LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate Comm: RS 04/21/2023 House

The Committee on Fiscal Policy (Hutson) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert: Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (10) of section 624.307, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 624.307 General powers; duties.-(10) (b) Any person licensed or issued a certificate of authority by the department or the office shall respond, in

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11 writing or electronically, to the division within 14 20 days 12 after receipt of a written request for documents and information 13 from the division concerning a consumer complaint. The response 14 must address the issues and allegations raised in the complaint and include any requested documents concerning the consumer 15 16 complaint not subject to attorney-client or work-product 17 privilege. The division may impose an administrative penalty for 18 failure to comply with this paragraph of up to  $$5,000 \frac{$2,500}{$2,500}$  per 19 violation upon any entity licensed by the department or the 20 office and \$250 for the first violation, \$500 for the second 21 violation, and up to \$1,000 per for the third or subsequent 22 violation by upon any individual licensed by the department or 23 the office. 24 Section 2. Present subsection (4) of section 624.315, 25 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (5), and a new 26 subsection (4) is added to that section, to read: 27 624.315 Annual reports; quarterly reports report.-28 (4) (a) The office shall create a report detailing all actions of the office to enforce insurer compliance with this 29 30 code and all rules and orders of the office or department during 31 the previous year. For each of the following, the report must 32 detail the insurer or other licensee or registrant against whom 33 such action was taken; whether the office found any violation of law or rule by such party, and, if so, detail such violation; 34 35 and the resolution of such action, including any penalties 36 imposed by the office. The report must be published on the 37 website of the office and submitted to the commission, the 38 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of 39 Representatives, and the legislative committees with

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44registration issued by the office.452. All actions taken pursuant to s. 624.310.463. Fines imposed by the office for violations of this code474. Consent orders entered into by the office.485. Examinations and investigations conducted and completed49by the office pursuant to ss. 624.316 and 624.3161.506. Investigations conducted and completed, by line of51insurance, for which the office found violations of law or rule52but did not take enforcement action.53(b) Each quarter, the office to enforce insurer55compliance during the previous quarter. The report must include56but not be limited to, the subjects that must be included in th57annual report under paragraph (a). The report must be submitted58to the commission, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of59the House of Representatives, and the legislative committees60on or before April 30, July 31, October 31, and January 31,62respectively, for the immediately preceding quarter. The report63(c) The office need not include within any report required64under this subsection information that would violate any67confidentiality provision included within any agreement, order,	40	jurisdiction over matters of insurance on or before January 31
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69	Section 3. Subsections (3) and (4) are added to section
70	624.316, Florida Statutes, to read:
71	624.316 Examination of insurers
72	(3) The office shall create, and the commission shall adopt
73	by rule, a risk-based selection methodology for scheduling
74	examinations of insurers subject to this section. This
75	requirement does not restrict the authority of the office to
76	conduct examinations under this section as often as it deems
77	advisable. Such methodology must include all of the following:
78	(a) Use of a risk-focused analysis to prioritize financial
79	examinations of insurers when such reporting indicates a decline
80	in the insurer's financial condition.
81	(b) Consideration of:
82	1. Level of capitalization and identification of
83	unfavorable trends;
84	2. Negative trends in profitability or cash flow from
85	operations;
86	3. National Association of Insurance Commissioners
87	Insurance Regulatory Information System ratio results;
88	4. Risk-based capital and risk-based capital trend test
89	results;
90	5. The structure and complexity of the insurer;
91	6. Changes in the insurer's officers or board of directors;
92	7. Changes in the insurer's business strategy or
93	operations;
94	8. Findings and recommendations from an examination made
95	pursuant to s. 624.316 or s. 624.3161;
96	9. Current or pending regulatory actions by the office or
97	the department;

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98	10. Information obtained from other regulatory agencies or
99	independent organization ratings and reports; and
100	11. The impact of an insurer's insolvency on policyholders
101	of the insurer and the public generally.
102	(c) Prioritization of property insurers for which the
103	office identifies significant concerns about an insurer's
104	solvency pursuant to s. 627.7154.
105	(d) Any other matters the office deems necessary to
106	consider for the protection of the public.
107	(4) To facilitate the development of the methodology for
108	scheduling examinations pursuant to this section, the commission
109	may adopt by rule the National Association of Insurance
110	Commissioners Financial Analysis Handbook, to the extent that
111	the handbook is consistent with and does not negate the
112	requirements of this section.
113	Section 4. Subsection (7) of section 624.3161, Florida
114	Statutes, is amended, and subsection (8) is added to that
115	section, to read:
116	624.3161 Market conduct examinations
117	(7) Notwithstanding subsection (1), any authorized insurer
118	transacting residential property insurance business in this
119	state <u>:</u>
120	(a) May be subject to an additional market conduct
121	examination after a hurricane if, at any time more than 90 days
122	after the end of the hurricane, the insurer:
123	<del>(a)</del> is among the top 20 percent of insurers based upon a
124	calculation of the ratio of hurricane-related property insurance
125	claims filed to the number of property insurance policies in
126	force;

