By the Committees on Commerce and Tourism; and Banking and Insurance; and Senator Boyd

	577-02517-22 20221536c2
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. 560.118, F.S.; providing that
6	a rule may require certain reports to the Office of
7	Financial Regulation to contain declarations by
8	control persons, rather than officers or other
9	responsible persons; amending s. 560.123, F.S.;
10	providing that control persons, rather than officers,
11	are not liable for loss or damages under certain
12	circumstances; amending s. 560.126, F.S.; requiring
13	licensees to report changes in control persons, rather
14	than certain other entities or persons; deleting a
15	requirement for certain persons to submit a licensure
16	application under certain circumstances; deleting the
17	definition of the term "controlling interest";
18	providing that the addition of a control person,
19	rather than certain other entities or persons, is
20	subject to certain requirements; deleting a
21	requirement for the Financial Services Commission to
22	adopt rules; repealing s. 560.127, F.S., relating to
23	control of a money services business; amending s.
24	560.141, F.S.; revising requirements for applications
25	for licensure as a money services business; deleting
26	the definition of the term "publicly traded"; deleting
27	obsolete language; amending s. 560.143, F.S.; removing
28	a limitation on specified license application fees
29	under certain circumstances; reenacting s.

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30	559.952(4)(a), F.S., relating to the Financial
31	Technology Sandbox, to incorporate the amendments made
32	to ss. 560.118 and 560.141, F.S., in references
33	thereto; reenacting s. 560.114(2)(c), F.S., relating
34	to disciplinary actions and penalties, to incorporate
35	the amendment made to s. 560.141, F.S., in a reference
36	thereto; providing an effective date.
37	
38	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
39	
40	Section 1. Section 560.103, Florida Statutes, is amended to
41	read:
42	560.103 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:
43	(1) "Affiliated party" means a <u>control</u> director, officer,
44	responsible person, employee, or foreign affiliate of a money
45	services business, or a person who has a controlling interest in
46	a money services business as provided in s. 560.127.
47	(2) "Appropriate regulator" means a state, federal, or
48	foreign agency that has been granted authority to enforce state,
49	federal, or foreign laws related to a money services business or
50	deferred presentment provider.
51	(3) "Authorized vendor" means a person designated by a
52	money services business licensed under part II of this chapter
53	to act on behalf of the licensee at locations in this state
54	pursuant to a written contract with the licensee.
55	(4) "Branch office" means the physical location, other than
56	the principal place of business, of a money services business
57	operated by a licensee under this chapter.
58	(5) "Cashing" means providing currency for payment
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59	instruments except for travelers checks.
60	(6) "Check casher" means a person who sells currency in
61	exchange for payment instruments received, except travelers
62	checks.
63	(7) "Commission" means the Financial Services Commission.
64	(8) "Compliance officer" means the individual in charge of
65	overseeing, managing, and ensuring that a money services
66	business is in compliance with all state and federal laws and
67	rules relating to money services businesses, as applicable,
68	including all money laundering laws and rules.
69	(9) "Conductor" means a natural person who presents himself
70	or herself to a licensee for purposes of cashing a payment
71	instrument.
72	(10) "Control person" means:
73	(a) A person who possesses the power, directly or
74	indirectly, to direct the management or policies of a money
75	services business, whether through ownership of securities, by
76	contract, or through other means, and regardless of whether such
77	person has an official title or receives a salary or other
78	compensation. The following persons are each presumed to be a
79	control person:
80	1. The president, chief executive officer, chief financial
81	officer, chief operations officer, chief legal officer, and
82	compliance officer.
83	2. A person holding any of the officer positions named in
84	the money services business's governing documents.
85	3. A person holding any position named by the money
86	services business's liability insurance coverage for directors
87	and officers, if the business has such coverage.

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88	4. A director of the money services business's board of
89	directors.
90	(b) For a corporation that is not publicly traded, all
91	shareholders that, directly or indirectly, own 25 percent or
92	more or that have the power to vote 25 percent or more of a
93	class of voting securities.
94	(c) For a partnership, all general partners and those
95	limited or special partners that have contributed 25 percent or
96	more or that have the right to receive upon dissolution 25
97	percent or more of the partnership's capital.
98	(d) For a trust, all trustees.
99	(e) For a limited liability company, all managers and those
100	members that have contributed 25 percent or more or that have
101	the right to receive upon dissolution 25 percent or more of the
102	limited liability company's capital.
103	(11) (10) "Corporate payment instrument" means a payment
104	instrument on which the payee named on the instrument's face is
105	other than a natural person.
106	(12) (11) "Currency" means the coin and paper money of the
107	United States or of any other country which is designated as
108	legal tender and which circulates and is customarily used and
109	accepted as a medium of exchange in the country of issuance.
110	Currency includes United States silver certificates, United
111	States notes, and Federal Reserve notes. Currency also includes
112	official foreign bank notes that are customarily used and
113	accepted as a medium of exchange in a foreign country.
114	(13) (12) "Deferred presentment provider" means a person who
115	is licensed under part II or part III of this chapter and has
116	filed a declaration of intent with the office to engage in

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Services.

