

MEMORANDUM

To: Commission Members
From: Kerrie Stillman 
Re: 2026 Legislative Update
Date: May 21, 2026

The following bills passed during the 2026 legislative session and affect the Commission's jurisdiction or operations.

Bills incorporating COE Legislative Recommendations:

- **CS/SB 572** (Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Harrell)

This bill amends Section 112.312(21) to change the definition of "Relative" for gift reporting purposes to include foster parents and children. That definition now includes "an individual who, while the public officer or employee was a minor, was his or her legally recognized foster parent in the jurisdiction where the relationship occurred or an individual who is a current or former legally recognized foster child of the public officer or employee in the jurisdiction where the relationship occurs or occurred."

CS/SB 572 also creates Section 112.3135(2)(c), providing for an exception in the nepotism law regarding the collegial body piece. The exception reads "this subsection does not prohibit the board, council, commission, or collegial body on which an elected public official serves from appointing, employing, promoting, or advancing a relative who is an elected public official serving on the same board, council, commission, or collegial body to a leadership position thereof." It is important to note the exception does not cover advocacy for such appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement. It also does not cover appointed public officials.

CS/SB 572 was signed into law on April 1, 2026, and took immediate effect. See Chapter No. 2026-22, Laws of Florida (copy attached). Rulemaking to amend Rule 34-7 and Rule 34-13, F.A.C., in accordance with the new definition of relative is on the June 5 Public Session Agenda.

Other legislation affecting the Commission:

- **CS/CS/CS/HB 905** (State Affairs Committee ; Judiciary Committee ; Government Operations Subcommittee ; Persons-Mulicka ; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Alvarez, D. ; Cassel ; Fabricio ; Holcomb ; Miller ; Owen ; Redondo ; Rizo ; Robinson, W. ; Trabulsy; Valdés)

The bill amends Section 112.313(1) to add definitions for the terms "designated foreign terrorist organization" and "foreign country of concern" in subparagraphs (a) and (b), respectively. May be cited as the "Foreign Interference Restriction and Enforcement Act."

CS/CS/CS/HB 905 also amends Section 112.313(2), making technical changes to subparagraph (a) and creating subparagraph (b). Section 112.313(2)(b) will state "a public officer, an employee of an agency, a local government attorney, or a candidate for nomination or election found to have violated this subsection by soliciting or accepting anything of value from a person or an entity representing or acting on behalf of a designated foreign terrorist organization or foreign country of concern or any of its subdivisions must, in addition to any criminal or civil penalty involved, repay double the value of any pecuniary benefit received as a result of the violation committed."

The legislation also amends Section 112.3142 to provide that by November 1, 2026, the Commission must adopt revised rules to supplement the minimum training course content, including (1) known efforts by foreign countries of concern to target and influence subnational governments, including, but not limited to, the Chinese Communist Party's United Front strategy, (2) how to identify, recognize, and report suspected foreign influence campaigns, and (3) enhanced penalties for violations relating to gifts from foreign countries of concern or designated foreign terrorist organizations.

CS/CS/CS/HB 905 was signed by the Governor and is effective July 1, 2026 (Chapter No. 2026-66, Laws of Florida (copy attached)).

- **SB 1452** (Rules ; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government ; Banking and Insurance ; Truenow)

SB 1452 creates Section 112.3135(2)(c), providing for an additional exception to the nepotism law. The exception will read "to aid the recruitment of firefighters within this state, notwithstanding paragraph (a), a public official may appoint, employ, promote, or advance, or advocate for the appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement of, a relative as a firefighter as defined in s. 633.102 if such appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement is part of a competitive process provided for in a collective bargaining agreement."

An excerpt of the relevant portion of CS/CS/CS/SB 1452 is attached. The bill has not yet been presented to the Governor. If signed into law, it will take effect upon becoming law.

Financial Disclosure Bills – New/Abolished Agencies

HB 4017- Abolishes Nassau County Recreation and Water Conservation and Control District

HB 4061- Creates Hillsborough County Land Reserve Stewardship District

HB 4079- Creates Marion County Uplands Stewardship District

HB 4093- Makes Fellsmere Water Control District a dependent district of Indian River County

HB 4103- Creates Apalachicola Water and Sewer District

None of these bills have been presented to the Governor yet.

CHAPTER 2026-22

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 572

An act relating to ethics for public officers and employees; amending s. 112.312, F.S.; revising the definition of the term “relative” to include foster parents and foster children; amending s. 112.3135, F.S.; providing that specified provisions do not prohibit a board, council, commission, or collegial body from appointing, employing, promoting, or advancing elected public officials who are related to a leadership position on the same board, council, commission, or collegial body; reenacting ss. 106.07(4)(a), 106.0702(4)(a), 348.0305, and 1001.421, F.S., relating to a campaign treasurer’s reports of campaign contributions; reports of campaign contributions to candidates for a position on a political party executive committee; ethical requirements for officers, employees, and consultants for the Greater Miami Expressway Agency; and gifts to district school board members, respectively, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 112.312, F.S., in references thereto; reenacting ss. 28.35(1)(b), 288.012(6)(d), 288.8014(4), 288.9604(3)(a), 295.21(4)(d), 627.311(5)(m), 1002.33(24), 1002.83(9), and 1012.23(2), F.S., relating to the executive council of the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation; the senior managers and members of the board of directors of the direct-support organization of the State of Florida international offices; members of the board of directors of Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.; the directors of the Florida Development Finance Corporation; the board of directors of Florida Is For Veterans, Inc.; senior managers and officers of joint underwriters and joint insurers; charter school personnel in schools operated by municipalities or other public entities; members of early learning coalitions; and prohibiting district school superintendents and district school board members from appointing or employing a relative, respectively, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 112.3135, F.S., in references thereto; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (21) of section 112.312, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.312 Definitions.—As used in this part and for purposes of the provisions of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires:

(21) “Relative,” unless otherwise specified in this part, means an individual who is related to a public officer or employee as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, grandparent, great grandparent, grandchild, great grandchild, step grandparent, step great grandparent, step grandchild, or step great grandchild; an individual who, while the public officer or employee was a minor, was his or her legally recognized foster parent in the jurisdiction where the relationship occurred or an individual who is a current or former legally recognized foster child of the public officer or employee in the jurisdiction where the relationship occurs or occurred; a person who is engaged to be married to the public officer or employee or who otherwise holds himself or herself out as or is generally known as the person whom the public officer or employee intends to marry or with whom the public officer or employee intends to form a household;⁷ or any other natural person having the same legal residence as the public officer or employee.

