in all end-use sectors and reduce atmospheric carbon 62 dioxide by promoting an increased use of renewable energy 63 resources. That act also declared it the public policy of the 64 state to play a leading role in developing and instituting 65 energy management programs that promote energy conservation, 66 energy security, and the reduction of greenhouse gases. In addition to establishing policies to promote the use of 67 68 renewable energy, the Legislature provided for a schedule of 69 increases in energy performance of buildings subject to the 70 Florida Energy Efficiency Code for Building Construction. In 71 chapter 2008-191, Laws of Florida, the Legislature adopted new 72 energy conservation and greenhouse gas reduction comprehensive 73 planning requirements for local governments. In the 2008 general 74 election, the voters of this state approved a constitutional 75 amendment authorizing the Legislature, by general law, to 76 prohibit consideration of any change or improvement made for the 77 purpose of improving a property's resistance to wind or flood 78 damage or the installation of a renewable energy source device 79 in the determination of the assessed value of residential real 80 property. 81

(b) The Legislature finds that all energy-consumingimproved properties that are not using energy conservation strategies contribute to the burden affecting all improved property resulting from fossil fuel energy production. Improved property that has been retrofitted with energy-related qualifying improvements receives the special benefit of alleviating the property's burden from energy consumption. All

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39-00420A-21 20211208 88 improved properties not protected from wind or flood damage by 89 wind or flood resistant resistance qualifying improvements 90 contribute to the burden affecting all improved property 91 resulting from potential wind or flood damage. Improved property 92 that has been retrofitted with wind or flood resistant 93 resistance qualifying improvements receives the special benefit 94 of reducing the property's burden from potential wind or flood 95 damage. Further, the installation and operation of qualifying improvements not only benefit the affected properties for which 96 97 the improvements are made, but also assist in fulfilling the 98 goals of the state's energy and hurricane mitigation policies. 99 (c) Properties that do not use advanced technologies for 100 wastewater removal contribute to the water quality problems 101 affecting the state and particularly the coastal areas. Improved properties that have been retrofitted with advanced onsite 102 103 treatment systems or have converted to central sewerage 104 significantly benefit the quality of water that may enter 105 streams, lakes, rivers, aquifers, canals, estuaries, or coastal 106 areas. Properties that are not protected from harmful 107 environmental health hazards contribute to the environmental 108 health burdens affecting the state. Properties that have been 109 improved to mitigate against or prevent environmental health hazards benefit the general environmental health of the people 110 111 within this state. 112 (d) In order to make qualifying improvements more

affordable and assist property owners who wish to undertake such improvements, the Legislature finds that there is a compelling state interest in enabling property owners to voluntarily finance such improvements with local government assistance.

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117	(e) (c) The Legislature determines that the actions
118	authorized under this section, including, but not limited to,
119	the financing of qualifying improvements through the execution
120	of property assessed clean energy assessment contracts <del>financing</del>
121	agreements and the related imposition of voluntary assessments
122	are reasonable and necessary to serve and achieve a compelling
123	state interest and are necessary for the prosperity and welfare
124	of the state and its property owners and inhabitants.
125	(2) As used in this section, the term:
126	(a) "Commercial real property" means, unless otherwise
127	determined by a local government, any property not defined as a
128	residential real property, that will be or is improved by a
129	qualifying improvement, including, but not limited to, the
130	following:
131	1. A multifamily residential property comprised of five or
132	more dwelling units.
133	2. A commercial real property.
134	3. An industrial building or property.
135	4. Agricultural property.
136	5. A residential property owned by a business entity.
137	<u>(b)<del>(</del>a)</u> "Local government" means a county, a municipality, a
138	dependent special district as defined in s. 189.012, or a
139	separate legal entity created pursuant to s. 163.01(7).
140	(c) <del>(b)</del> <u>"PACE administrator" means an entity with whom a</u>
141	local government contracts to administer a PACE program.
142	(d) "PACE assessment" means the non-ad valorem assessment
143	securing the annual repayment of financing obtained by an owner
144	of commercial or residential real property for a qualifying
145	improvement under this chapter.