577-02517-2220221536c2117deferred presentment transactions as provided under part IV of118this chapter.119(14) (13)`Department'' means the Department of Financial

121 <u>(15) (14)</u> "Electronic instrument" means a card, tangible 122 object, or other form of electronic payment for the transmission 123 or payment of money or the exchange of monetary value, including 124 a stored value card or device that contains a microprocessor 125 chip, magnetic stripe, or other means for storing information; 126 that is prefunded; and for which the value is decremented upon 127 each use.

128 <u>(16)</u> (15) "Financial audit report" means a report prepared 129 in connection with a financial audit that is conducted in 130 accordance with generally accepted auditing standards prescribed 131 by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants by a 132 certified public accountant licensed to do business in the 133 United States, and which must include:

(a) Financial statements, including notes related to the
financial statements and required supplementary information,
prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally
accepted in the United States. The notes must, at a minimum,
include detailed disclosures regarding receivables that are
greater than 90 days, if the total amount of such receivables
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.

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146	<u>(17)</u> "Foreign affiliate" means a person located outside
147	this state who has been designated by a licensee to make
148	payments on behalf of the licensee to persons who reside outside
149	this state. The term also includes a person located outside of
150	this state for whom the licensee has been designated to make
151	payments in this state.
152	(18) (17) "Foreign currency exchanger" means a person who
153	exchanges, for compensation, currency of the United States or a
154	foreign government to currency of another government.
155	(19) (18) "Fraudulent identification paraphernalia" means
156	all equipment, products, or materials of any kind that are used,
157	intended for use, or designed for use in the misrepresentation
158	of a customer's identity. The term includes, but is not limited
159	to:
160	(a) A signature stamp, thumbprint stamp, or other tool or
161	device used to forge a customer's personal identification
162	information.
163	(b) An original of any type of personal identification
164	listed in s. 560.310(2)(b) which is blank, stolen, or unlawfully
165	issued.
166	(c) A blank, forged, fictitious, or counterfeit instrument
167	in the similitude of any type of personal identification listed
168	in s. 560.310(2)(b) which would in context lead a reasonably
169	prudent person to believe that such instrument is an authentic
170	original of such personal identification.
171	(d) Counterfeit, fictitious, or fabricated information in
172	the similitude of a customer's personal identification
173	information that, although not authentic, would in context lead
174	a reasonably prudent person to credit its authenticity.

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577-02517-22 20221536c2 175 (20) (19) "Licensee" means a person licensed under this 176 chapter. 177 (21) (20) "Location" means a branch office, mobile location, 178 or location of an authorized vendor whose business activity is 179 regulated under this chapter. (22) (21) "Monetary value" means a medium of exchange, 180 181 whether or not redeemable in currency. 182 (23) (22) "Money services business" means any person located in or doing business in this state, from this state, or into 183 184 this state from locations outside this state or country who acts 185 as a payment instrument seller, foreign currency exchanger, 186 check casher, or money transmitter. (24) (23) "Money transmitter" means a corporation, limited 187 188 liability company, limited liability partnership, or foreign 189 entity qualified to do business in this state which receives 190 currency, monetary value, or payment instruments for the purpose 191 of transmitting the same by any means, including transmission by 192 wire, facsimile, electronic transfer, courier, the Internet, or 193 through bill payment services or other businesses that 194 facilitate such transfer within this country, or to or from this 195 country. 196 (25) (24) "Net worth" means assets minus liabilities,

197 determined in accordance with United States generally accepted 198 accounting principles.

199 (26) (25) "Office" means the Office of Financial Regulation 200 of the commission.