Section 2. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (2) of section 112.3135, Florida Statutes, to read:

112.3135 Restriction on employment of relatives.—

(2)

(c) This subsection does not prohibit the board, council, commission, or collegial body on which an elected public official serves from appointing, employing, promoting, or advancing a relative who is an elected public official serving on the same board, council, commission, or collegial body to a leadership position thereof.

Section 3. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.312, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 106.07, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

106.07 Reports; certification and filing.—

(4)(a) Except for daily reports, to which only the contributions provisions below apply, and except as provided in paragraph (b), each report required by this section must contain:

1. The full name, address, and occupation, if any, of each person who has made one or more contributions to or for such committee or candidate within the reporting period, together with the amount and date of such contributions. For corporations, the report must provide as clear a description as practicable of the principal type of business conducted by the corporation. However, if the contribution is \$100 or less or is from a relative, as defined in s. 112.312, provided that the relationship is reported, the occupation of the contributor or the principal type of business need not be listed.

2. The name and address of each political committee from which the reporting committee or the candidate received, or to which the reporting committee or candidate made, any transfer of funds, together with the amounts and dates of all transfers.

3. Each loan for campaign purposes to or from any person or political committee within the reporting period, together with the full names, addresses, and occupations, and principal places of business, if any, of the lender and endorsers, if any, and the date and amount of such loans.

4. A statement of each contribution, rebate, refund, or other receipt not otherwise listed under subparagraphs 1. through 3.

5. The total sums of all loans, in-kind contributions, and other receipts by or for such committee or candidate during the reporting period. The reporting forms shall be designed to elicit separate totals for in-kind contributions, loans, and other receipts.

6. The full name and address of each person to whom expenditures have been made by or on behalf of the committee or candidate within the reporting period; the amount, date, and purpose of each such expenditure; and the name and address of, and office sought by, each candidate on whose behalf such expenditure was made. However, expenditures made from the petty cash fund provided by s. 106.12 need not be reported individually.

7. The full name and address of each person to whom an expenditure for personal services, salary, or reimbursement for authorized expenses as provided in s. 106.021(3) has been made and which is not otherwise reported, including the amount, date, and purpose of such expenditure. However, expenditures made from the petty cash fund provided for in s. 106.12 need not be reported individually. Receipts for reimbursement for authorized expenditures shall be retained by the treasurer along with the records for the campaign account.

8. The total amount withdrawn and the total amount spent for petty cash purposes pursuant to this chapter during the reporting period.

9. The total sum of expenditures made by such committee or candidate during the reporting period.

10. The amount and nature of debts and obligations owed by or to the committee or candidate, which relate to the conduct of any political campaign.

11. Transaction information for each credit card purchase. Receipts for each credit card purchase shall be retained by the treasurer with the records for the campaign account.

12. The amount and nature of any separate interest-bearing accounts or certificates of deposit and identification of the financial institution in which such accounts or certificates of deposit are located.

13. The primary purposes of an expenditure made indirectly through a campaign treasurer pursuant to s. 106.021(3) for goods and services such as communications media placement or procurement services, campaign signs, insurance, and other expenditures that include multiple components as part of the expenditure. The primary purpose of an expenditure shall be that purpose, including integral and directly related components, that comprises 80 percent of such expenditure.

Section 4. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.312, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 106.0702, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

106.0702 Reporting; political party executive committee candidates.—

(4)(a) Each report required by this section must contain:

1. The full name, address, and occupation of each person who has made one or more contributions to or for the reporting individual within the reporting period, together with the amount and date of such contributions. For corporations, the report must provide as clear a description as practicable of the principal type of business conducted by the corporations. However, if the contribution is \$100 or less or is from a relative, as defined in s. 112.312, provided that the relationship is reported, the occupation of the contributor or the principal type of business need not be listed.

2. The name and address of each political committee from which the reporting individual has received, or to which the reporting individual has made, any transfer of funds within the reporting period, together with the amounts and dates of all transfers.

3. Each loan for campaign purposes from any person or political committee within the reporting period, together with the full name, address, and occupation, and principal place of business, if any, of the lender and endorser, if any, and the date and amount of such loans.

4. A statement of each contribution, rebate, refund, or other receipt not otherwise listed under subparagraphs 1.-3.

5. The total sums of all loans, in-kind contributions, and other receipts by or for such reporting individual during the reporting period. The reporting forms shall be designed to elicit separate totals for in-kind contributions, loans, and other receipts.

6. The full name and address of each person to whom expenditures have been made by or on behalf of the reporting individual within the reporting period; the amount, date, and purpose of each such expenditure; and the name and address of, and office sought by, each reporting individual on whose behalf such expenditure was made.

7. The amount and nature of debts and obligations owed by or to the reporting individual which relate to the conduct of any political campaign.

8. Transaction information for each credit card purchase. Receipts for each credit card purchase shall be retained by the reporting individual.

9. The amount and nature of any separate interest-bearing accounts or certificates of deposit and identification of the financial institution in which such accounts or certificates of deposit are located.

Section 5. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.312, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, section 348.0305, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

348.0305 Ethics requirements.—

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, members and employees of the agency are subject to part III of chapter 112. As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Agency” means the Greater Miami Expressway Agency.

(b) “Lobby” means to seek to influence the agency, on behalf of another person, with respect to a decision of the agency in an area of policy or procurement or to attempt to obtain the goodwill of an officer, employee, or consultant of the agency. The term does not include representing a client in any stage of applying for or seeking approval of any administrative action, or opposition to such action, provided such action does not require legislative discretion and is subject to judicial review by petitioning for writ of certiorari.

(c) “Lobbyist” means a person who is employed and receives payment, or who contracts for economic consideration, to lobby or a person who is principally employed for governmental affairs by another person or entity to lobby on behalf of such person or entity. The term does not include a person who:

1. Represents a client in a judicial proceeding or in a formal administrative proceeding before the agency.
2. Is an officer or employee of any governmental entity acting in the normal course of his or her duties.
3. Consults under contract with the agency and communicates with the agency regarding issues related to the scope of services in his or her contract.
4. Is an expert witness who is retained or employed by an employer, principal, or client to provide only scientific, technical, or other specialized information provided in agenda materials or testimony only in public hearings, provided the expert identifies such employer, principal, or client at such hearing.
5. Seeks to procure a contract that is less than \$20,000 or a contract pursuant to s. 287.056.