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(e) "PACE assessment contract" means the financing
contract, under a PACE program, between a local government and a
property owner for the acquisition or installation of qualifying
improvements.
(f) "PACE contractor" means an independent contractor who
contracts with a property owner to install qualifying
improvements on real property and is not the owner of such
property.
(g) "PACE program" means a program established by a local
government, alone or in partnership with other local governments
or a PACE administrator, to finance qualifying improvements on
commercial or residential real properties.
(h) "Qualifying improvement" includes any:
1. Energy conservation and efficiency improvement, which is
a measure to reduce consumption through conservation or a more
efficient use of electricity, natural gas, propane, or other
forms of energy on the property, including, but not limited to,
air sealing; installation of insulation; installation of energy-
efficient heating, cooling, or ventilation systems; building
modifications to increase the use of daylight; replacement of
windows; installation of energy controls or energy recovery
systems; installation of electric vehicle charging equipment;
installation of battery storage systems; and installation of
efficient lighting equipment.
2. Renewable energy improvement, which is the installation
of any system in which the electrical, mechanical, or thermal
energy is produced from a method that uses one or more of the
following fuels or energy sources: hydrogen, solar energy,
geothermal energy, bioenergy, and wind energy.

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175	3. Wind, storm, and flood resistance improvement, which
176	includes, but is not limited to:
177	a. Improving the strength of the roof deck attachment $_{\cdot} extsf{+}$
178	b. Creating a secondary water barrier to prevent water
179	intrusion <u>.</u>
180	c. Installing wind-resistant shingles <u>.</u> +
181	d. Installing gable-end bracing <u>.</u> +
182	e. Reinforcing roof-to-wall connections.+
183	f. Installing storm shutters <u>.; or</u>
184	g. Installing opening protections.
185	h. Installing backup power or battery storage systems.
186	4. Wastewater treatment improvement, which includes the
187	replacement or improvement of an onsite sewage treatment and
188	disposal system with an advanced onsite treatment and disposal
189	system or technology or the replacement of an onsite sewage
190	treatment and disposal system with a central sewage system. For
191	purposes of this section, the term "wastewater treatment
192	improvement" includes repairs or modifications made to an onsite
193	sewage treatment and disposal system under s. 381.0065.
194	5. Flood and water damage mitigation and resiliency
195	improvement, which includes projects and installations:
196	a. To raise a structure above the base flood elevation to
197	reduce flood damage.
198	b. To build or repair a flood diversion apparatus or sea
199	wall improvement, which includes, but is not limited to, seawall
200	repairs and replacements, banks, berms, green-grey
201	infrastructure, upland stem walls, or other infrastructure that
202	impedes tidal waters from flowing onto adjacent property or
203	public right-of-way.