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127	(b) Must be subject to a market conduct examination after a
128	hurricane if, at any time more than 90 days after the end of the
129	hurricane, the insurer:
130	1. Is among the top 20 percent of insurers based upon a
131	calculation of the ratio of <u>hurricane claim-related</u> consumer
132	complaints made <u>about that insurer</u> to the department to <u>the</u>
133	insurer's total number of hurricane-related claims;
134	2. Is among the top 20 percent of insurers based upon a
135	calculation of the ratio of hurricane claims closed without
136	payment to the insurer's total number of hurricane claims;
137	<u>3.(c)</u> Has made significant payments to its managing general
138	agent since the hurricane; or
139	4.(d) Is identified by the office as necessitating a market
140	conduct exam for any other reason.
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142	All relevant criteria under this section and s. 624.316 shall be
143	applied to the market conduct examination under this subsection.
144	Such an examination must be initiated within 18 months after the
145	landfall of a hurricane that results in an executive order or a
146	state of emergency issued by the Governor. The requirements of
147	this subsection do not limit the authority of the office to
148	conduct at any time a market conduct examination of a property
149	insurer in the aftermath of a hurricane. This subsection does
150	not require the office to conduct multiple market conduct
151	examinations of the same insurer when multiple hurricanes make
152	landfall in this state in a single calendar year. An examination
153	of an insurer under this subsection must also include an
154	examination of its managing general agent as if it were the
155	insurer.
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156	(8) The office shall create, and the commission shall adopt
157	by rule, a selection methodology for scheduling and conducting
158	market conduct examinations of insurers and other entities
159	regulated by the office. This requirement does not restrict the
160	authority of the office to conduct market conduct examinations
161	as often as it deems necessary. Such selection methodology must
162	prioritize market conduct examinations of insurers and other
163	entities regulated by the office to whom any of the following
164	conditions applies:
165	(a) An insurance regulator in another state has initiated
166	or taken regulatory action against the insurer or entity
167	regarding an act or omission of such insurer which, if committed
168	in this state, would constitute a violation of the laws of this
169	state or any rule or order of the office or department.
170	(b) Given the insurer's market share in this state, the
171	department or the office has received a disproportionate number
172	of the following types of claims-handling complaints against the
173	insurer:
174	1. Failure to timely communicate with respect to claims;
175	2. Failure to timely pay claims;
176	3. Untimely payments giving rise to the payment of
177	statutory interest;
178	4. Failure to adjust and pay claims in accordance with the
179	terms and conditions of the policy or contract and in compliance
180	with state law;
181	5. Violations of part IX of chapter 626, the Unfair
182	Insurance Trade Practices Act;
183	6. Failure to use licensed and duly appointed claims
184	adjusters;

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185	7. Failure to maintain reasonable claims records; or
186	8. Failure to adhere to the company's claims-handling
187	manual.
188	(c) The results of a National Association of Insurance
189	Commissioners Market Conduct Annual Statement indicate that the
190	insurer is a negative outlier with regard to particular metrics.
191	(d) There is evidence that the insurer is violating or has
192	violated the Unfair Insurance Trade Practices Act.
193	(e) The insurer meets the criteria in subsection (7).
194	(f) Any other conditions the office deems necessary for the
195	protection of the public.
196	
197	The office shall present the proposed rule required by this
198	subsection to the commission no later than October 1, 2023. In
199	addition to the methodology required by this subsection, the
200	rule must provide criteria for how the office, in coordination
201	with the department, will determine what constitutes a
202	disproportionate number of claims-handling complaints described
203	in paragraph (b).
204	Section 5. Section 624.4211, Florida Statutes, is amended
205	to read:
206	624.4211 Administrative fine in lieu of suspension or
207	revocation
208	(1) If the office finds that one or more grounds exist for
209	the discretionary revocation or suspension of a certificate of
210	authority issued under this chapter, the office may, in lieu of
211	such revocation or suspension, impose a fine upon the insurer.
212	(2) (a) With respect to <u>a</u> any nonwillful violation, such
213	fine may not exceed:

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1. Twenty-five thousand dollars per violation, up to an aggregate amount of \$100,000 for all nonwillful violations arising out of the same action, related to a covered loss or claim caused by an emergency for which the Governor declared a state of emergency pursuant to s. 252.36.

2. Twelve thousand five hundred dollars \$5,000 per violation, up to. In no event shall such fine exceed an aggregate amount of \$50,000 \$20,000 for all other nonwillful violations arising out of the same action.

223 (b) If an insurer discovers a nonwillful violation, the 224 insurer shall correct the violation and, if restitution is due, 225 make restitution to all affected persons. Such restitution shall 226 include interest at 12 percent per year from either the date of 227 the violation or the date of inception of the affected person's 228 policy, at the insurer's option. The restitution may be a credit 229 against future premiums due, provided that interest accumulates 230 until the premiums are due. If the amount of restitution due to 231 any person is \$50 or more and the insurer wishes to credit it 232 against future premiums, it shall notify such person that she or 233 he may receive a check instead of a credit. If the credit is on 234 a policy that is not renewed, the insurer shall pay the 235 restitution to the person to whom it is due.

(3) (a) With respect to <u>a</u> any knowing and willful violation of a lawful order or rule of the office or commission or a provision of this code, the office may impose a fine upon the insurer in an amount not to exceed:

240 <u>1. Two hundred thousand dollars for each such violation, up</u> 241 <u>to an aggregate amount of \$1 million for all knowing and willful</u> 242 <u>violations arising out of the same action, related to a covered</u>

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loss or claim caused by an emergency for which the Governor 243 244 declared a state of emergency pursuant to s. 252.36. 245 2. One hundred thousand dollars  $\frac{40,000}{1000}$  for each such 246 violation, up to. In no event shall such fine exceed an 247 aggregate amount of \$500,000 \$200,000 for all other knowing and 248 willful violations arising out of the same action. 249 (b) In addition to such fines, the insurer shall make 250 restitution when due in accordance with subsection (2). (4) The failure of an insurer to make restitution when due 2.51 252 as required under this section constitutes a willful violation of this code. However, if an insurer in good faith is uncertain as to whether any restitution is due or as to the amount of such

restitution, it shall promptly notify the office of the circumstances; and the failure to make restitution pending a determination thereof shall not constitute a violation of this code.

Section 6. Section 624.4301, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

624.4301 Notice of temporary discontinuance of writing new residential property insurance policies.-

(1) Any authorized insurer, before temporarily suspending writing new residential property insurance policies in this state, must give notice to the office of the insurer's reasons for such action, the effective dates of the temporary suspension, and the proposed communication to its agents. Such notice must be provided on a form approved by the office and adopted by the commission. The insurer shall submit such notice to the office the earlier of 20 business days before the effective date of the temporary suspension of writing or 5