201 (26) "Officer" means an individual, other than a director, 202 who participates in, or has authority to participate in, the 203 major policymaking functions of a money services business,

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577-02517-22 20221536c2 204 regardless of whether the individual has an official title or 205 receives a salary or other compensation. (27) "Outstanding money transmission" means a money 206 207 transmission to a designated recipient or a refund to a sender 208 that has not been completed. 209 (28) "Outstanding payment instrument" means an unpaid 210 payment instrument whose sale has been reported to a licensee. 211 (29) "Payment instrument" means a check, draft, warrant, money order, travelers check, electronic instrument, or other 212 213 instrument, payment of money, or monetary value whether or not 214 negotiable. The term does not include an instrument that is 215 redeemable by the issuer in merchandise or service, a credit 216 card voucher, or a letter of credit. 217 (30) "Payment instrument seller" means a corporation, 218 limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or foreign entity qualified to do business in this state which 219 220 sells a payment instrument. 221 (31) "Person" means an individual, partnership, 222 association, trust, corporation, limited liability company, or 223 other group, however organized, but does not include a public 224 agency or instrumentality thereof. 225 (32) "Personal identification information" means a 226 customer's name that, alone or together with any of the 227 following information, may be used to identify that specific 228 customer: 229 (a) Customer's signature. 230 (b) Photograph, digital image, or other likeness of the 231 customer. (c) Unique biometric data, such as the customer's 232

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577-02517-22 20221536c2 233 thumbprint or fingerprint, voice print, retina or iris image, or 234 other unique physical representation of the customer. 235 (33) "Publicly traded" means a stock is currently traded on 236 a national securities exchange registered with the Securities 237 and Exchange Commission, or traded on an exchange in a country 238 other than the United States regulated by a regulator equivalent 239 to the Securities and Exchange Commission and the disclosure and 240 reporting requirements of such regulator are substantially 241 similar to those of the Securities and Exchange Commission 242 "Responsible person" means an individual who is employed by or 243 affiliated with a money services business and who has principal 244 active management authority over the business decisions, 245 actions, and activities of the money services business in this 246 state.

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(34) "Sells" means to sell, issue, provide, or deliver.

(35) "Stored value" means funds or monetary value represented in digital electronic format, whether or not specially encrypted, and stored or capable of storage on electronic media in such a way as to be retrievable and transferred electronically.

253 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 560.118, Florida 254 Statutes, is amended to read:

560.118 Reports.-

(2) Each licensee must submit quarterly reports to the
office in a format and include information as specified by rule.
The rule may require the report to contain a declaration by <u>a</u>
<u>control</u> an officer, or any other responsible person authorized
to make such declaration, that the report is true and correct to
the best of her or his knowledge and belief.

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577-02517-22 20221536c2 262 Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section 263 560.123, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 264 560.123 Florida Control of Money Laundering in Money 265 Services Business Act.-266 (3) A money services business shall keep a record of each 267 financial transaction occurring in this state which it knows to 268 involve currency or other payment instrument, as prescribed by 269 the commission, having a value greater than \$10,000; to involve 270 the proceeds of specified unlawful activity; or to be designed 271 to evade the reporting requirements of this section or chapter 272 896. The money services business must maintain appropriate 273 procedures to ensure compliance with this section and chapter 274 896. 275 (d) A money services business, or control person officer, 276 employee, or agent thereof, that files a report in good faith 277 pursuant to this section is not liable to any person for loss or 278 damage caused in whole or in part by the making, filing, or 279 governmental use of the report, or any information contained 280 therein. 281 Section 4. Subsection (3) of section 560.126, Florida 282 Statutes, is amended to read: 283 560.126 Required notice by licensee.-284 (3) Each licensee must report any change in the control 285 partners, officers, members, joint venturers, directors, 286 controlling shareholders, or responsible persons of the licensee 287 or changes in the form of business organization by written 288 amendment in such form and at such time as specified by rule.

289 (a) If any person, directly or indirectly or acting by or
 290 through one or more persons, proposes to purchase or acquire a

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577-02517-22 20221536c2 291 controlling interest in a licensee, such person or group must 292 submit an application for licensure as a money services business 293 or deferred presentment provider before such purchase or 294 acquisition at such time and in such form as prescribed by rule. 295 As used in this subsection, the term "controlling interest" 296 means the same as described in s. 560.127. 297 (b) The addition of a control person partner, officer, 298 member, joint venturer, director, controlling shareholder, or 299 responsible person of the applicant who does not have a 300 controlling interest and who has not previously complied with 301 the applicable provisions of ss. 560.1401 and 560.141 is subject 302 to such provisions. If the office determines that the licensee 303 does not continue to meet the licensure requirements, the office 304 may bring an administrative action in accordance with s. 560.114 305 to enforce the provisions of this chapter. 306 (c) The commission shall adopt rules providing for the 307 waiver of the license application required by this subsection if 308 the person or group of persons proposing to purchase or acquire 309 a controlling interest in a licensee has previously complied 310 with the applicable provisions of ss. 560.1401 and 560.141 under the same legal entity or is currently licensed under this 311 312 chapter. 313 Section 5. Section 560.127, Florida Statutes, is repealed. 314 Section 6. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1) of section 560.141, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 315 560.141 License application.-316 317 (1) To apply for a license as a money services business under this chapter, the applicant must submit: 318 (a) An application to the office on forms prescribed by 319

