By Senator Boyd

	21-01162C-22 20221536
1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to money services businesses; amending
3	s. 560.103, F.S.; defining the terms "control person"
4	and "publicly traded"; revising and deleting
5	definitions; amending s. 560.105, F.S.; authorizing
6	the Financial Services Commission to adopt rules;
7	specifying requirements and authorized procedures for
8	such rules; providing construction; prohibiting the
9	Office of Insurance Regulation from issuing licenses
10	unless certain criteria are met; providing
11	applicability; amending s. 560.114, F.S., and
12	reenacting paragraph (2)(c), relating to license
13	applications; authorizing the office to bar persons
14	from holding a license or acting as control persons of
15	money services businesses under certain circumstances;
16	authorizing the office to suspend the license of a
17	money services business under certain circumstances;
18	specifying requirements for orders of suspension;
19	providing construction; amending s. 560.118, F.S.;
20	providing that a rule may require reports to contain
21	declarations by control persons, rather than officers
22	or other responsible persons; amending s. 560.123,
23	F.S.; providing that control persons, rather than
24	officers, are not liable for loss or damages under
25	certain circumstances; amending s. 560.126, F.S.;
26	requiring licensees to report changes in control
27	persons, rather than certain other entities or
28	persons; deleting a requirement for certain persons to
29	submit a licensure application under certain

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30	circumstances; deleting the definition of the term
31	"controlling interest"; providing that the addition of
32	a control person, rather than certain other entities
33	or persons, is subject to certain requirements;
34	deleting a requirement for the commission to adopt
35	rules; repealing s. 560.127, F.S., relating to control
36	of a money services business; amending s. 560.141,
37	F.S.; revising requirements for applications for
38	licensure as a money services business; amending s.
39	560.143, F.S.; revising a limitation for certain fees
40	to apply to a change in control, rather than in a
41	controlling interest; reenacting s. 559.952(4)(a),
42	F.S., relating to the Financial Technology Sandbox, to
43	incorporate the amendments made to ss. 560.118 and
44	560.141, F.S., in references thereto; providing an
45	effective date.
46	
47	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
48	
49	Section 1. Section 560.103, Florida Statutes, is amended to
50	read:
51	560.103 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:
52	(1) "Affiliated party" means a <u>control</u> director, officer,
53	responsible person, employee, or foreign affiliate of a money
54	services business , or a person who has a controlling interest in
55	a money services business as provided in s. 560.127.
56	(2) "Appropriate regulator" means a state, federal, or
57	foreign agency that has been granted authority to enforce state,
58	federal, or foreign laws related to a money services business or
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59	deferred presentment provider.
60	(3) "Authorized vendor" means a person designated by a
61	money services business licensed under part II of this chapter
62	to act on behalf of the licensee at locations in this state
63	pursuant to a written contract with the licensee.
64	(4) "Branch office" means the physical location, other than
65	the principal place of business, of a money services business
66	operated by a licensee under this chapter.
67	(5) "Cashing" means providing currency for payment
68	instruments except for travelers checks.
69	(6) "Check casher" means a person who sells currency in
70	exchange for payment instruments received, except travelers
71	checks.
72	(7) "Commission" means the Financial Services Commission.
73	(8) "Compliance officer" means the individual in charge of
74	overseeing, managing, and ensuring that a money services
75	business is in compliance with all state and federal laws and
76	rules relating to money services businesses, as applicable,
77	including all money laundering laws and rules.
78	(9) "Conductor" means a natural person who presents himself
79	or herself to a licensee for purposes of cashing a payment
80	instrument.
81	(10) "Control person" means:
82	(a) A person who possesses the power, directly or
83	indirectly, to direct the management or policies of a money
84	services business, whether through ownership of securities, by
85	contract, or through other means, and regardless of whether such
86	person has an official title or receives a salary or other
87	compensation. The following persons are each presumed to be a