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272	business days before notifying its agents of the temporary
272	suspension of writing. The insurer must provide any other
274	information requested by the office related to the insurer's
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	temporary suspension of writing. The requirements of this
276	section do not apply to a temporary suspension of writing new
277	business made in response to a hurricane that may make landfall
278	in this state if such temporary suspension ceases within 72
279	hours after hurricane conditions are no longer present in this
280	state.
281	(2) The commission may adopt rules to administer this
282	section.
283	Section 7. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section
284	626.207, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
285	626.207 Disqualification of applicants and licensees;
286	penalties against licensees; rulemaking authority
287	(3) An applicant who has been found guilty of or has
288	pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to a crime not included in
289	subsection (2), regardless of adjudication, is subject to:
290	(c) A 7-year disqualifying period for all misdemeanors
291	directly related to the financial services business or any
292	violation of the Florida Insurance Code.
293	Section 8. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 626.9521,
294	Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
295	626.9521 Unfair methods of competition and unfair or
296	deceptive acts or practices prohibited; penalties
297	(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), any person who
298	violates any provision of this part is subject to a fine in an
299	amount not greater than \$12,500 $\$5,000$ for each nonwillful
300	violation and not greater than $$100,000 + 40,000$ for each willful
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301 violation. Fines under this subsection imposed against an 302 insurer may not exceed an appregate amount of \$50,000  $\frac{$20,000}{}$ for all nonwillful violations arising out of the same action or 303 304 an aggregate amount of \$500,000 <del>\$200,000</del> for all willful 305 violations arising out of the same action. The fines may be 306 imposed in addition to any other applicable penalty.

(3) (a) If a person violates s. 626.9541(1)(1), the offense 307 known as "twisting," or violates s. 626.9541(1)(aa), the offense 308 known as "churning," the person commits a misdemeanor of the 309 310 first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, and an 311 administrative fine not greater than \$12,500 \$5,000 shall be 312 imposed for each nonwillful violation or an administrative fine 313 not greater than \$187,500  $\frac{575,000}{575,000}$  shall be imposed for each 314 willful violation. To impose an administrative fine for a 315 willful violation under this paragraph, the practice of 316 "churning" or "twisting" must involve fraudulent conduct.

(b) If a person violates s. 626.9541(1)(ee) by willfully submitting fraudulent signatures on an application or policyrelated document, the person commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, and an administrative fine not greater than \$12,500 \$5,000 shall be imposed for each nonwillful violation or an administrative fine not greater than \$187,500  $\frac{575,000}{575,000}$  shall be imposed for each willful violation.

(c) If a person violates any provision of this part and such violation is related to a covered loss or covered claim 327 caused by an emergency for which the Governor declared a state 328 of emergency pursuant to s. 252.36, such person is subject to a 329 fine in an amount not greater than \$25,000 for each nonwillful

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330	violation and not greater than \$200,000 for each willful
331	violation. Fines imposed under this paragraph against an insurer
332	may not exceed an aggregate amount of \$100,000 for all
333	nonwillful violations arising out of the same action or an
334	aggregate amount of \$1 million for all willful violations
335	arising out of the same action.
336	(d) Administrative fines under paragraphs (a) and (b) this
337	subsection may not exceed an aggregate amount of \$125,000
338	\$50,000 for all nonwillful violations arising out of the same
339	action or an aggregate amount of <u>\$625,000</u> <del>\$250,000</del> for all
340	willful violations arising out of the same action.
341	Section 9. Paragraphs (i) and (w) of subsection (1) of
342	section 626.9541, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
343	626.9541 Unfair methods of competition and unfair or
344	deceptive acts or practices defined
345	(1) UNFAIR METHODS OF COMPETITION AND UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE
346	ACTSThe following are defined as unfair methods of competition
347	and unfair or deceptive acts or practices:
348	(i) Unfair claim settlement practices
349	1. Attempting to settle claims on the basis of an
350	application, when serving as a binder or intended to become a
351	part of the policy, or any other material document which was
352	altered without notice to, or knowledge or consent of, the
353	insured;
354	2. A material misrepresentation made to an insured or any
355	other person having an interest in the proceeds payable under
356	such contract or policy, for the purpose and with the intent of
357	effecting settlement of such claims, loss, or damage under such
358	contract or policy on less favorable terms than those provided
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359 in, and contemplated by, such contract or policy; 360 3. Committing or performing with such frequency as to 361 indicate a general business practice any of the following: 362 a. Failing to adopt and implement standards for the proper investigation of claims; 363 364 b. Misrepresenting pertinent facts or insurance policy 365 provisions relating to coverages at issue; 366 c. Failing to acknowledge and act promptly upon 367 communications with respect to claims; 368 d. Denying claims without conducting reasonable 369 investigations based upon available information; 370 e. Failing to affirm or deny full or partial coverage of 371 claims, and, as to partial coverage, the dollar amount or extent 372 of coverage, or failing to provide a written statement that the 373 claim is being investigated, upon the written request of the 374 insured within 30 days after proof-of-loss statements have been 375 completed; 376 f. Failing to promptly provide a reasonable explanation in 377 writing to the insured of the basis in the insurance policy, in 378 relation to the facts or applicable law, for denial of a claim 379 or for the offer of a compromise settlement; g. Failing to promptly notify the insured of any additional 380 381 information necessary for the processing of a claim; 382 h. Failing to clearly explain the nature of the requested 383 information and the reasons why such information is necessary; 384 <del>or</del> 385 i. Failing to pay personal injury protection insurance 386 claims within the time periods required by s. 627.736(4)(b). The 387 office may order the insurer to pay restitution to a



388 policyholder, medical provider, or other claimant, including 389 interest at a rate consistent with the amount set forth in s. 390 55.03(1), for the time period within which an insurer fails to pay claims as required by law. Restitution is in addition to any 391 392 other penalties allowed by law, including, but not limited to, 393 the suspension of the insurer's certificate of authority; or 394 j. Altering or amending an insurance adjuster's report 395 without: 396 (I) Providing a detailed explanation as to why any change 397 that has the effect of reducing the estimate of the loss was 398 made; and 399 (II) Including on the report or as an addendum to the 400 report a detailed list of all changes made to the report and the 401 identity of the person who ordered each change; or 402 (III) Retaining all versions of the report, and including within each such version, for each change made within such 403 404 version of the report, the identity of each person who made or 405 ordered such change; or 406 4. Failing to pay undisputed amounts of partial or full 407 benefits owed under first-party property insurance policies 408 within 60 days after an insurer receives notice of a residential 409 property insurance claim, determines the amounts of partial or 410 full benefits, and agrees to coverage, unless payment of the 411 undisputed benefits is prevented by factors beyond the control of the insurer as defined in s. 627.70131(5). 412 413 (w) Soliciting or accepting new or renewal insurance risks 414 by insolvent or impaired insurer or receipt of certain bonuses 415 by an officer or director of an insolvent insurer prohibited;