(d) “Officer” means a member of the governing body of the agency.

(e) “Principal” has the same meaning as in s. 112.3215.

(f) “Relative” has the same meaning as in s. 112.312.

(2)(a) A lobbyist may not be appointed or serve as a member of the governing body of the agency.

(b) A person may not be appointed or serve as an officer if that person currently represents or has in the previous 4 years lobbied the agency or the former Miami-Dade County Expressway Authority.

(c) A person may not be appointed or serve as an officer if that person has in the previous 4 years done business, or been an employee of a person or entity that has done business, with the agency or the former Miami-Dade County Expressway Authority.

(d) A person may not be appointed or serve as an officer if that person has in the previous 2 years been an employee of the agency.

(3) An officer, employee, or consultant of the agency or of the former Miami-Dade County Expressway Authority may not, for a period of 4 years after vacation of his or her position with the agency:

(a) Lobby the agency.

(b) Have an employment or contractual relationship with a business entity in connection with a contract in which the officer, employee, or consultant personally and substantially participated through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, rendering of advice, or investigation while he or she was an officer, employee, or consultant of the agency. When an agency employee's position is eliminated and his or her former duties are performed by the business entity, this paragraph does not prohibit him or her from employment or a contractual relationship with the business entity if the employee's participation in the contract was limited to recommendation, rendering of advice, or investigation and if the executive director of the agency determines that the best interests of the agency will be served thereby and provides prior written approval for the particular employee.

(c) Have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with a business entity in connection with any contract for contractual services which was within his or her responsibility while an officer, employee, or consultant. If an agency employee's position is eliminated and his or her former duties are performed by the business entity, this paragraph may be waived by the executive director of the agency through prior written approval for the particular employee if the executive director determines that the best interests of the agency will be served thereby.

(4) Each officer, employee, and consultant of the agency must promptly disclose:

(a) Every relationship that may create a conflict between his or her private interests and the performance of his or her duties to the agency or that would impede the full and faithful discharge of his or her duties to the agency.

(b) Any relative and any employment or contractual relationship of such relative which, if held by the officer, employee, or consultant, would violate any provision of s. 112.313.

(c) Any relative who is a lobbyist and such lobbyist's principal.

(d) Any direct or indirect interest in real property and such interest of any relative if such property is located within one-half mile of any actual or prospective agency project. The executive director of the agency shall provide a corridor map and a property ownership list reflecting the ownership of all real property within the disclosure area, or an alignment map with a list of associated owners, to all officers, employees, and consultants.

(5) The disclosures required under subsection (4) must be filed with the agency general counsel in the manner specified by the general counsel. When the disclosure is filed by the general counsel, a copy must be provided to the executive director of the agency.

(6) A violation of this section shall be considered a violation of the violator's official, employment, or contractual duties to the agency.

(7) Officers, employees, and consultants of the agency shall be adequately informed and trained on the provisions of this section and the state code of ethics and shall receive ongoing ethics training.

(8) The state code of ethics shall apply to officers, employees, and consultants of the agency, and this section shall be enforced by the Commission on Ethics as part of the state code of ethics.

(9) For purposes of this section, "consultant" does not include firms or individuals retained by the agency to provide architectural, engineering, landscape architecture, or registered surveying and mapping services as described in s. 287.055.

Section 6. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.312, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, section 1001.421, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

1001.421 Gifts.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, district school board members and their relatives, as defined in s. 112.312(21), may not directly or indirectly solicit any gift, or directly or indirectly accept any

gift in excess of \$50, from any person, vendor, potential vendor, or other entity doing business with the school district. The term “gift” has the same meaning as in s. 112.312(12).

Section 7. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.3135, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 28.35, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

28.35 Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation.—

(1)

(b)1. The executive council shall be composed of eight clerks of the court elected by the clerks of the courts for a term of 2 years, with two clerks from counties with a population of fewer than 100,000, two clerks from counties with a population of at least 100,000 but fewer than 500,000, two clerks from counties with a population of at least 500,000 but fewer than 1 million, and two clerks from counties with a population of 1 million or more. The executive council shall also include, as ex officio members, a designee of the President of the Senate and a designee of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall designate one additional member to represent the state courts system.

2. Members of the executive council of the corporation are subject to ss. 112.313(1)-(8), (10), (12), and (15); 112.3135; and 112.3143(2). For purposes of applying ss. 112.313(1)-(8), (10), (12), and (15); 112.3135; and 112.3143(2) to activities of executive council members, members shall be considered public officers and the corporation shall be considered the members' agency.

Section 8. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.3135, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (d) of subsection (6) of section 288.012, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

288.012 State of Florida international offices; direct-support organization.—The Legislature finds that the expansion of international trade and tourism is vital to the overall health and growth of the economy of this state. This expansion is hampered by the lack of technical and business assistance, financial assistance, and information services for businesses in this state. The Legislature finds that these businesses could be assisted by providing these services at State of Florida international offices. The Legislature further finds that the accessibility and provision of services at these offices can be enhanced through cooperative agreements or strategic alliances between private businesses and state, local, and international governmental entities.

(6)

(d) The senior managers and members of the board of directors of the organization are subject to ss. 112.313(1)-(8), (10), (12), and (15); 112.3135; and 112.3143(2). For purposes of applying ss. 112.313(1)-(8), (10), (12), and (15); 112.3135; and 112.3143(2) to activities of the president and staff, those persons shall be considered public officers or employees and the corporation shall be considered their agency. The exemption set forth in s. 112.313(12) for advisory boards applies to the members of board of directors. Further, each member of the board of directors who is not otherwise required to file financial disclosures pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144, shall file disclosure of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145.