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577-02517-22 20221536c2 320 rule which includes the following information: 321 1. The legal name and address of the applicant, including 322 any fictitious or trade names used by the applicant in the 323 conduct of its business. 324 2. The date of the applicant's formation and the state in 325 which the applicant was formed, if applicable. 326 3. The name, social security number, alien identification 327 or taxpayer identification number, business and residence 328 addresses, and employment history for the past 5 years for each 329 control person officer, director, responsible person, the 330 compliance officer, each controlling shareholder, and any other 331 person who has a controlling interest in the money services 332 business as provided in s. 560.127. 333 4. A description of the organizational structure of the 334 applicant, including the identity of any parent or subsidiary of 335 the applicant, and the disclosure of whether any parent or 336 subsidiary is publicly traded. 337 5. The applicant's history of operations in other states if applicable and a description of the money services business or 338 339 deferred presentment provider activities proposed to be

341 6. If the applicant or its parent is a publicly traded
342 company, copies of all filings made by the applicant with the
343 United States Securities and Exchange Commission, or with a
344 similar regulator in a country other than the United States,
345 within the preceding year.

conducted by the applicant in this state.

346 7. The location at which the applicant proposes to 347 establish its principal place of business and any other 348 location, including branch offices and authorized vendors

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349	operating in this state. For each branch office and each
350	location of an authorized vendor, the applicant shall include
351	the nonrefundable fee required by s. 560.143.
352	8. The name and address of the clearing financial
353	institution or financial institutions through which the
354	applicant's payment instruments are drawn or through which the
355	payment instruments are payable.
356	9. The history of the applicant's material litigation,
357	criminal convictions, pleas of nolo contendere, and cases of
358	adjudication withheld.
359	10. The history of material litigation, arrests, criminal
360	convictions, pleas of nolo contendere, and cases of adjudication
361	withheld for each control executive officer, director,
362	controlling shareholder, and responsible person.
363	11. The name of the registered agent in this state for
364	service of process unless the applicant is a sole proprietor.
365	12. Any other information specified in this chapter or by
366	rule.
367	(c) Fingerprints for each person listed in subparagraph
368	(a)3. for live-scan processing in accordance with rules adopted
369	by the commission.
370	1. The fingerprints may be submitted through a third-party
371	vendor authorized by the Department of Law Enforcement to
372	provide live-scan fingerprinting.
373	2. The Department of Law Enforcement must conduct the state
374	criminal history background check, and a federal criminal
375	history background check must be conducted through the Federal
376	Bureau of Investigation.
377	3. All fingerprints submitted to the Department of Law
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577-02517-22 20221536c2 378 Enforcement must be submitted electronically and entered into 379 the statewide automated fingerprint identification system 380 established in s. 943.05(2)(b) and available for use in 381 accordance with s. 943.05(2)(q) and (h). The office shall pay an 382 annual fee to the Department of Law Enforcement to participate 383 in the system and shall inform the Department of Law Enforcement 384 of any person whose fingerprints no longer must be retained. 385 4. The costs of fingerprint processing, including the cost 386 of retaining the fingerprints, shall be borne by the person 387 subject to the background check. 388 5. The office shall review the results of the state and 389 federal criminal history background checks and determine whether 390 the applicant meets licensure requirements. 391 6. For purposes of this paragraph, fingerprints are not required to be submitted if the applicant is a publicly traded 392 393 corporation or is exempted from this chapter under s. 394 560.104(1). The term "publicly traded" means a stock is 395 currently traded on a national securities exchange registered 396 with the federal Securities and Exchange Commission or traded on 397 an exchange in a country other than the United States regulated 398 by a regulator equivalent to the Securities and Exchange 399 Commission and the disclosure and reporting requirements of such 400 regulator are substantially similar to those of the commission. 401 7. Licensees initially approved before October 1, 2013, who 402 are seeking renewal must submit fingerprints for each person 403 listed in subparagraph (a)3. for live-scan processing pursuant 404 to this paragraph. Such fingerprints must be submitted before 405 renewing a license that is scheduled to expire between April 30, 2014, and December 31, 2015. 406