416 penalty.-

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Florida Senate - 2023 Bill No. SB 7052

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417 1. Whether or not delinquency proceedings as to the insurer 418 have been or are to be initiated, but while such insolvency or impairment exists, no director or officer of an insurer, except 419 420 with the written permission of the office, shall authorize or 421 permit the insurer to solicit or accept new or renewal insurance 422 risks in this state after such director or officer knew, or 423 reasonably should have known, that the insurer was insolvent or 424 impaired. 42.5 2. Regardless of whether delinquency proceedings as to the 426 insurer have been or are to be initiated, but while such 427 insolvency or impairment exists, a director or an officer of an 428 impaired insurer may not receive a bonus from such insurer, nor 429 may such director or officer receive a bonus from a holding 430 company or an affiliate that shares common ownership or control 431 with such insurer. 432 3. As used in this paragraph, the term: a. "Bonus" means a payment, in addition to an officer's or 433 434 a director's usual compensation, which is in addition to any 435 amounts contracted for or otherwise legally due. 436 b. "Impaired" includes impairment of capital or surplus, as 437 defined in s. 631.011(12) and (13). 4.2. Any such director or officer, upon conviction of a 438 439 violation of this paragraph, commits is guilty of a felony of 440 the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 441 775.083, or s. 775.084. Section 10. Subsection (6) of section 626.989, Florida 442 443 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (10) is added to that 444 section, to read: 626.989 Investigation by department or Division of 445

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446 Investigative and Forensic Services; compliance; immunity; 447 confidential information; reports to division; division 448 investigator's power of arrest.-

449 (6) (a) Any person, other than an insurer, agent, or other 450 person licensed under the code, or an employee thereof, having 451 knowledge or who believes that a fraudulent insurance act or any 452 other act or practice which, upon conviction, constitutes a 453 felony or a misdemeanor under the code, or under s. 817.234, is 454 being or has been committed may send to the Division of 455 Investigative and Forensic Services a report or information 456 pertinent to such knowledge or belief and such additional 457 information relative thereto as the department may request. Any 458 professional practitioner licensed or regulated by the 459 Department of Business and Professional Regulation, except as 460 otherwise provided by law, any medical review committee as 461 defined in s. 766.101, any private medical review committee, and 462 any insurer, agent, or other person licensed under the code, or 463 an employee thereof, having knowledge or who believes that a 464 fraudulent insurance act or any other act or practice which, 465 upon conviction, constitutes a felony or a misdemeanor under the 466 code, or under s. 817.234, is being or has been committed shall 467 send to the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services a 468 report or information pertinent to such knowledge or belief and 469 such additional information relative thereto as the department 470 may require.

471 (b) The Division of Investigative and Forensic Services 472 shall review such information or reports and select such 473 information or reports as, in its judgment, may require further 474 investigation. It shall then cause an independent examination of

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475 the facts surrounding such information or report to be made to 476 determine the extent, if any, to which a fraudulent insurance 477 act or any other act or practice which, upon conviction, 478 constitutes a felony or a misdemeanor under the code, or under 479 s. 817.234, is being committed.

480 (c) The Division of Investigative and Forensic Services 481 shall report any alleged violations of law which its 482 investigations disclose to the appropriate licensing agency and 483 state attorney or other prosecuting agency having jurisdiction, 484 including, but not limited to, the statewide prosecutor for 485 crimes that impact two or more judicial circuits in this state, 486 with respect to any such violation, as provided in s. 624.310. 487 If prosecution by the state attorney or other prosecuting agency 488 having jurisdiction with respect to such violation is not begun 489 within 60 days of the division's report, the state attorney or 490 other prosecuting agency having jurisdiction with respect to such violation shall inform the division of the reasons for the 491 492 lack of prosecution.

(10) The Division of Investigative and Forensic Services Bureau of Insurance Fraud shall prepare and submit a performance report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1 of each year. The annual report must include, but need not be limited to:

(a) The total number of initial referrals received, cases opened, cases presented for prosecution, cases closed, and convictions resulting from cases presented for prosecution by the Bureau of Insurance Fraud, by type of insurance fraud and circuit.

(b) The number of referrals received from insurers, the

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504	office, and the Division of Consumer Services of the department,
505	and the outcome of those referrals.
506	(c) The number of investigations undertaken by the Bureau
507	of Insurance Fraud which were not the result of a referral from
508	an insurer and the outcome of those referrals.
509	(d) The number of investigations that resulted in a
510	referral to a regulatory agency and the disposition of those
511	referrals.
512	(e) The number of cases presented by the Bureau of
513	Insurance Fraud which local prosecutors or the statewide
514	prosecutor declined to prosecute and the reasons provided for
515	declining prosecution.
516	(f) A summary of the annual report required under s.
517	<u>626.9896.</u>
518	(g) The total number of employees assigned to the Bureau of
519	Insurance Fraud, delineated by location of staff assigned, and
520	the number and location of employees assigned to the Bureau of
521	Insurance Fraud who were assigned to work other types of fraud
522	cases.
523	(h) The average caseload and turnaround time by type of
524	case for each investigator.
525	(i) The training provided during the year to insurance
526	fraud investigators.
527	Section 11. Subsections (1), (3), and (4) of section
528	627.0629, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
529	627.0629 Residential property insurance; rate filings
530	(1) It is the intent of the Legislature that insurers
531	provide savings to consumers who install or implement windstorm
532	damage mitigation techniques, alterations, or solutions to their