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88	control person:
89	1. The president, chief executive officer, chief financial
90	officer, chief operations officer, chief legal officer, and
91	chief compliance officer.
92	2. A person holding any of the officer positions named by
93	the money services business's governing documents.
94	3. A person holding any position named by the money
95	services business's directors and officers liability insurance
96	coverage, if the business has such coverage; and
97	4. A director of the money services business's board of
98	directors.
99	(b) For a corporation not publicly traded, each shareholder
100	that, directly or indirectly, owns 25 percent or more or that
101	has the power to vote 25 percent or more of a class of voting
102	securities. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "publicly
103	traded" means a stock currently traded on a national securities
104	exchange registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission
105	or traded on an exchange in a country other than the United
106	States regulated by a regulator equivalent to the Securities and
107	Exchange Commission and the disclosure and reporting
108	requirements of such regulator are substantially similar to
109	those of the commission.
110	(c) For a partnership, all general partners and limited or
111	special partners that have contributed 25 percent or more or
112	that have the right to receive, upon dissolution, 25 percent or
113	more of the partnership's capital.
114	(d) For a trust, each trustee.
115	(e) For a limited liability company, all managers and those
116	members that have contributed 25 percent or more or that have

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117	the right to receive, upon dissolution, 25 percent or more of
118	the limited liability company's capital account.
119	<u>(11)</u> "Corporate payment instrument" means a payment
120	instrument on which the payee named on the instrument's face is
121	other than a natural person.
122	(12) (11) "Currency" means the coin and paper money of the
123	United States or of any other country which is designated as
124	legal tender and which circulates and is customarily used and
125	accepted as a medium of exchange in the country of issuance.
126	Currency includes United States silver certificates, United
127	States notes, and Federal Reserve notes. Currency also includes
128	official foreign bank notes that are customarily used and
129	accepted as a medium of exchange in a foreign country.
130	(13) (12) "Deferred presentment provider" means a person who
131	is licensed under part II or part III of this chapter and has
132	filed a declaration of intent with the office to engage in
133	deferred presentment transactions as provided under part IV of
134	this chapter.
135	(14) (13) "Department" means the Department of Financial
136	Services.
137	(15) (14) "Electronic instrument" means a card, tangible
138	object, or other form of electronic payment for the transmission
139	or payment of money or the exchange of monetary value, including
140	a stored value card or device that contains a microprocessor
141	chip, magnetic stripe, or other means for storing information;
142	that is prefunded; and for which the value is decremented upon
143	each use.
144	(16) (15) "Financial audit report" means a report prepared
145	in connection with a financial audit that is conducted in

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21-01162C-22 20221536 accordance with generally accepted auditing standards prescribed 146 147 by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants by a 148 certified public accountant licensed to do business in the United States, and which must include: 149 150 (a) Financial statements, including notes related to the 151 financial statements and required supplementary information, 152 prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally 153 accepted in the United States. The notes must, at a minimum, include detailed disclosures regarding receivables that are 154 155 greater than 90 days, if the total amount of such receivables 156 represents more than 2 percent of the licensee's total assets.

(b) An expression of opinion regarding whether the financial statements are presented in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, or an assertion to the effect that such an opinion cannot be expressed and the reasons.

162 <u>(17)(16)</u> "Foreign affiliate" means a person located outside 163 this state who has been designated by a licensee to make 164 payments on behalf of the licensee to persons who reside outside 165 this state. The term also includes a person located outside of 166 this state for whom the licensee has been designated to make 167 payments in this state.

168 <u>(18)</u> (17) "Foreign currency exchanger" means a person who 169 exchanges, for compensation, currency of the United States or a 170 foreign government to currency of another government.

171 <u>(19)(18)</u> "Fraudulent identification paraphernalia" means 172 all equipment, products, or materials of any kind that are used, 173 intended for use, or designed for use in the misrepresentation 174 of a customer's identity. The term includes, but is not limited