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204c. That use flood damage resistant building materials.205d. That mitigate or eliminate the potential for microbial206growth.207e. That use electrical, mechanical, plumbing, or other208system improvements to reduce flood damage.209f. That may qualify for reductions in flood insurance210premiums.2116. Health and environmental hazards measure or improvement212which is a measure or an improvement intended to mitigate213harmful health and environmental hazards to property occupants214including measures or improvements that mitigate or remove:215a. The presence of lead, heavy metals, polyfluoroalkyl216substance contamination, or other harmful contaminants in217potable water systems. Improvements may include conversion of218well water to municipal water systems, replacement of lead wate219b. Asbestos.220c. Lead paint contamination in housing built before 1978.
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<ul> <li>e. That use electrical, mechanical, plumbing, or other</li> <li>system improvements to reduce flood damage.</li> <li><u>f. That may qualify for reductions in flood insurance</u></li> <li><u>premiums.</u></li> <li><u>6. Health and environmental hazards measure or improvement</u></li> <li><u>which is a measure or an improvement intended to mitigate</u></li> <li><u>harmful health and environmental hazards to property occupants</u></li> <li><u>including measures or improvements that mitigate or remove:</u></li> <li><u>a. The presence of lead, heavy metals, polyfluoroalkyl</u></li> <li><u>substance contamination, or other harmful contaminants in</u></li> <li><u>potable water systems. Improvements may include conversion of</u></li> <li><u>well water to municipal water systems, replacement of lead water systems.</u></li> <li><u>b. Asbestos.</u></li> </ul>
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210 <u>premiums.</u> 211 <u>6. Health and environmental hazards measure or improvement</u> 212 which is a measure or an improvement intended to mitigate 213 harmful health and environmental hazards to property occupants 214 including measures or improvements that mitigate or remove: 215 <u>a. The presence of lead, heavy metals, polyfluoroalkyl</u> 216 substance contamination, or other harmful contaminants in 217 potable water systems. Improvements may include conversion of 218 well water to municipal water systems, replacement of lead water 219 <u>b. Asbestos.</u>
<ul> <li>6. Health and environmental hazards measure or improvement</li> <li>which is a measure or an improvement intended to mitigate</li> <li>harmful health and environmental hazards to property occupants</li> <li>including measures or improvements that mitigate or remove:</li> <li>a. The presence of lead, heavy metals, polyfluoroalkyl</li> <li>substance contamination, or other harmful contaminants in</li> <li>potable water systems. Improvements may include conversion of</li> <li>well water to municipal water systems, replacement of lead water</li> <li>a. Substance lines, or installation of water filters.</li> <li>b. Asbestos.</li> </ul>
212 which is a measure or an improvement intended to mitigate 213 harmful health and environmental hazards to property occupants 214 including measures or improvements that mitigate or remove: 215 a. The presence of lead, heavy metals, polyfluoroalkyl 216 substance contamination, or other harmful contaminants in 217 potable water systems. Improvements may include conversion of 218 well water to municipal water systems, replacement of lead wat 219 service lines, or installation of water filters. 220 b. Asbestos.
213 <u>harmful health and environmental hazards to property occupants</u> 214 <u>including measures or improvements that mitigate or remove:</u> 215 <u>a. The presence of lead, heavy metals, polyfluoroalkyl</u> 216 <u>substance contamination, or other harmful contaminants in</u> 217 <u>potable water systems. Improvements may include conversion of</u> 218 <u>well water to municipal water systems, replacement of lead water 219 <u>service lines, or installation of water filters.</u> 220 <u>b. Asbestos.</u></u>
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219 <u>service lines, or installation of water filters.</u> 220 <u>b. Asbestos.</u>
220 <u>b. Asbestos.</u>
221 <u>c. Lead paint contamination in housing built before 1978.</u>
222 <u>d. Indoor air pollution or contaminants, including</u>
223 particulate matter, viruses, bacteria, and mold.
224 7. Water conservation or efficiency improvement, which is
225 measure or improvement to reduce the usage of water or increas
226 the efficiency of water usage.
(i) "Residential real property" means a residential
228 property of four or fewer dwelling units that may be benefited
229 by installation of a qualifying improvement.
230 (4) Subject to local government ordinance or resolution,
231 property owner may apply to <u>a PACE program</u> the local government
232 for funding to finance a qualifying improvement and enter into

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39-00420A-21 20211208 233 PACE assessment contract financing agreement with the local 234 government. Costs incurred by the PACE program local government 235 for such purpose may be collected as a non-ad valorem 236 assessment. A non-ad valorem assessment shall be collected 237 pursuant to s. 197.3632 and, notwithstanding s. 197.3632(8)(a), 238 is shall not be subject to a discount for early payment. 239 However, the notice and adoption requirements of s. 197.3632(4) 240 do not apply if this section is used and complied with, and the intent resolution, publication of notice, and mailed notices to 241 242 the property appraiser, tax collector, and Department of Revenue 243 required by s. 197.3632(3)(a) may be provided on or before 244 August 15 in conjunction with any non-ad valorem assessment authorized by this section, if the property appraiser, tax 245 246 collector, and local government agree. 247 (6) A local government may enter into an agreement with a 248 PACE administrator to administer a PACE program A qualifying 249 improvement program may be administered by a for-profit entity 250 or a not-for-profit organization on behalf of and at the 251 discretion of the local government. 252 (7) A local government may incur debt for the purpose of 253 providing financing for the such improvements, which is payable 254 from revenues received from the improved property, or any other 255 available revenue source authorized by law. 256 (8) A local government may enter into a PACE assessment 257 contract to finance or refinance a qualifying improvement 258 financing agreement only with the record owner of the affected 259 property. Any PACE assessment contract financing agreement 260 entered into pursuant to this section or a summary memorandum of