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533 properties to prevent windstorm losses. A rate filing for 534 residential property insurance must include actuarially 535 reasonable discounts, credits, or other rate differentials, or 536 appropriate reductions in deductibles, for properties on which 537 fixtures or construction techniques demonstrated to reduce the 538 amount of loss in a windstorm have been installed or 539 implemented. The fixtures or construction techniques must 540 include, but are not limited to, fixtures or construction 541 techniques that enhance roof strength, roof covering 542 performance, roof-to-wall strength, wall-to-floor-to-foundation 543 strength, opening protection, and window, door, and skylight 544 strength. Credits, discounts, or other rate differentials, or 545 appropriate reductions in deductibles, for fixtures and 546 construction techniques that meet the minimum requirements of 547 the Florida Building Code must be included in the rate filing. 548 The office shall determine the discounts, credits, other rate 549 differentials, and appropriate reductions in deductibles that 550 reflect the full actuarial value of such revaluation, which may 551 be used by insurers in rate filings. Effective October 1, 2023, 552 each insurer subject to the requirements of this section must provide information on the insurer's website describing the 553 554 hurricane mitigation discounts available to policyholders. Such 555 information must be accessible on, or through a hyperlink 556 located on, the home page of the insurer's website or the 557 primary page of the insurer's website for property insurance 558 policyholders or applicants for such coverage in this state. On 559 or before January 1, 2025, and every 5 years thereafter, the 560 office shall reevaluate and update the fixtures or construction 561 techniques demonstrated to reduce the amount of loss in a

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562 windstorm and the discounts, credits, other rate differentials, 563 and appropriate reductions in deductibles that reflect the full 564 actuarial value of such fixtures or construction techniques. The 565 office shall adopt rules and forms necessitated by such 566 reevaluation.

567 (3) A rate filing made on or after July 1, 1995, for mobile 568 home owner insurance must include appropriate discounts, 569 credits, or other rate differentials for mobile homes 570 constructed to comply with American Society of Civil Engineers Standard ANSI/ASCE 7-88, adopted by the United States Department 571 572 of Housing and Urban Development on July 13, 1994, and that also 573 comply with all applicable tie-down requirements provided by 574 state law.

575 (4) The Legislature finds that separate consideration and 576 notice of hurricane insurance premiums will assist consumers by 577 providing greater assurance that hurricane premiums are lawful 578 and by providing more complete information regarding the 579 components of property insurance premiums. Effective January 1, 580 1997, A rate filing for residential property insurance shall be 581 separated into two components, rates for hurricane coverage and 582 rates for all other coverages. A premium notice reflecting a 583 rate implemented on the basis of such a filing shall separately 584 indicate the premium for hurricane coverage and the premium for 585 all other coverages.

586 Section 12. Paragraph (11) is added to subsection (6) of 587 section 627.351, Florida Statutes, to read:

627.351 Insurance risk apportionment plans.-(6) CITIZENS PROPERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION.-(11) The corporation may not determine that a risk is

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591	ineligible for coverage with the corporation solely because such
592	risk has unrepaired damage caused by a covered loss that is the
593	subject of a claim that has been filed with the Florida
594	Insurance Guaranty Association. This paragraph applies to a risk
595	until the earlier of 36 months after the date the Florida
596	Insurance Guaranty Association began servicing such claim or the
597	Florida Insurance Guaranty Association closes the claim.
598	Section 13. Subsection (4) of section 627.410, Florida
599	Statutes, is amended to read:
600	627.410 Filing, approval of forms.—
601	(4) The office may, by order, exempt from the requirements
602	of this section for so long as it deems proper any insurance
603	document or form or type thereof as specified in such order, to
604	which, in its opinion, this section may not practicably be
605	applied, or the filing and approval of which are, in its
606	opinion, not desirable or necessary for the protection of the
607	public. The office may not exempt from the requirements of this
608	section the insurance documents or forms of any insurer, against
609	whom the office enters a final order determining that such
610	insurer violated any provision of this code, for a period of 36
611	months after the date of such order, and may not be deemed
612	approved under subsection (2).
613	Section 14. Section 627.4108, Florida Statutes, is created
614	to read:
615	627.4108 Claims-handling manuals; submission; attestation
616	(1) Each authorized residential property insurer conducting
617	business in this state must create and use a claims-handling
618	manual that provides guidelines and procedures and that complies
619	with the requirements of this code and comports to usual and

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620	customary industry claims-handling practices. Such manual must
621	include guidelines and procedures for:
622	(a) Initially receiving and acknowledging initial receipt
623	of the claim and reviewing and evaluating the claim;
624	(b) Communicating with policyholders, beginning with the
625	receipt of the claim and continuing until closure of the claim;
626	(c) Setting the claim reserve;
627	(d) Investigating the claim, including conducting
628	inspections of the property that is the subject of the claim;
629	(e) Making preliminary estimates and estimates of the
630	covered damages to the insured property and communicating such
631	estimates to the policyholder;
632	(f) The payment, partial payment, or denial of the claim
633	and communicating such claim decision to the policyholder;
634	(g) Closing claims; and
635	(h) Any aspect of the claims-handling process which the
636	office determines should be included in the claims-handling
637	manual in order to:
638	1. Comply with the laws of this state or rules or orders of
639	the office or department;
640	2. Ensure the claims-handling manual comports with usual
641	and customary industry claims-handling guidelines; or
642	3. Protect policyholders of the insurer or the general
643	public.
644	(2) At any time, the office may request that a residential
645	property insurer submit a physical or electronic copy of the
646	insurer's currently applicable, or otherwise specifically
647	requested, claims-handling manuals. Upon receiving such a
648	request, a residential property insurer must submit to the

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649	office within 5 business days:
650	(a) A true and correct copy of each claims-handling manual
651	requested; and
652	(b) An attestation, on a form prescribed by the commission,
653	that certifies:
654	1. That the insurer has provided a true and correct copy of
655	each currently applicable, or otherwise specifically requested,
656	claims-handling manual; and
657	2. The timeframe for which each submitted claims-handling
658	manual was or is in effect.
659	(3) (a) Annually, each authorized residential property
660	insurer must certify and attest, on a form prescribed by the
661	commission, that:
662	1. Each of the insurer's current claims-handling manuals
663	complies with the requirements of this code and comports to
664	usual and customary industry claims-handling practices; and
665	2. The insurer maintains adequate resources available to
666	implement the requirements of each of its claims-handling
667	manuals at all times, including during natural disasters and
668	catastrophic events.
669	(b) Such attestation must be submitted to the office:
670	1. On or before August 1, 2023; and
671	2. Annually thereafter, on or before May 1 of each calendar
672	year.
673	(4) The commission is authorized, and all conditions are
674	deemed met, to adopt emergency rules under s. 120.54(4), for the
675	purpose of implementing this section. Notwithstanding any other
676	law, emergency rules adopted under this section are effective
677	for 6 months after adoption and may be renewed during the