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175	to:
176	(a) A signature stamp, thumbprint stamp, or other tool or
177	device used to forge a customer's personal identification
178	information.
179	(b) An original of any type of personal identification
180	listed in s. 560.310(2)(b) which is blank, stolen, or unlawfully
181	issued.
182	(c) A blank, forged, fictitious, or counterfeit instrument
183	in the similitude of any type of personal identification listed
184	in s. 560.310(2)(b) which would in context lead a reasonably
185	prudent person to believe that such instrument is an authentic
186	original of such personal identification.
187	(d) Counterfeit, fictitious, or fabricated information in
188	the similitude of a customer's personal identification
189	information that, although not authentic, would in context lead
190	a reasonably prudent person to credit its authenticity.
191	(20) (19) "Licensee" means a person licensed under this
192	chapter.
193	(21) (20) "Location" means a branch office, mobile location,
194	or location of an authorized vendor whose business activity is
195	regulated under this chapter.
196	(22) (21) "Monetary value" means a medium of exchange,
197	whether or not redeemable in currency.
198	(23) (22) "Money services business" means any person located
199	in or doing business in this state, from this state, or into
200	this state from locations outside this state or country who acts
201	as a payment instrument seller, foreign currency exchanger,
202	check casher, or money transmitter.
203	(24) (23) "Money transmitter" means a corporation, limited
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204	liability company, limited liability partnership, or foreign
205	entity qualified to do business in this state which receives
206	currency, monetary value, or payment instruments for the purpose
207	of transmitting the same by any means, including transmission by
208	wire, facsimile, electronic transfer, courier, the Internet, or
209	through bill payment services or other businesses that
210	facilitate such transfer within this country, or to or from this
211	country.
212	(25) (24) "Net worth" means assets minus liabilities,
213	determined in accordance with United States generally accepted
214	accounting principles.
215	(26) (25) "Office" means the Office of Financial Regulation
216	of the commission.
217	(26) "Officer" means an individual, other than a director,
218	who participates in, or has authority to participate in, the
219	major policymaking functions of a money services business,
220	regardless of whether the individual has an official title or
221	receives a salary or other compensation.
222	(27) "Outstanding money transmission" means a money
223	transmission to a designated recipient or a refund to a sender
224	that has not been completed.
225	(28) "Outstanding payment instrument" means an unpaid
226	payment instrument whose sale has been reported to a licensee.
227	(29) "Payment instrument" means a check, draft, warrant,
228	money order, travelers check, electronic instrument, or other
229	instrument, payment of money, or monetary value whether or not
230	negotiable. The term does not include an instrument that is
231	redeemable by the issuer in merchandise or service, a credit
232	card voucher, or a letter of credit.
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I	21-01162C-22 20221536
233	(30) "Payment instrument seller" means a corporation,
234	limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or
235	foreign entity qualified to do business in this state which
236	sells a payment instrument.
237	(31) "Person" means an individual, partnership,
238	association, trust, corporation, limited liability company, or
239	other group, however organized, but does not include a public
240	agency or instrumentality thereof.
241	(32) "Personal identification information" means a
242	customer's name that, alone or together with any of the
243	following information, may be used to identify that specific
244	customer:
245	(a) Customer's signature.
246	(b) Photograph, digital image, or other likeness of the
247	customer.
248	(c) Unique biometric data, such as the customer's
249	thumbprint or fingerprint, voice print, retina or iris image, or
250	other unique physical representation of the customer.
251	(33) "Responsible person" means an individual who is
252	employed by or affiliated with a money services business and who
253	has principal active management authority over the business
254	decisions, actions, and activities of the money services
255	business in this state.
256	(33) (34) "Sells" means to sell, issue, provide, or deliver.
257	(34) (35) "Stored value" means funds or monetary value
258	represented in digital electronic format, whether or not
259	specially encrypted, and stored or capable of storage on
260	electronic media in such a way as to be retrievable and
261	transferred electronically.
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262	Section 2. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (2) of
263	section 560.105, Florida Statutes, to read:
264	560.105 Supervisory powers; rulemaking
265	(2) The commission may adopt rules pursuant to ss.
266	120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this chapter.
267	(c)1. The commission may adopt rules establishing time
268	periods during which a money services business is precluded from
269	holding a license due to prior criminal convictions of or guilty
270	or nolo contendere pleas by an applicant's control person,
271	regardless of adjudication which:
272	a. Must provide a 15-year disqualifying period for felonies
273	involving fraud, dishonesty, breach of trust, money laundering,
274	or other acts of moral turpitude.
275	b. Must provide a 7-year disqualifying period for all other
276	felonies.
277	c. Must provide a 5-year disqualifying period for
278	misdemeanors involving fraud, dishonesty, or any other act of
279	moral turpitude.
280	d. May provide for an additional disqualification period
281	due to dates of imprisonment or community supervision, the
282	commitment of multiple crimes, and other factors reasonably
283	related to the applicant's criminal history.
284	e. May provide for mitigating factors and reduce by no more
285	than half the disqualifying period for crimes identified in sub-
286	subparagraphs a., b., and c. Mitigating factors are limited to
287	the following:
288	(I) Demonstration that the applicant's control person would
289	not pose a significant threat to the public welfare if the
290	applicant were to be licensed as a money services business with