### 261 such <u>contract</u> <del>agreement</del> shall be <u>submitted</u> for recording

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262	recorded in the public records of the county within which the
263	property is located by the <del>sponsoring unit of</del> local government
264	within 5 days after execution of the <u>contract</u> <del>agreement</del> . The
265	recorded <u>contract</u> <del>agreement</del> shall provide constructive notice
266	that the <u>PACE</u> assessment to be levied on the property
267	constitutes a lien of equal dignity to county taxes and
268	assessments from the date of recordation.
269	(9) Before entering into a <u>PACE assessment contract</u>
270	financing agreement, the local government or the PACE
271	<u>administrator</u> <del>local government</del> shall reasonably determine that:
272	(a) All property taxes and any other assessments levied on
273	the same bill as property taxes are <u>current and have been</u> paid
274	and have not been delinquent for the preceding 3 years or the
275	property owner's period of ownership, whichever is less;
276	(b) That there are no involuntary liens, including, but not
277	limited to, construction liens on the property;
278	(c) That no notices of default or other evidence of
279	property-based debt delinquency have been recorded and not
280	<u>released</u> during the preceding 3 years or the property owner's
281	period of ownership, whichever is less;
282	(d) The property owner has recorded all other PACE
283	assessments or that the PACE assessments have been funded and
284	not yet recorded on the property; and
285	(e) That the property owner is current on all mortgage debt
286	on the property.
287	(10) <u>Before final funding,</u> a qualifying improvement <u>must</u>
288	<del>shal</del> l be affixed <u>or plan to be affixed</u> to a <u>commercial or</u>
289	residential real building or facility that is part of the
290	property and shall constitute an improvement to that property
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39-00420A-21 20211208 291 the building or facility or a fixture attached to the building or facility. A PACE assessment contract An agreement between a 292 293 local government and a gualifying property owner may not cover 294 qualifying wind-resistance improvements on commercial or 295 residential real properties in buildings or facilities under new 296 construction or construction for which a certificate of 297 occupancy or similar evidence of substantial completion of new construction or improvement has not been issued. 298

(12) (a) Without the consent of the holders or loan servicers of any mortgage encumbering or otherwise secured by the property, the total amount of any non-ad valorem assessment for a property under this section may not exceed 20 percent of the just value of the property as determined by the county property appraiser.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a <u>PACE</u> non-ad valorem assessment for a qualifying improvement defined in subparagraph <u>(2)(h)1. (2)(b)1.</u> or subparagraph <u>(2)(h)2. (2)(b)2.</u> that is supported by an energy audit is not subject to the limits in this subsection if the audit demonstrates that the annual energy savings from the qualified improvement equals or exceeds the annual repayment amount of the <u>PACE</u> non-ad valorem assessment.

312 (13) At least 30 days before entering into a PACE 313 assessment contract financing agreement, the property owner 314 shall provide to the holders or loan servicers of any existing 315 mortgages encumbering or otherwise secured by the property a 316 notice of the owner's intent to enter into a PACE assessment 317 contract financing agreement together with the maximum principal 318 amount to be financed and the maximum annual PACE assessment 319 necessary to repay that amount. A verified copy or other proof

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39-00420A-21 20211208 320 of such notice shall be provided to the local government. A 321 provision in any PACE assessment contract agreement between a 322 mortgagee or other lienholder and a property owner, or otherwise 323 now or hereafter binding upon a property owner, which allows for 324 acceleration of payment of the mortgage, note, or lien or other 325 unilateral modification solely as a result of entering into a 326 PACE assessment contract financing agreement as provided for in 327 this section is not enforceable. This subsection does not limit 328 the authority of the holder or loan servicer to increase the 329 required monthly escrow by an amount necessary to annually pay 330 the annual PACE qualifying improvement assessment. 331 (14) At or before the time a purchaser executes a contract for the sale and purchase of any property for which a PACE non-332

333 ad valorem assessment has been levied under this section and has 334 an unpaid balance due, the seller <u>must shall</u> give the 335 prospective purchaser a written disclosure statement in the 336 following form, which shall be set forth in the contract or in a 337 separate writing:

339 QUALIFYING IMPROVEMENTS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY, 340 RENEWABLE ENERGY, FLOOD MITIGATION, OR WIND 341 RESISTANCE, ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, OR WATER 342 343 CONSERVATION.-The property being purchased is located 344 within the jurisdiction of a local government that has 345 placed an assessment on the property pursuant to s. 346 163.08, Florida Statutes. The assessment is for a 347 qualifying improvement to the property relating to 348 energy efficiency, renewable energy, flood mitigation,