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678 pendency of procedures to adopt permanent rules addressing the 679 subject of the emergency rules. Section 15. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section 680 681 627.4133, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 682 627.4133 Notice of cancellation, nonrenewal, or renewal 683 premium.-684 (2) With respect to any personal lines or commercial 685 residential property insurance policy, including, but not 686 limited to, any homeowner, mobile home owner, farmowner, 687 condominium association, condominium unit owner, apartment 688 building, or other policy covering a residential structure or 689 its contents: 690 (d)1. Upon a declaration of an emergency pursuant to s. 691 252.36 and the filing of an order by the Commissioner of 692 Insurance Regulation, An authorized insurer may not cancel or 693 nonrenew a personal residential or commercial residential 694 property insurance policy covering a dwelling or residential 695 property located in this state: 696 a. For a period of 90 days after the dwelling or 697 residential property has been repaired, if such property which 698 has been damaged as a result of a hurricane or wind loss that is the subject of the declaration of emergency pursuant to s. 699 700 252.36 and the filing of an order by the Commissioner of 701 Insurance Regulation for a period of 90 days after the dwelling 702 or residential property has been repaired. A structure is deemed 703 to be repaired when substantially completed and restored to the 704 extent that it is insurable by another authorized insurer that 705 is writing policies in this state.

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b. Until the earlier of when the dwelling or residential

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707	property has been repaired or 1 year after the insurer issues
708	the final claim payment, if such property was damaged by any
709	covered peril and sub-subparagraph a. does not apply.
710	2. However, an insurer or agent may cancel or nonrenew such
711	a policy prior to the repair of the dwelling or residential
712	property:
713	a. Upon 10 days' notice for nonpayment of premium; or
714	b. Upon 45 days' notice:
715	(I) For a material misstatement or fraud related to the
716	claim;
717	(II) If the insurer determines that the insured has
718	unreasonably caused a delay in the repair of the dwelling; or
719	(III) If the insurer has paid policy limits.
720	3. If the insurer elects to nonrenew a policy covering a
721	property that has been damaged, the insurer shall provide at
722	least 90 days' notice to the insured that the insurer intends to
723	nonrenew the policy 90 days after the dwelling or residential
724	property has been repaired. Nothing in this paragraph shall
725	prevent the insurer from canceling or nonrenewing the policy 90
726	days after the repairs are complete for the same reasons the
727	insurer would otherwise have canceled or nonrenewed the policy
728	but for the limitations of subparagraph 1. The Financial
729	Services Commission may adopt rules, and the Commissioner of
730	Insurance Regulation may issue orders, necessary to implement
731	this paragraph.
732	4. This paragraph shall also apply to personal residential
733	and commercial residential policies covering property that was

734 damaged as the result of <u>Hurricane Ian or Hurricane Nicole</u> 735 Tropical Storm Bonnie, Hurricane Charley, Hurricane Frances,

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736	Hurricane Ivan, or Hurricane Jeanne.
737	5. For purposes of this paragraph:
738	a. A structure is deemed to be repaired when substantially
739	completed and restored to the extent that it is insurable by
740	another authorized insurer writing policies in this state.
741	b. The term "insurer" means an authorized insurer.
742	Section 16. Subsection (3) is added to section 627.426,
743	Florida Statutes, to read:
744	627.426 Claims administration
745	(3)(a) Upon receiving actual notice of an incident or a
746	loss that could give rise to a covered liability claim under an
747	insurance policy, each liability insurer must:
748	1. Assign a licensed and appointed insurance adjuster to
749	investigate the extent of the insured's probable exposure and
750	diligently attempt to resolve any questions concerning the
751	existence or extent of the insured's coverage.
752	2. Evaluate the claim ethically, fairly, honestly, and with
753	due regard for the interests of the insured based on available
754	information; consider the extent of the claimant's recoverable
755	damages; and consider the information in a reasonable and
756	prudent manner.
757	3. Request from the insured or claimant additional relevant
758	information the insurer reasonably deems necessary to evaluate
759	whether to settle a claim.
760	4. Conduct all oral and written communications with the
761	insured with honesty and candor.
762	5. Make reasonable efforts to explain to persons not
763	represented by counsel matters requiring expertise beyond the
764	level normally expected of a layperson with no training in

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765	insurance or claims-handling issues.
766	6. Retain all written communications and notes and retain a
767	summary of all verbal communications in a reasonable manner for
768	a period of not less than 5 years after the later of the entry
769	of a judgment against the insured in excess of policy limits
770	becomes final or the conclusion of the extracontractual claim,
771	if any, including any related appeals.
772	7. Provide the insured, within 30 days of a request, with
773	all communications related to the insurer's handling of the
774	claim which are not privileged as to the insured.
775	8. Provide, at the insurer's expense, reasonable
776	accommodations necessary to communicate effectively with an
777	insured covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
778	9. Communicate to an insured all of the following within 15
779	days after notice of the existence of a third-party claim:
780	a. The identity of any other person or entity the insurer
781	has reason to believe may be liable.
782	b. The insurer's evaluation of the claim.
783	c. The likelihood and possible extent of an excess
784	judgment.
785	d. Steps the insured can take to avoid exposure to an
786	excess judgment, including the right to secure personal counsel
787	at the insured's expense.
788	e. The insured's duty to cooperate with the insurer,
789	including any specific requests required because of a settlement
790	opportunity or by the insurer in accordance with the policy, the
791	purpose of the required cooperation, and the consequences of
792	refusing to cooperate.
793	f. Any settlement demands or offers.