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291	the control person.
292	(II) Demonstration that the applicant's control person was,
293	at the time of the specified crime, impaired or substance abuse
294	impaired as defined in s. 397.311 and that the control person
295	has successfully completed a substance abuse treatment program
296	with a licensed service provider as defined in s. 397.311 or
297	with a similarly licensed provider in another jurisdiction.
298	(III) The applicant's control person was under the age of
299	21 when the crime was committed.
300	(IV) The absence of other disciplinary history involving a
301	license granted by the office or criminal history for the
302	applicant's control person.
303	(V) Demonstration that the applicant's control person has
304	timely made restitution or rectified the consequences of the
305	crime committed.
306	2. For purposes of this paragraph, the disqualifying period
307	begins on the date the applicant's control person was found
308	guilty, pled guilty, or pled nolo contendere to a crime. The
309	office may not issue a license to an applicant unless all of the
310	control person's related fines, court costs and fees, and court-
311	ordered restitution have been paid.
312	3. Section 112.011 does not apply to eligibility for
313	licensure under this part.
314	Section 3. Subsections (9) and (10) are added to section
315	560.114, Florida Statutes, and paragraph (c) of subsection (2)
316	of that section is reenacted for the purpose of incorporating
317	the amendment to section 560.141, Florida Statutes, in a
318	reference thereto, to read:
319	560.114 Disciplinary actions; penalties
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21-01162C-22 20221536 320 (2) Pursuant to s. 120.60(6), the office may summarily 321 suspend the license of a money services business if the office finds that a licensee poses an immediate, serious danger to the 322 323 public health, safety, and welfare. A proceeding in which the 324 office seeks the issuance of a final order for the summary 325 suspension of a licensee shall be conducted by the commissioner 326 of the office, or his or her designee, who shall issue such 327 order. The following acts are deemed to constitute an immediate 328 and serious danger to the public health, safety, and welfare, 329 and the office may immediately suspend the license of a money 330 services business if: 331 (c) A natural person required to be listed on the license 332 application for a money services business pursuant to s. 333 560.141(1)(a)3. is criminally charged with, or arrested for, a 334 crime described in paragraph (1)(o), paragraph (1)(p), or 335 paragraph(1)(q). 336 (9) The office may bar, permanently or for a specific time 337 period, any person found to have violated any provision of this chapter, any rule or order adopted by the commission or office, 338 339 or any written agreement entered into with the office, from 340 holding a license with the office or from acting as a control 341 person of a money services business. 342 (10) The office may suspend the license of a money services business issued pursuant to s. 560.141 if a control person of a 343 344 money services business is arrested for any conduct that would 345 authorize revocation under subsection (1). 346 (a) Any order of suspension under this subsection must: 347 1. Take effect only after a hearing, unless no hearing is requested by the licensee or unless the suspension is made in 348

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349	accordance with s. 120.60(6).
350	2. Contain a finding that evidence of a prima facie case
351	supports the charge made in the criminal prosecution.
352	3. Operate for no longer than 10 calendar days after
353	receipt of notice by the office of termination of the pending
354	criminal prosecution.
355	(b) For purposes of this subsection, a criminal prosecution
356	is considered pending upon filing of criminal charges and is
357	considered terminated upon conviction, acquittal, or dismissal.
358	Section 4. Subsection (2) of section 560.118, Florida
359	Statutes, is amended to read:
360	560.118 Reports
361	(2) Each licensee must submit quarterly reports to the
362	office in a format and include information as specified by rule.
363	The rule may require the report to contain a declaration by \underline{a}
364	control an officer, or any other responsible person authorized
365	to make such declaration, that the report is true and correct to
366	the best of her or his knowledge and belief.
367	Section 5. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section
368	560.123, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
369	560.123 Florida Control of Money Laundering in Money
370	Services Business Act
371	(3) A money services business shall keep a record of each
372	financial transaction occurring in this state which it knows to
373	involve currency or other payment instrument, as prescribed by
374	the commission, having a value greater than \$10,000; to involve
375	the proceeds of specified unlawful activity; or to be designed
376	to evade the reporting requirements of this section or chapter
377	896. The money services business must maintain appropriate