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349	or wind resistance, advanced technologies for
350	wastewater treatment, environmental health, or water
351	conservation, and is not based on the value of
352	property. You are encouraged to contact the county
353	property appraiser's office to learn more about this
354	and other assessments that may be provided by law.
355	
356	(17) Before entering into a PACE assessment contract for a
357	qualifying improvement on a residential real property, a PACE
358	administrator must reasonably determine that the property owner
359	has an ability to pay the estimated annual PACE assessment
360	based, at a minimum, on the following:
361	(a) For property owners seeking PACE financing where the
362	total estimated annual payment amount of all PACE assessments
363	authorized on the property is \$4,800 or less, or the equivalent
364	of \$400 per month, plus an additional amount that represents the
365	rate of inflation established by the United States Bureau of
366	Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index, the PACE administrator,
367	at a minimum, must use the underwriting requirements in
368	subsection (9) and confirm the property owner is not currently
369	in bankruptcy in determining whether the property owner has a
370	reasonable ability to pay the PACE assessment.
371	(b) For property owners seeking PACE financing where the
372	total estimated annual payment amount of all PACE assessments
373	authorized on the property is greater than \$4,800, or the
374	equivalent of \$400 per month, plus an additional amount that
375	represents the rate of inflation established by the United
376	States Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index, the
377	PACE administrator, at a minimum, must use the underwriting

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378	requirements in subsection (9), to confirm that the property
379	owner is not in bankruptcy and determine that the total
380	estimated annual payment amount for all the PACE assessment
381	contracts authorized on the property does not exceed 10 percent
382	of the property owner's annual household income. Income may be
383	confirmed using information gathered from reputable third
384	parties that provide reasonably reliable evidence of the
385	property owner's household income. Income may not be confirmed
386	solely from a property owner's statement.
387	(18) Before entering into a PACE assessment contract for a
388	qualifying improvement on a residential real property, the PACE
389	administrator must:
390	(a) Provide a financing estimate and disclosure to the
391	residential real property owner that includes:
392	1. The total amount estimated to be funded, including the
393	cost of the qualifying improvements, program fees, and
394	capitalized interest, if any.
395	2. The estimated annual PACE assessment.
396	3. The term of the PACE assessment.
397	4. The fixed interest charged and estimated annual
398	percentage rate.
399	5. A description of the qualifying improvement.
400	6. A disclosure that if the property owner sells or
401	refinances the property, the property owner, as a condition of
402	the sale or the refinance, may be required by a mortgage lender
403	to pay off the full amount owed under each PACE assessment
404	contract.
405	7. A disclosure that the PACE assessment will be collected
406	along with the property owner's property taxes and will result
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407	in a lien on the property from the date the PACE assessment
408	contract is executed.
409	8. A disclosure that failure to pay the PACE assessment may
410	result in penalties and fees, along with the issuance of a tax
411	certificate that could result in the property owner losing the
412	real property.
413	(b) Conduct, with a residential real property owner or an
414	authorized representative, an oral, recorded telephone call
415	during which time the PACE administrator must use plain
416	language. The PACE administrator must ask the residential real
417	property owner if he or she would like to communicate primarily
418	in a language other than English. A PACE administrator may not
419	leave a voicemail to the residential real property owner to
420	satisfy this requirement. A PACE administrator, as part of this
421	telephone call, must confirm with the residential real property
422	owner:
423	1. That at least one residential real property owner has
424	access to a copy of the PACE assessment contract and financing
425	estimates and disclosures.
426	2. The qualifying improvement that is being financed.
427	3. The total estimated annual costs that the residential
428	real property owner will have to pay under the PACE assessment
429	contract, including applicable fees.
430	4. The total estimated average monthly equivalent amount of
431	funds the residential real property owner would have to save in
432	order to pay the annual costs of the PACE assessment, including
433	applicable fees.
434	5. The estimated date the residential real property owner's
435	first property tax payment that includes the PACE assessment
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436	will be due.
437	6. The term of the PACE assessment contract.
438	7. That payments for the PACE assessment contract will
439	cause the residential real property owner's annual tax bill to
440	increase, that payments will be made through an additional
441	annual assessment on the property, and will be paid either
442	directly to the county tax collector's office as part of the
443	total annual secured property tax bill or may be paid through
444	the residential real property owner's mortgage escrow account.
445	8. That the qualifying residential property owner has
446	disclosed whether the property has received or is seeking
447	additional PACE assessments and has disclosed all other PACE
448	assessments or special taxes that are or about to be placed on
449	the property.
450	9. That the property will be subject to a lien during the
451	term of the PACE assessment contract and that the obligations
452	under the contract may be required to be paid in full before the
453	residential real property owner sells or refinances the
454	property.
455	10. That any potential utility or insurance savings are not
456	guaranteed and will not reduce the PACE assessment or total
457	assessment amount.
458	11. That the PACE administrator or PACE contractor does not
459	provide tax advice and that the residential real property owner
460	should seek professional tax advice if he or she has questions
461	regarding tax credits, tax deductibility, or other tax impacts
462	of the qualifying improvement or the PACE assessment contract.
463	(19) The residential real property owner may cancel the
464	PACE assessment contract within 3 business days after signing