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794 10. Initiate settlement negotiations by tendering its 795 policy limits to the claimant in exchange for a general release 796 of the insured if, after the expiration of the safe harbor 797 periods in s. 624.155(4) or (6), as applicable, the facts 798 available to the insurer indicate that the insured's liability 799 is likely to exceed the policy limits. 800 11. Give fair consideration to a settlement offer that is 801 not unreasonable under the facts available to the insurer and 802 settle, if possible, when a reasonably prudent person, faced 803 with the prospect of paying the total probable exposure of the insured, would do so. The insurer shall provide reasonable 804 805 assistance to the insured to comply with the insured's 806 obligations to cooperate and act reasonably to attempt to 807 satisfy any conditions of a claimant's settlement offer. If it 808 is not possible to settle a liability claim within the available policy limits, the insurer shall act reasonably to attempt to 809 810 minimize the excess exposure to the insured. 811 12. Attempt to minimize the magnitude of possible excess 812 judgments against the insured when multiple claims arise out of 813 a single occurrence and the combined value of all claims exceeds 814 the total of all applicable policy limits by attempting to 815 globally settle with all such claimants within the policy limits 816 in exchange for a general release of the insured by all 817 claimants. If the insurer is unable to globally settle all 818 claims in exchange for a general release from all claimants, it may utilize either process provided under s. 624.155(6). An 819 820 insurer does not violate this section simply because it is 821 unable to settle all claims in a multiple claimant case. 822 13. Attempt to settle the claim on behalf of all insureds

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823	against whom a claim may be presented if a loss creates the
824	potential for a third-party claim against more than one insured.
825	If it is not possible to settle on behalf of all insureds, the
826	insurer, in consultation with the insureds, must attempt to
827	enter into reasonable settlements of claims against certain
828	insureds to the exclusion of other insureds.
829	14. Respond to any request for insurance information in
830	compliance with s. 626.9372 or s. 627.4137, as applicable.
831	15. Take reasonable measures to preserve evidence, for a
832	reasonable period of time, which is needed for the defense of
833	the liability claim if it appears the insured's probable
834	exposure is greater than policy limits.
835	16. Comply with subsections (1) and (2), if applicable.
836	17. Comply with the Unfair Insurance Trade Practices Act.
837	(b) As used in this subsection, the term "actual notice"
838	means the insurer's receipt of notice of an incident or a loss
839	that could give rise to a covered claim that is communicated to
840	the insurer or an agent of the insurer:
841	1. By any manner permitted by the policy or other documents
842	provided to the insured by the insurer;
843	2. Through the claims link on the insurer's website; or
844	3. Through the e-mail address designated by the insurer
845	<u>under s. 624.422.</u>
846	(c) Any violation of this subsection constitutes a
847	violation of the Florida Insurance Code and is subject to any
848	applicable enforcement provisions therein. This subsection does
849	not create a civil cause of action, nor does it abrogate or
850	diminish any civil cause of action currently existing in
851	statutory or common law.

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852 Section 17. Paragraph (a) of subsection (10) of section 853 627.701, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 854 627.701 Liability of insureds; coinsurance; deductibles.-855 (10) (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an 856 insurer issuing a personal lines residential property insurance policy may include in such policy a separate roof deductible 857 858 that meets all of the following requirements: 859 1. The insurer has complied with the offer requirements 860 under subsection (7) regarding a deductible applicable to losses 861 from perils other than a hurricane. 862 2. The roof deductible may not exceed the lesser of 2 863 percent of the Coverage A limit of the policy or 50 percent of 864 the cost to replace the roof. 865 3. The premium that a policyholder is charged for the 866 policy includes an actuarially sound credit or premium discount 867 for the roof deductible. 868 4. The roof deductible applies only to a claim adjusted on 869 a replacement cost basis. 870 5. The roof deductible does not apply to any of the 871 following events: 872 a. A total loss to a primary structure in accordance with 873 the valued policy law under s. 627.702 which is caused by a 874 covered peril. 875 b. A roof loss resulting from a hurricane as defined in s. 876 627.4025(2)(c). 877 c. A roof loss resulting from a tree fall or other hazard 878 that damages the roof and punctures the roof deck. 879 d. A roof loss requiring the repair of less than 50 percent 880 of the roof.

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881 If a roof deductible is applied, no other deductible under the 882 883 policy may be applied to the loss or to any other loss to the 884 property caused by the same covered peril. 885 Section 18. Subsection (2) of section 627.70132, Florida 886 Statutes, is amended to read: 887 627.70132 Notice of property insurance claim.-888 (2) A claim or reopened claim, but not a supplemental 889 claim, under an insurance policy that provides property 890 insurance, as defined in s. 624.604, including a property 891 insurance policy issued by an eligible surplus lines insurer, 892 for loss or damage caused by any peril is barred unless notice 893 of the claim was given to the insurer in accordance with the 894 terms of the policy within 1 year after the date of loss. A 895 supplemental claim is barred unless notice of the supplemental 896 claim was given to the insurer in accordance with the terms of 897 the policy within 18 months after the date of loss. The time 898 limitations of this subsection are tolled during any term of 899 deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting which 900 materially affects the ability of a servicemember as defined in 901 s. 250.01 to file a claim, supplemental claim, or reopened 902 claim. 903 Section 19. Chapter 2022-271, Laws of Florida, shall not be 904 construed to impair any right under an insurance contract in 905 effect on or before the effective date of that chapter law. To 906 the extent that chapter 2022-271, Laws of Florida, affects a 907 right under an insurance contract, that chapter law applies to 908 an insurance contract issued or renewed after the effective date 909 of that chapter law. This section is intended to clarify

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910 existing law and is remedial in nature. Section 20. (1) Every residential property insurer and 911 912 every motor vehicle insurer rate filing made or pending with the 913 Office of Insurance Regulation on or after July 1, 2023, must 914 reflect the projected savings or reduction in claim frequency, 915 claim severity, and loss adjustment expenses, including for attorney fees, payment of attorney fees to claimants, and any 916 917 other reduction actuarially indicated, due to the combined 918 effect of the applicable provisions of chapters 2021-77, 2022-919 268, 2022-271, and 2023-15, Laws of Florida, in order to ensure 920 that rates for such insurance accurately reflect the risk of 921 providing such insurance. 922 (2) The Office of Insurance Regulation must consider in its 923 review of such rate filings the projected savings or reduction 924 in claim frequency, claim severity, and loss adjustment 925 expenses, including for attorney fees, payment of attorney fees 926 to claimants, and any other reduction actuarially indicated, due 927 to the combined effect of the applicable provisions of chapters 928 2021-77, 2022-268, 2022-271, and 2023-15, Laws of Florida. The 929 office may develop a factor or factors using generally accepted 930 actuarial techniques and standards to be used in its review of rate filings governed by this section. The office may contract 931 932 with an appropriate vendor to advise the office in determining 933 such factor or factors. Such factor or factors are not intended 934 to create a mandatory minimum rate decrease for all motor 935 vehicle insurers and property insurers, respectively, but rather 936 to ensure that the rates for such coverage meet the requirements 937 of s. 627.062, Florida Statutes, and thus are not excessive, 938 inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory and allow such insurers a