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378	procedures to ensure compliance with this section and chapter
379	896.
380	(d) A money services business, or <u>control person</u> officer ,
381	employee, or agent thereof, that files a report in good faith
382	pursuant to this section is not liable to any person for loss or
383	damage caused in whole or in part by the making, filing, or
384	governmental use of the report, or any information contained
385	therein.
386	Section 6. Subsection (3) of section 560.126, Florida
387	Statutes, is amended to read:
388	560.126 Required notice by licensee
389	(3) Each licensee must report any change in the <u>control</u>
390	partners, officers, members, joint venturers, directors,
391	controlling shareholders, or responsible persons of the licensee
392	or changes in the form of business organization by written
393	amendment in such form and at such time as specified by rule.
394	(a) If any person, directly or indirectly or acting by or
395	through one or more persons, proposes to purchase or acquire a
396	controlling interest in a licensee, such person or group must
397	submit an application for licensure as a money services business
398	or deferred presentment provider before such purchase or
399	acquisition at such time and in such form as prescribed by rule.
400	As used in this subsection, the term "controlling interest"
401	means the same as described in s. 560.127.
402	(b) The addition of a <u>control person</u> partner, officer,
403	member, joint venturer, director, controlling shareholder, or
404	responsible person of the applicant who does not have a
405	controlling interest and who has not previously complied with
406	the applicable provisions of ss. 560.1401 and 560.141 is subject

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407	to such provisions. If the office determines that the licensee
408	does not continue to meet the licensure requirements, the office
409	may bring an administrative action in accordance with s. 560.114
410	to enforce the provisions of this chapter.
411	(c) The commission shall adopt rules providing for the
412	waiver of the license application required by this subsection if
413	the person or group of persons proposing to purchase or acquire
414	a controlling interest in a licensee has previously complied
415	with the applicable provisions of ss. 560.1401 and 560.141 under
416	the same legal entity or is currently licensed under this
417	chapter.
418	Section 7. Section 560.127, Florida Statutes, is repealed.
419	Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
420	560.141, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
421	560.141 License application
422	(1) To apply for a license as a money services business
423	under this chapter, the applicant must submit:
424	(a) An application to the office on forms prescribed by
425	rule which includes the following information:
426	1. The legal name and address of the applicant, including
427	any fictitious or trade names used by the applicant in the
428	conduct of its business.
429	2. The date of the applicant's formation and the state in
430	which the applicant was formed, if applicable.
431	3. The name, social security number, alien identification
432	or taxpayer identification number, business and residence
433	addresses, and employment history for the past 5 years for each
434	control person officer, director, responsible person, the
435	compliance officer, each controlling shareholder, and any other
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436	person who has a controlling interest in the money services
437	business as provided in s. 560.127.
438	4. A description of the organizational structure of the
439	applicant, including the identity of any parent or subsidiary of
440	the applicant, and the disclosure of whether any parent or
441	subsidiary is publicly traded.
442	5. The applicant's history of operations in other states if
443	applicable and a description of the money services business or
444	deferred presentment provider activities proposed to be
445	conducted by the applicant in this state.
446	6. If the applicant or its parent is a publicly traded
447	company, copies of all filings made by the applicant with the
448	United States Securities and Exchange Commission, or with a
449	similar regulator in a country other than the United States,
450	within the preceding year.
451	7. The location at which the applicant proposes to
452	establish its principal place of business and any other
453	location, including branch offices and authorized vendors
454	operating in this state. For each branch office and each
455	location of an authorized vendor, the applicant shall include
456	the nonrefundable fee required by s. 560.143.
457	8. The name and address of the clearing financial
458	institution or financial institutions through which the
459	applicant's payment instruments are drawn or through which the

460 payment instruments are payable.