Section 9. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.3135, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (4) of section 288.8014, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

288.8014 Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.; organization; board of directors.—

(4) The Legislature determines that it is in the public interest for the members of the board of directors to be subject to the requirements of ss. 112.313, 112.3135, and 112.3143, notwithstanding the fact that the board members

are not public officers or employees. For purposes of those sections, the board members shall be considered to be public officers or employees. In addition to the postemployment restrictions of s. 112.313(9), a person appointed to the board of directors must agree to refrain from having any direct interest in any contract, franchise, privilege, project, program, or other benefit arising from an award by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., during the term of his or her appointment and for 6 years after the termination of such appointment. It is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, for a person to accept appointment to the board of directors in violation of this subsection or to accept a direct interest in any contract, franchise, privilege, project, program, or other benefit granted by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., to an awardee within 6 years after the termination of his or her service on the board. Further, each member of the board of directors who is not otherwise required to file financial disclosure under s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144 shall file disclosure of financial interests under s. 112.3145.

Section 10. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.3135, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 288.9604, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

288.9604 Creation of the corporation.—

(3)(a)1. A director may not receive compensation for his or her services, but is entitled to necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the discharge of his or her duties. Each appointed director shall hold office until his or her successor has been appointed.

2. Directors are subject to ss. 112.313(1)-(8), (10), (12), and (15); 112.3135; and 112.3143(2). For purposes of applying ss. 112.313(1)-(8), (10), (12), and (15); 112.3135; and 112.3143(2) to activities of directors, directors are considered public officers and the corporation is considered their agency.

Section 11. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.3135, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (d) of subsection (4) of section 295.21, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

295.21 Florida Is For Veterans, Inc.—

(4) GOVERNANCE.—

(d) The Legislature finds that it is in the public interest for the members of the board of directors to be subject to the requirements of ss. 112.313, 112.3135, and 112.3143. Notwithstanding the fact that they are not public officers or employees, for purposes of ss. 112.313, 112.3135, and 112.3143, the board members shall be considered to be public officers or employees. In addition to the postemployment restrictions of s. 112.313(9), a person appointed to the board of directors may not have direct interest in a contract, franchise, privilege, project, program, or other benefit arising from an award by the corporation during the appointment term and for 2 years after the termination of such appointment. A person who accepts appointment to the board of directors in violation of this subsection, or accepts a direct interest in a contract, franchise, privilege, project, program, or other benefit granted by the corporation to an awardee within 2 years after the termination of his or her service on the board, commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Further, each member of the board of directors who is not otherwise required to file financial disclosure under s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144 shall file a statement of financial interests under s. 112.3145.

Section 12. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.3135, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (m) of subsection (5) of section 627.311, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

627.311 Joint underwriters and joint reinsurers; public records and public meetings exemptions.—

(5)

(m) Senior managers and officers, as defined in the plan of operation, and members of the board of governors are subject to the provisions of ss. 112.313, 112.3135, 112.3143, 112.3145, 112.316, and 112.317. Senior managers, officers, and board members are also required to file such disclosures with the Commission on Ethics and the Office of Insurance Regulation. The executive director of the plan or his or her designee shall notify each newly appointed and existing appointed member of the board of governors, senior manager, and officer of his or her duty to comply with the reporting requirements of s. 112.3145. At least quarterly, the executive director of the plan or his or her designee shall submit to the Commission on Ethics a list of names of the senior managers, officers, and members of the board of governors who are subject to the public disclosure requirements under s. 112.3145. Notwithstanding s. 112.313, an employee, officer, owner, or director of an insurance agency, insurance company, or other insurance entity may be a member of the board of governors unless such employee, officer, owner, or director of an insurance agency, insurance company, other insurance entity, or an affiliate provides policy issuance, policy administration, underwriting, claims handling, or payroll audit services. Notwithstanding s. 112.3143, such board member may not participate in or vote on a matter if the insurance agency, insurance company, or other insurance entity would obtain a special or unique benefit that would not apply to other similarly situated insurance entities.

Section 13. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.3135, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (24) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

1002.33 Charter schools.—

(24) RESTRICTION ON EMPLOYMENT OF RELATIVES.—

(a) This subsection applies to charter school personnel in a charter school operated by a private entity. As used in this subsection, the term:

1. “Charter school personnel” means a president, chairperson of the governing board of directors, superintendent, governing board member, principal, assistant principal, or any other person employed by the charter school who has equivalent decisionmaking authority and in whom is vested the authority, or to whom the authority has been delegated, to appoint, employ, promote, or advance individuals or to recommend individuals for appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement in connection with employment in a charter school, including the authority as a member of a governing body of a charter school to vote on the appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement of individuals.

2. “Relative” means father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, or half sister.

(b) Charter school personnel may not appoint, employ, promote, or advance, or advocate for appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement, in or to a position in the charter school in which the personnel are serving or over which the personnel exercises jurisdiction or control any individual who is a relative. An individual may not be appointed, employed, promoted, or advanced in or to a position in a charter school if such appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement has been advocated by charter school personnel who serve in or exercise jurisdiction or control over the charter school and who is a relative of the individual or if such appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement is made by the governing board of which a relative of the individual is a member.

(c) The approval of budgets does not constitute “jurisdiction or control” for the purposes of this subsection.

Charter school personnel in schools operated by a municipality or other public entity are subject to s. 112.3135.

Section 14. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.3135, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (9) of section 1002.83, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

(9) Each member of an early learning coalition is subject to ss. 112.313, 112.3135, and 112.3143. For purposes of s. 112.3143(3)(a), each voting member is a local public officer who must abstain from voting when a voting conflict exists.

Section 15. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.3135, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (2) of section 1012.23, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

1012.23 School district personnel policies.—

(2) Neither the district school superintendent nor a district school board member may appoint or employ a relative, as defined in s. 112.3135, to work under the direct supervision of that district school board member or district school superintendent. The limitations of this subsection do not apply to employees appointed or employed before the election or appointment of a school board member or district school superintendent. The Commission on Ethics shall accept and investigate any alleged violations of this section pursuant to the procedures contained in ss. 112.322-112.3241.

Section 16. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor April 1, 2026.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 1, 2026.