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407	Section 7. Subsection (1) of section 560.143, Florida	
408	Statutes, is amended to read:	
409	560.143 Fees	
410	(1) LICENSE APPLICATION FEES.—The applicable non-refundable	
411	fees must accompany an application for licensure:	
412	(a) Part II\$375.	
413	(b) Part III\$188.	
414	(c) Per branch office\$38.	
415	(d) For each location of an authorized	
416	vendor\$38.	
417	(e) Declaration as a deferred presentment	
418	provider\$1,000.	
419	(f) Fingerprint retention fees as prescribed by rule.	
420	(g) License application fees for branch offices and	
421	authorized vendors are limited to \$20,000 when such fees are	
422	assessed as a result of a change in controlling interest as	
423	defined in s. 560.127.	
424	Section 8. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments	
425	made by this act to sections 560.118 and 560.141, Florida	
426	Statutes, in references thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (4)	
427	of section 559.952, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:	
428	559.952 Financial Technology Sandbox.—	
429	(4) EXCEPTIONS TO GENERAL LAW AND WAIVERS OF RULE	
430	REQUIREMENTS	
431	(a) Notwithstanding any other law, upon approval of a	
432	Financial Technology Sandbox application, the following	
433	provisions and corresponding rule requirements are not	
434	applicable to the licensee during the sandbox period:	
435	1. Section 516.03(1), except for the application fee, the	
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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.		

577-02517-22 20221536c2 436 investigation fee, the requirement to provide the social 437 security numbers of control persons, evidence of liquid assets 438 of at least \$25,000, and the office's authority to investigate 439 the applicant's background. The office may prorate the license 440 renewal fee for an extension granted under subsection (7). 2. Section 516.05(1) and (2), except that the office shall 441 442 investigate the applicant's background. 3. Section 560.109, only to the extent that the section 443 requires the office to examine a licensee at least once every 5 444 445 years. 446 4. Section 560.118(2). 5. Section 560.125(1), only to the extent that the 447 448 subsection would prohibit a licensee from engaging in the 449 business of a money transmitter or payment instrument seller 450 during the sandbox period. 451 6. Section 560.125(2), only to the extent that the 452 subsection would prohibit a licensee from appointing an 453 authorized vendor during the sandbox period. Any authorized 454 vendor of such a licensee during the sandbox period remains 455 liable to the holder or remitter. 7. Section 560.128. 456 457 8. Section 560.141, except for s. 560.141(1)(a)1., 3., 7.-10. and (b), (c), and (d). 458 9. Section 560.142(1) and (2), except that the office may 459 460 prorate, but may not entirely eliminate, the license renewal 461 fees in s. 560.143 for an extension granted under subsection 462 (7). 10. Section 560.143(2), only to the extent necessary for 463 proration of the renewal fee under subparagraph 9. 464

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465
          11. Section 560.204(1), only to the extent that the
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     subsection would prohibit a licensee from engaging in, or
467
     advertising that it engages in, the selling or issuing of
468
     payment instruments or in the activity of a money transmitter
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     during the sandbox period.
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          12. Section 560.205(2).
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          13. Section 560.208(2).
          14. Section 560.209, only to the extent that the office may
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     modify, but may not entirely eliminate, the net worth, corporate
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     surety bond, and collateral deposit amounts required under that
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     section. The modified amounts must be in such lower amounts that
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     the office determines to be commensurate with the factors under
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     paragraph (5)(c) and the maximum number of consumers authorized
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     to receive the financial product or service under this section.
479
          Section 9. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment
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     made by this act to section 560.141, Florida Statutes, in a
481
     reference thereto, paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section
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     560.114, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:
483
          560.114 Disciplinary actions; penalties.-
484
          (2) Pursuant to s. 120.60(6), the office may summarily
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     suspend the license of a money services business if the office
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     finds that a licensee poses an immediate, serious danger to the
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     public health, safety, and welfare. A proceeding in which the
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     office seeks the issuance of a final order for the summary
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     suspension of a licensee shall be conducted by the commissioner
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     of the office, or his or her designee, who shall issue such
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     order. The following acts are deemed to constitute an immediate
492
     and serious danger to the public health, safety, and welfare,
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493 and the office may immediately suspend the license of a money

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494	services business if:
495	(c) A natural person required to be listed on the license
496	application for a money services business pursuant to s.
497	560.141(1)(a)3. is criminally charged with, or arrested for, a
498	crime described in paragraph (1)(o), paragraph (1)(p), or
499	paragraph(1)(q).
500	Section 10. This act shall take effect October 1, 2022.