9. The history of the applicant's material litigation,
criminal convictions, pleas of nolo contendere, and cases of
adjudication withheld.

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10. The history of material litigation, arrests, criminal

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465	convictions, pleas of nolo contendere, and cases of adjudication
466	withheld for each control executive officer, director,
467	controlling shareholder, and responsible person.
468	11. The name of the registered agent in this state for
469	service of process unless the applicant is a sole proprietor.
470	12. Any other information specified in this chapter or by
471	rule.
472	Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 560.143, Florida
473	Statutes, is amended to read:
474	560.143 Fees
475	(1) LICENSE APPLICATION FEES.—The applicable non-refundable
476	fees must accompany an application for licensure:
477	(a) Part II\$375.
478	(b) Part III\$188.
479	(c) Per branch office\$38.
480	(d) For each location of an authorized
481	vendor\$38.
482	(e) Declaration as a deferred presentment
483	provider\$1,000.
484	(f) Fingerprint retention fees as prescribed by rule.
485	(g) License application fees for branch offices and
486	authorized vendors are limited to \$20,000 when such fees are
487	assessed as a result of a change in <u>control</u> controlling interest
488	as defined in s. 560.127.
489	Section 10. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment
490	made by this act to sections 560.118 and 560.141, Florida
491	Statutes, in references thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (4)
492	of section 559.952, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:
493	559.952 Financial Technology Sandbox.—

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494	(4) EXCEPTIONS TO GENERAL LAW AND WAIVERS OF RULE
495	REQUIREMENTS
496	(a) Notwithstanding any other law, upon approval of a
497	Financial Technology Sandbox application, the following
498	provisions and corresponding rule requirements are not
499	applicable to the licensee during the sandbox period:
500	1. Section 516.03(1), except for the application fee, the
501	investigation fee, the requirement to provide the social
502	security numbers of control persons, evidence of liquid assets
503	of at least \$25,000, and the office's authority to investigate
504	the applicant's background. The office may prorate the license
505	renewal fee for an extension granted under subsection (7).
506	2. Section 516.05(1) and (2), except that the office shall
507	investigate the applicant's background.
508	3. Section 560.109, only to the extent that the section
509	requires the office to examine a licensee at least once every 5
510	years.
511	4. Section 560.118(2).
512	5. Section 560.125(1), only to the extent that the
513	subsection would prohibit a licensee from engaging in the
514	business of a money transmitter or payment instrument seller
515	during the sandbox period.
516	6. Section 560.125(2), only to the extent that the
517	subsection would prohibit a licensee from appointing an
518	authorized vendor during the sandbox period. Any authorized
519	vendor of such a licensee during the sandbox period remains
520	liable to the holder or remitter.
521	7. Section 560.128.
522	8. Section 560.141, except for s. 560.141(1)(a)1., 3., 7
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523	10. and (b), (c), and (d).
524	9. Section 560.142(1) and (2), except that the office may
525	prorate, but may not entirely eliminate, the license renewal
526	fees in s. 560.143 for an extension granted under subsection
527	(7).
528	10. Section 560.143(2), only to the extent necessary for
529	proration of the renewal fee under subparagraph 9.
530	11. Section 560.204(1), only to the extent that the
531	subsection would prohibit a licensee from engaging in, or
532	advertising that it engages in, the selling or issuing of
533	payment instruments or in the activity of a money transmitter
534	during the sandbox period.
535	12. Section 560.205(2).
536	13. Section 560.208(2).
537	14. Section 560.209, only to the extent that the office may
538	modify, but may not entirely eliminate, the net worth, corporate
539	surety bond, and collateral deposit amounts required under that
540	section. The modified amounts must be in such lower amounts that
541	the office determines to be commensurate with the factors under
542	paragraph (5)(c) and the maximum number of consumers authorized
543	to receive the financial product or service under this section.
544	Section 11. This act shall take effect October 1, 2022.

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.