CHAPTER 2026-66

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 905

An act relating to foreign influence; providing a short title; amending s. 112.313, F.S.; defining the terms “designated foreign terrorist organization” and “foreign country of concern”; providing penalties for specified persons who solicit or accept anything of value from persons or entities representing a designated foreign terrorist organization or a foreign country of concern; amending s. 112.3142, F.S.; requiring the Commission on Ethics to adopt certain rules by a specified date; amending s. 205.0532, F.S.; authorizing any appropriate tax collector to revoke or refuse to renew business tax receipts of specified individuals, businesses, or entities; authorizing such tax collector or a local governing authority to request a specified sworn affidavit or declaration from such individual, business, or entity; providing criminal penalties; amending s. 288.816, F.S.; prohibiting certain activities encouraging affiliations with foreign countries of concern; requiring the Department of Commerce to publish and update certain information on its website; amending s. 288.8175, F.S.; deleting the Florida-China Institute from the list of linkage institutes; deleting an exemption for linkage institutes; prohibiting a linkage institute from entering into an agreement or participating in an activity with a foreign country of concern; amending s. 288.854, F.S.; authorizing the Governor to suspend certain laws or rules relating to Cuba for a specified period under certain circumstances; prohibiting such suspension from being renewed or extended; prohibiting the Governor from suspending the same laws or rules without express authorization from the Legislature; requiring the Governor to submit to the Legislature certain written recommendations within a specified timeframe; providing for future legislative repeal of certain provisions; amending s. 288.860, F.S.; requiring that certain agreements be terminated by a specified date; amending s. 316.0078, F.S.; revising the definitions of the terms “controlling interest” and “foreign country of concern”; amending s. 496.404, F.S.; revising the definition of the term “foreign source of concern”; amending s. 692.201, F.S.; revising the definition of the term “foreign country of concern”; creating s. 775.08255, F.S.; defining terms; prohibiting enforcement of certain laws of a foreign government; providing enhanced criminal penalties; amending s. 282.802, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending s. 63.213, F.S.; prohibiting preplanned adoption agreements unless certain conditions are met; amending s. 742.15, F.S.; prohibiting contracts for gestational surrogacy unless certain conditions are met; declaring that certain contracts are void and unenforceable; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. This act may be cited as the “Foreign Interference Restriction and Enforcement Act.”

Section 2. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 112.313, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

112.313 Standards of conduct for public officers, employees of agencies, and local government attorneys.—

(1) ~~DEFINITIONS~~ ~~DEFINITION~~.—As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, the term:

(a) “Designated foreign terrorist organization” has the same meaning as in s. 775.32.

(b) “Foreign country of concern” has the same meaning as in s. 286.101(1).

(c) “Public officer” includes any person elected or appointed to hold office in any agency, including any person serving on an advisory body.

(2) SOLICITATION OR ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.—

(a) ~~A No~~ public officer, an employee of an agency, a local government attorney, or a candidate for nomination or election may not shall solicit or accept anything of value to the recipient, including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, based upon any understanding that the vote, official action, or judgment of the public officer, employee, local government attorney, or candidate would be influenced thereby.

(b) A public officer, an employee of an agency, a local government attorney, or a candidate for nomination or election found to have violated this subsection by soliciting or accepting anything of value from a person or an entity representing or acting on behalf of a designated foreign terrorist organization or foreign country of concern or any of its subdivisions must, in addition to any criminal or civil penalty involved, repay double the value of any pecuniary benefit received as a result of the violation committed.

Section 3. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section 112.3142, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.3142 Ethics training for specified constitutional officers, elected municipal officers, commissioners of community redevelopment agencies, and elected local officers of independent special districts.—

(2)

(e) The commission shall adopt rules establishing minimum course content for the portion of an ethics training class which addresses s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution and the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees. By November 1, 2026, the commission shall adopt revised rules to supplement the minimum course content, including all of the following:

1. Known efforts by foreign countries of concern to target and influence subnational governments, including, but not limited to, the Chinese Communist Party's United Front strategy.

2. How to identify, recognize, and report suspected foreign influence campaigns.

3. Enhanced penalties for violations relating to gifts from foreign countries of concern as defined in s. 286.101(1) or designated foreign terrorist organizations as defined in s. 775.32(1) under s. 112.313(2)(b).

Section 4. Section 205.0532, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

205.0532 Revocation or refusal to renew; doing business with Cuba.—

(1) Any appropriate tax collector or local governing authority issuing a business tax receipt to any individual, business, or entity under this chapter may revoke or refuse to renew such receipt if the individual, business, or entity; ~~or parent company of such individual, business, or entity,~~ is doing business with Cuba in violation of federal law.

(2) Any appropriate tax collector or local governing authority may request a sworn affidavit or declaration from any individual, business, or entity attesting to whether the individual, business, or entity is doing business with Cuba in violation of federal law.

(3) A person who knowingly makes a false declaration under subsection (2) commits the crime of perjury by false written declaration, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 288.816, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

288.816 Intergovernmental relations.—

(3) The state protocol officer may:

(a) Coordinate and carry out activities designed to encourage the state and its subdivisions to participate in sister city and sister state affiliations with foreign countries and their subdivisions. Such activities may include a State of Florida sister cities conference. Such activities may not include encouragement of any affiliations with foreign countries of concern as defined in s. 288.860(1) or their subdivisions.

(7) The department shall publish on its website, to be updated quarterly, the following information:

(a) A current and accurate list of all foreign consulate offices.

(b) A current and accurate list of all sister city and sister state affiliations, including a copy of all such agreements.

Section 6. Subsections (3), (4), and (5) of section 288.8175, Florida Statutes, are amended, and a new subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

288.8175 Linkage institutes between postsecondary institutions in this state and foreign countries.—

(3) Each institute must be co-administered in this state by a university-community college partnership,~~as designated in subsection (5)~~, and must have a private sector and public sector advisory committee. The advisory committee must be representative of the international education and commercial interests of the state and may have members who are native to the foreign country partner. Six members must be appointed by the Department of Education. The Department of Education must appoint at least one member who is an international educator. The presidents, or their designees, of the participating university and community college must also serve on the advisory committee.

(4) The institutes are:

(a) Florida-Brazil Institute (University of Florida and Miami Dade College).

(b) Florida-Costa Rica Institute (Florida State University and Valencia College).

(c) Florida Caribbean Institute (Florida International University and Daytona State College).

(d) Florida-Canada Institute (University of Central Florida and Palm Beach State College).

~~(e) Florida-China Institute (University of West Florida, University of South Florida, and Eastern Florida State College).~~

~~(e)(f)~~ Florida-Japan Institute (University of South Florida, University of West Florida, and St. Petersburg College).

~~(f)(g)~~ Florida-France Institute (New College of the University of South Florida, Miami Dade College, and Florida State University).

~~(g)(h)~~ Florida-Israel Institute (Florida Atlantic University and Broward College).

~~(h)(i)~~ Florida-West Africa Institute (Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, University of North Florida, and Florida State College at Jacksonville).