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465	the PACE assessment contract without any financial penalty for
466	doing so.
467	(20) The term of a PACE assessment contract on residential
468	real property may not exceed the useful life of the qualifying
469	improvement being installed or the weighted average useful life
470	of all qualifying improvements being financed if multiple
471	qualifying improvements are being financed. A financing term may
472	not exceed 30 years.
473	(21) A PACE administrator may not offer PACE assessment
474	financing on any residential real property that includes any of
475	the following:
476	(a) A negative amortization schedule;
477	(b) A balloon payment; or
478	(c) Prepayment fees, other than nominal administrative
479	costs.
480	(22) For residential real property, a PACE administrator:
481	(a) May not enroll a PACE contractor who offers PACE
482	financing on residential real property unless:
483	1. The PACE administrator must make a reasonable effort to
484	review that the PACE contractor maintains in good standing an
485	appropriate license from the state, if applicable, as well as
486	any other permits, licenses, or registrations required for
487	engaging in its business in the jurisdiction where it operates
488	and maintains all state required bond and insurance coverage.
489	2. A PACE administrator obtains the PACE contractor's
490	written agreement that the PACE contractor will act in
491	accordance with all applicable laws, including applicable
492	advertising and marketing laws and regulations.
493	(b) Must maintain a process to enroll new PACE contractors

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494	that includes reasonable review of the following for each
495	contractor:
496	1. Relevant work or project history.
497	2. Financial and reputational background checks.
498	3. Criminal background check.
499	4. Status on Better Business Bureau or other online
500	platforms that track contractor reviews.
501	(23) (a) Before disbursing funds to a PACE contractor for a
502	qualifying improvement on residential real property, a PACE
503	administrator must first confirm the applicable work or service
504	has been completed, either through written certification from
505	the property owner, a recorded telephone call with the property
506	owner, or a site inspection through third-party means.
507	(b) A PACE administrator may not disclose to a PACE
508	contractor or to a third party engaged in soliciting a PACE
509	assessment contract the maximum PACE financing amount that a for
510	which a residential real property owner is eligible.
511	(24) Each PACE administrator and PACE contractor must
512	comply with the following marketing and communications
513	guidelines when communicating with residential real property
514	owners:
515	(a) A PACE administrator or PACE contractor may not suggest
516	or imply:
517	1. That PACE is a government assistance program;
518	2. That qualifying improvements are free or that PACE
519	assessment financing is a free program; or
520	3. That the financing of a qualifying improvement using the
521	PACE program does not require the property owner to repay the
522	financial obligation.

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523	(b) A PACE administrator or PACE contractor may not make
524	any representation as to the tax deductibility of a PACE
525	assessment on residential real property. A PACE administrator or
526	PACE contractor may encourage a property owner to seek the
527	advice of a tax professional regarding tax matters related to
528	PACE assessments.
529	(25) A PACE contractor should not present a higher price
530	for a qualifying improvement on residential real property
531	financed by a PACE assessment contract than the PACE contractor
532	would otherwise reasonably present if the qualifying improvement
533	were not being financed through a PACE assessment contract.
534	Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

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