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939	reasonable rate of return.
940	(3) This section does not apply to rate filings made
941	pursuant to s. 627.062(2)(k), Florida Statutes.
942	(4) For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the sum of \$500,000 in
943	nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the Insurance Regulatory
944	Trust Fund in the Department of Financial Services to the Office
945	of Insurance Regulation to implement this section.
946	Section 21. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, 18 full-time
947	equivalent positions with associated salary rate of 1,116,500
948	are authorized and the sum of \$1,879,129 in recurring funds and
949	\$185,086 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the
950	Insurance Regulatory Trust Fund to the Office of Insurance
951	Regulation to implement this act.
952	Section 22. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, seven full-time
953	equivalent positions with associated salary rate of 350,000 are
954	authorized and the sum of \$574,036 in recurring funds and
955	\$33,467 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the Insurance
956	Regulatory Trust Fund to the Department of Financial Services to
957	implement this act.
958	Section 23. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.
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960	======================================
961	And the title is amended as follows:
962	Delete everything before the enacting clause
963	and insert:
964	A bill to be entitled
965	An act relating to insurer accountability; amending s.
966	624.307, F.S.; authorizing electronic responses to
967	certain requests from the Division of Consumer

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968 Services of the Department of Financial Services 969 concerning consumer complaints; revising the timeframe 970 in which responses must be made; revising 971 administrative penalties; amending s. 624.315, F.S.; 972 requiring the Office of Insurance Regulation to 973 annually and quarterly create and publish specified 974 reports relating to the enforcement of insurer 975 compliance; requiring the office to submit such 976 reports to the Financial Services Commission and the 977 Legislature by specified dates; amending s. 624.316, 978 F.S.; requiring the office to create a specified 979 methodology for scheduling examinations of insurers; 980 specifying requirements for such methodology; 981 providing construction; authorizing the commission to 982 adopt rules; amending s. 624.3161, F.S.; revising 983 requirements and conditions for certain insurer market 984 conduct examinations after a hurricane; providing 985 construction; requiring the office to create, and the 986 commission to adopt by rule, a specified selection 987 methodology for examinations; specifying requirements 988 for such methodology; specifying rulemaking 989 requirements; amending s. 624.4211, F.S.; revising 990 administrative fines the office may impose in lieu of 991 revocation or suspension; creating s. 624.4301, F.S.; 992 specifying requirements for residential property 993 insurers temporarily suspending writing new policies 994 in notifying the office; authorizing the commission to adopt rules; amending s. 626.207, F.S.; revising a 995 996 condition for disgualification of an insurance



997 representative applicant or licensee; amending s. 998 626.9521, F.S.; revising and specifying applicable fines for unfair methods of competition and unfair or 999 1000 deceptive acts or practices; amending s. 626.9541, 1001 F.S.; adding an unfair claim settlement practice by an 1002 insurer; prohibiting an officer or a director of an impaired insurer from receiving a bonus from such 1003 1004 insurer or from certain holding companies or 1005 affiliates; defining the term "bonus"; providing a 1006 criminal penalty; amending s. 626.989, F.S.; revising 1007 a reporting requirement for the department's Division 1008 of Investigative and Forensic Services; requiring the 1009 division to submit an annual performance report to the 1010 Legislature; specifying requirements for the report; 1011 amending s. 627.0629, F.S.; specifying requirements 1012 for residential property insurers in providing certain 1013 hurricane mitigation discount information to 1014 policyholders in a specified manner; specifying 1015 requirements for the office in reevaluating and 1016 updating certain fixtures and construction techniques; 1017 deleting obsolete dates; amending s. 627.351, F.S.; 1018 prohibiting Citizens Property Insurance Corporation 1019 from determining that a risk is ineligible for 1020 coverage solely on a specified basis; providing 1021 applicability; amending s. 627.410, F.S.; prohibiting 1022 the office from exempting specified insurers from form 1023 filing requirements for a specified period; providing 1024 construction; creating s. 627.4108, F.S.; specifying requirements for residential property insurers in 1025



1026 creating and using claims-handling manuals; 1027 authorizing the office to request submission of such manuals; providing requirements for such submissions; 1028 1029 requiring authorized insurers to annually submit a 1030 certified attestation to the office; authorizing the 1031 commission to adopt emergency rules; amending s. 1032 627.4133, F.S.; revising prohibitions on insurers 1033 against the cancellation or nonrenewal of property 1034 insurance policies; revising applicability; providing 1035 construction; defining the term "insurer"; amending s. 1036 627.426, F.S.; specifying requirements for liability 1037 insurers after receiving actual notice of certain 1038 incidents or losses; defining the term "actual 1039 notice"; providing construction; amending s. 627.701, 1040 F.S.; providing that if a roof deductible is applied 1041 under a personal lines residential property insurance 1042 policy, no other deductible under the policy may be 1043 applied to any other loss to the property caused by 1044 the same covered peril; amending s. 627.70132, F.S.; 1045 providing for the tolling of certain timeframes for 1046 filing notices of property insurance claims for 1047 servicemembers under specified circumstances; 1048 providing construction relating to chapter 2022-271, 1049 Laws of Florida; requiring residential property 1050 insurers and motor vehicle insurer rate filings to 1051 reflect certain projected savings and reductions in 1052 expenses; specifying requirements for the office in 1053 reviewing rate filings; authorizing the office to develop certain factors and contract with a vendor for 1054



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a certain purpose; providing applicability; providing appropriations; providing an effective date.