~~(i)(j)~~ Florida-Eastern Europe Institute (University of Central Florida and Lake-Sumter State College).

~~(j)(k)~~ Florida-Mexico Institute (Florida International University and Polk State College).

~~(5) Each institute is allowed to exempt from s. 1009.21 up to 25 full-time equivalent students per year from the respective host countries to study in any of the state universities or community colleges in this state as resident~~

~~students for tuition purposes. The institute directors shall develop criteria, to be approved by the Department of Education, for the selection of these students. Students must return home within 3 years after their tenure of graduate or undergraduate study for a length of time equal to their exemption period.~~

~~(7) A linkage institute may not enter into any agreement or participate in any activities with a foreign country of concern as defined in s. 288.860(1) or any organization in a foreign country of concern.~~

Section 7. Present subsection (4) of section 288.854, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (5), and a new subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

288.854 Support for a free and independent Cuba.—

~~(4)(a) If the Federal Government changes the diplomatic status of Cuba, the Governor may, by executive order, suspend the provisions of any statute or rule restricting interactions with Cuba for a period not to exceed adjournment sine die of the regular session of the Legislature after such suspension. A suspension expires upon adjournment sine die of such regular session of the Legislature. A suspension may not be renewed or extended.~~

~~(b) If the Governor suspends a statute or rule under paragraph (a), he or she may not subsequently suspend the same statute or rule relating to Cuba unless expressly authorized by the Legislature.~~

~~(c) At least 30 days before the next regular session of the Legislature following a change in Cuba's diplomatic status by the Federal Government, the Governor shall submit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives written recommendations for policy changes, if any, that should be considered by the Legislature concerning Cuba. However, if the change in Cuba's diplomatic status occurs within 30 days before the convening of the next regular session of the Legislature or during the regular session of the Legislature, the Governor must submit such recommendations as soon as practicable.~~

~~(d) This subsection is repealed October 2, 2028, unless saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.~~

Section 8. Subsection (2) of section 288.860, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.860 International cultural agreements.—

~~(2)(a) A state agency, political subdivision, or public school authorized to expend state-appropriated funds or levy ad valorem taxes may not participate in any agreement with or accept any grant from a foreign country of concern or its subdivisions, or any entity controlled by a foreign country of concern.~~

~~(b) All agreements under paragraph (a), including, but not limited to, sister city agreements, are terminated as of July 1, 2026, which:~~

~~(a) Constrains the freedom of contract of such public entity;~~

~~(b) Allows the curriculum or values of a program in the state to be directed or controlled by the foreign country of concern; or~~

~~(c) Promotes an agenda detrimental to the safety or security of the United States or its residents. Before the execution of any cultural exchange agreement with a foreign country of concern, the substance of the agreement must be shared with federal agencies concerned with protecting national security or enforcing trade sanctions, embargoes, or other restrictions under federal law. If such federal agency provides information suggesting that such agreement promotes an agenda detrimental to the safety or security of the United States or its residents, the public entity may not enter into the agreement.~~

Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 316.0078, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

316.0078 Prohibition on contracting for camera systems of vendors of foreign countries of concern.—

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

(a) “Controlling interest” means possession of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of a company, whether through ownership of securities, by contract, or otherwise. A person or an entity that directly or indirectly has 25 percent or more of the voting interests of a company or is entitled to 25 percent or more of its profits is presumed to possess a controlling interest. and

(b) “Foreign country of concern” means the People’s Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolás Maduro, or the Syrian Arab Republic, including any agency of or any other entity of significant control of such foreign country of concern have the same meanings as in s. 287.138(1).

Section 10. Subsection (14) of section 496.404, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

496.404 Definitions.—As used in ss. 496.401-496.424, the term:

(14) “Foreign source of concern” means any of the following:

(a) The government or any official of the government of a foreign country of concern;

(b) A political party or member of a political party or any subdivision of a political party in a foreign country of concern;

(c) A partnership, an association, a corporation, an organization, or other combination of persons organized under the laws of or having its principal place of business in a foreign country of concern, or a subsidiary of such entity;

(d) Any person who is domiciled in a foreign country of concern and is not a citizen or lawful permanent citizen of the United States;

(e) An agent, including a subsidiary or an affiliate of a foreign legal entity, acting on behalf of a foreign source of concern; ~~or~~

(f) An entity in which a person, entity, or collection of persons or entities described in paragraphs (a)-(e) has a controlling interest. As used in this paragraph, the term “controlling interest” means the possession of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of an entity, whether through ownership of securities, by contract, or otherwise. A person or an entity that directly or indirectly has the right to vote 25 percent or more of the voting interest of the company or is entitled to 25 percent or more of its profits is presumed to possess a controlling interest; or

(g) A designated foreign terrorist organization as defined in s. 775.32 or an agent acting on behalf of a designated foreign terrorist organization.

Section 11. Subsection (3) of section 692.201, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

692.201 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

(3) “Foreign country of concern” means the People’s Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolás Maduro, or

the Syrian Arab Republic, including any agency of or any other entity under of significant control of such foreign country of concern.

Section 12. Section 775.08255, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

775.08255 Offenses by foreign agents; reclassification.—

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

(a) “Agent of a foreign government or designated foreign terrorist organization” means a person acting on behalf of or otherwise employed or controlled by a foreign government or a designated foreign terrorist organization.

(b) “Designated foreign terrorist organization” has the same meaning as provided in s. 775.32.

(c) “Foreign government” has the same meaning as provided in s. 286.101(1).

(2) The penalty for any misdemeanor or felony may be reclassified if the commission of such misdemeanor or felony was for the purpose of benefiting, promoting, or furthering the interests of a foreign government, a designated foreign terrorist organization, or an agent of a foreign government or designated foreign terrorist organization. The reclassification is as follows:

(a) A misdemeanor of the second degree is reclassified to a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(b) A misdemeanor of the first degree is reclassified to a felony of the third degree.

(c) A felony of the third degree is reclassified to a felony of the second degree.

(d) A felony of the second degree is reclassified to a felony of the first degree.

(e) A felony of the first degree is reclassified to a life felony.

(3) In addition to any other penalties prescribed by law, a person convicted of a felony of the first degree or a life felony under this section must be sentenced to a minimum term of imprisonment of 15 years.

Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 282.802, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

282.802 Government Technology Modernization Council.—

(7)(a) The council shall meet at least quarterly to:

1. Recommend legislative and administrative actions that the Legislature and state agencies as defined in s. 282.318(2) may take to promote the development of data modernization in this state.

2. Assess and provide guidance on necessary legislative reforms and the creation of a state code of ethics for artificial intelligence systems in state government.

3. Assess the effect of automated decision systems or identity management on constitutional and other legal rights, duties, and privileges of residents of this state.

4. Evaluate common standards for artificial intelligence safety and security measures, including the benefits of requiring disclosure of the digital provenance for all images and audio created using generative artificial intelligence as a means of revealing the origin and edit of the image or audio, as well as the best methods for such disclosure.

5. Assess the manner in which governmental entities and the private sector are using artificial intelligence with a focus on opportunity areas for deployments in systems across this state.

6. Determine the manner in which artificial intelligence is being exploited by bad actors, including foreign countries of concern as defined in s. 286.101(1) ~~s. 287.138(4)~~.

7. Evaluate the need for curriculum to prepare school-age audiences with the digital media and visual literacy skills needed to navigate the digital information landscape.

Section 14. Subsection (2) of section 63.213, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

63.213 Preplanned adoption agreement. –

(2)(a) A preplanned adoption agreement is prohibited if:

1. The volunteer mother is a citizen or resident of a foreign country of concern as defined in s. 286.101(1).

2. Either the intended father or intended mother is a citizen or resident of a foreign country of concern as defined in s. 286.101(1).

(b) A preplanned adoption agreement must include, but need not be limited to, the following terms:

1.(a) That the volunteer mother agrees to become pregnant by the fertility technique specified in the agreement, to bear the child, and to terminate any parental rights and responsibilities to the child she might have through a written consent executed at the same time as the preplanned adoption agreement, subject to a right of rescission by the volunteer mother any time within 48 hours after the birth of the child, if the volunteer mother is genetically related to the child.

2.(b) That the volunteer mother agrees to submit to reasonable medical evaluation and treatment and to adhere to reasonable medical instructions about her prenatal health.

3.(c) That the volunteer mother acknowledges that she is aware that she will assume parental rights and responsibilities for the child born to her as otherwise provided by law for a mother if the intended father and intended mother terminate the agreement before final transfer of custody is completed, if a court determines that a parent clearly specified by the preplanned adoption agreement to be the biological parent is not the biological parent, or if the preplanned adoption is not approved by the court pursuant to the Florida Adoption Act.

4.(d) That an intended father who is also the biological father acknowledges that he is aware that he will assume parental rights and responsibilities for the child as otherwise provided by law for a father if the agreement is terminated for any reason by any party before final transfer of custody is completed or if the planned adoption is not approved by the court pursuant to the Florida Adoption Act.

5.(e) That the intended father and intended mother acknowledge that they may not receive custody or the parental rights under the agreement if the volunteer mother terminates the agreement or if the volunteer mother rescinds her consent to place her child for adoption within 48 hours after the birth of the child, if the volunteer mother is genetically related to the child.

6.(f) That the intended father and intended mother may agree to pay all reasonable legal, medical, psychological, or psychiatric expenses of the volunteer mother related to the preplanned adoption arrangement and may agree to pay the reasonable living expenses and wages lost due to the pregnancy and birth of the volunteer mother and reasonable compensation for inconvenience, discomfort, and medical risk. No other compensation, whether in cash or in kind, shall be made pursuant to a preplanned adoption arrangement.

~~7.(g)~~ That the intended father and intended mother agree to accept custody of and to assert full parental rights and responsibilities for the child immediately upon the child's birth, regardless of any impairment to the child.

~~8.(h)~~ That the intended father and intended mother shall have the right to specify the blood and tissue typing tests to be performed if the agreement specifies that at least one of them is intended to be the biological parent of the child.

~~9.(i)~~ That the agreement may be terminated at any time by any of the parties.

Section 15. Subsection (1) of section 742.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

742.15 Gestational surrogacy contract.—

(1)(a) ~~Before~~ Prior to engaging in gestational surrogacy, a binding and enforceable gestational surrogacy contract shall be made between the commissioning couple and the gestational surrogate. A contract for gestational surrogacy is ~~shall not be~~ binding and enforceable unless the gestational surrogate is 18 years of age or older and the commissioning couple are legally married and are both 18 years of age or older.

(b)1. A gestational surrogacy contract may not be entered into in this state if any party to the contract is a citizen or resident of a foreign country of concern as defined in s. 286.101(1).

2. A gestational surrogacy contract executed in violation of this paragraph is void and unenforceable as against the public policy of the state.

Section 16. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor May 8, 2026.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 8, 2026.

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1
2 An act relating to the Department of Financial
3 Services; amending s. 17.11, F.S.; revising the
4 subsystem used for a certain report of disbursements
5 made; amending s. 17.13, F.S.; requiring the
6 replacement, rather than the duplication, of lost or
7 destroyed warrants; amending s. 110.113, F.S.;
8 deleting the Department of Financial Services'
9 authority to make semimonthly salary payments;
10 amending s. 112.3135, F.S.; authorizing a public
11 official to take specified actions regarding the
12 employment of a relative as a firefighter; amending s.
13 215.5586, F.S.; defining terms; revising eligibility
14 requirements for a hurricane mitigation inspection
15 under the My Safe Florida Home Program; revising the
16 circumstances under which applicants may submit a
17 subsequent hurricane mitigation inspection
18 application; deleting the requirement that licensed
19 inspectors determine mitigation measures during
20 initial inspections of eligible homes; deleting
21 inspectors' authorization to inspect townhouses;
22 revising the criteria for eligibility for a hurricane
23 mitigation grant; deleting an expiration date;
24 revising the list of improvements for which grants may
25 be used; requiring that improvements be identified in
26 the final hurricane mitigation inspection to receive
27 grant funds; deleting a provision related to grants
28 for townhouses; authorizing the program to accept a
29 specified certification directly from applicants;

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30 requiring applicants who receive grants to finalize
31 construction and request a final inspection within a
32 specified timeframe; specifying that an application is
33 deemed abandoned, rather than withdrawn, under certain
34 circumstances; requiring the department to notify
35 applicants within a specified timeframe before an
36 application is deemed abandoned; authorizing
37 applicants to submit a subsequent application under
38 certain circumstances; authorizing the department to
39 determine that an application is not abandoned under
40 certain circumstances; amending s. 215.89, F.S.;
41 deleting provisions regarding the reporting structure
42 for charts of accounts relating to the use of public
43 funds by governmental entities; amending s. 215.93,
44 F.S.; revising the subsystems of the Florida Financial
45 Management Information System; amending s. 215.94,
46 F.S.; providing that the department is the functional
47 owner of the Financial Management Subsystem rather
48 than the Florida Accounting Information Resource
49 Subsystem; revising the functions of such subsystem;
50 amending s. 215.96, F.S.; revising the composition of
51 the coordinating council; deleting a requirement for
52 the design and coordination staff; requiring that
53 minutes of meetings be available to interested
54 persons; revising the composition of ex officio
55 members of the council; revising the duties, powers,
56 and responsibilities of the council to include
57 reviewing and coordinating annual workplans for a
58 specified purpose; amending ss. 215.985, 216.102, and

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59 216.141, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made
60 by the act; amending s. 440.13, F.S.; revising the
61 timeframe in which health care providers must petition
62 the department to resolve utilization and
63 reimbursement disputes; revising petition service
64 requirements; revising the timeframe in which carriers
65 must submit certain documentation to the department;
66 revising the timeframe in which the panel determining
67 the statewide schedule of maximum reimbursement
68 allowances must submit certain recommendations to the
69 Legislature; creating s. 497.1411, F.S.; defining the
70 term "applicant"; specifying that certain applicants
71 are permanently barred from licensure; specifying that
72 certain applicants are subject to specified
73 disqualifying periods; requiring the Board of Funeral,
74 Cemetery, and Consumer Services to adopt rules;
75 specifying requirements, authorizations, and
76 prohibitions for such rules; specifying when a
77 disqualifying period begins; prohibiting the board
78 from issuing approval for a license until an applicant
79 provides proof that certain fines, costs, fees, and
80 restitution have been paid; specifying that the
81 applicant has certain burdens to demonstrate that he
82 or she is qualified for licensure; specifying that
83 certain applicants who have been granted a pardon or
84 restoration of civil rights are not barred or
85 disqualified from licensure; specifying that such
86 pardon or restoration does not require the board to
87 award a license; authorizing the board to grant an

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88 exemption from disqualification under certain
89 circumstances; specifying requirements for the
90 applicant in order for the board to grant an
91 exemption; specifying that the board has discretion to
92 grant or deny an exemption; specifying that certain
93 decisions are subject to ch. 120, F.S.; providing
94 applicability and construction; amending s. 497.142,
95 F.S.; prohibiting an application from being deemed
96 complete under certain circumstances; revising the
97 list of crimes to be disclosed on a license
98 application; amending s. 553.80, F.S.; specifying that
99 certain dwellings do not have a change of occupancy
100 under certain circumstances; amending s. 560.309,
101 F.S.; revising the provisions that a licensee must
102 comply with in seeking collection of worthless payment
103 instruments; amending s. 560.405, F.S.; providing that
104 redemption in cash or through a debit card transaction
105 shall be treated the same; prohibiting payment through
106 a credit card transaction; amending s. 560.406, F.S.;
107 requiring deferred presentment providers to comply
108 with the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act only if
109 such deferred presentment providers meet certain
110 criteria; amending s. 626.0428, F.S.; conforming a
111 provision to changes made by the act; amending s.
112 626.171, F.S.; deleting reinsurance intermediaries
113 from certain application requirements; revising the
114 list of persons from whom the department is required
115 to accept uniform applications; making clarifying
116 changes regarding the voluntary submission of cellular

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117 telephone numbers; revising the exemption from the
118 application filing fee for members of the United
119 States Armed Forces; amending s. 626.292, F.S.;
120 revising applicant requirements for a license
121 transfer; amending s. 626.611, F.S.; requiring the
122 department to require license reexamination of certain
123 persons and to suspend or revoke the eligibility of
124 such persons to hold a license or appointment under
125 certain circumstances; amending the grounds for
126 suspension or revocation; amending s. 626.621, F.S.;
127 authorizing the department to require a license
128 reexamination for certain persons; amending s.
129 626.731, F.S.; revising the qualifications for a
130 general lines agent's license; amending s. 626.785,
131 F.S.; revising the qualifications for a life agent's
132 license; amending s. 626.831, F.S.; revising the
133 qualifications for a health agent's license; amending
134 s. 626.8417, F.S.; revising the list of persons who
135 are exempt from certain provisions relating to title
136 insurance licensing and appointment requirements;
137 amending s. 626.854, F.S.; requiring a public
138 adjuster, public adjuster apprentice, or public
139 adjusting firm to respond to certain claims status
140 requests with specific information within a specified
141 timeframe and document in the file the response or
142 information provided; repealing s. 627.797, F.S.,
143 relating to agents exempt from title insurance
144 licensing; amending s. 633.208, F.S.; prohibiting
145 certain dwellings from being reclassified for certain

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407 salary payments by direct deposit.--

408 (1) The normal pay period for salaries of state officers
409 and employees shall be 1 month. The Department of Financial
410 Services shall issue either monthly or biweekly salary payments
411 by state warrants or by direct deposit pursuant to s. 17.076 ~~or~~
412 ~~make semimonthly salary payments by direct deposit pursuant to~~
413 ~~s. 17.076~~, as requested by the head of each state agency and
414 approved by the Executive Office of the Governor and the
415 Department of Financial Services.

416 Section 4. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (2) of
417 section 112.3135, Florida Statutes, to read:

418 112.3135 Restriction on employment of relatives.--

419 (2)

420 (c) To aid the recruitment of firefighters within this
421 state, notwithstanding paragraph (a), a public official may
422 appoint, employ, promote, or advance, or advocate for the
423 appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement of, a
424 relative as a firefighter as defined in s. 633.102 if such
425 appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement is part of a
426 competitive process provided for in a collective bargaining
427 agreement.

428 Section 5. Present subsections (4) through (10) of section
429 215.5586, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (5)
430 through (11), respectively, a new subsection (4) is added to
431 that section, and paragraphs (a) through (e) of subsection (1),
432 subsections (2) and (3), paragraph (a) of present subsection
433 (8), and present subsection (10) of that section are amended, to
434 read:

435 215.5586 My Safe Florida Home Program.--There is established