

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Department of Economic
3 Opportunity; amending s. 20.60, F.S.; renaming the
4 executive director of the Department of Economic
5 Opportunity as the Secretary of Economic Opportunity;
6 authorizing the secretary to appoint deputy and
7 assistant secretaries for a specified purpose;
8 establishing the Office of the Secretary and the
9 Office of Economic Accountability and Transparency;
10 providing duties for the Office of Economic
11 Accountability and Transparency; authorizing the
12 secretary to create offices within the Office of the
13 Secretary and within the divisions; requiring the
14 secretary to appoint division directors; providing
15 duties for the division directors; conforming
16 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
17 288.901, F.S.; revising the membership of the board of
18 directors of Enterprise Florida, Inc.; amending s.
19 290.042, F.S.; revising the definition of the term
20 "administrative costs" relating to the Florida Small
21 Cities Community Development Block Grant Program Act;
22 amending s. 290.044, F.S.; revising the application
23 process and funding for the Florida Small Cities
24 Community Development Block Grant Program Fund;
25 amending s. 290.046, F.S.; revising the application

26 process and funding for development grants awarded by
27 the department to local governments; amending s.
28 331.3081, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending
29 s. 435.02, F.S.; revising the definition of the term
30 "specified agency" to include certain regional
31 workforce boards for the purposes of labor laws;
32 amending s. 443.036, F.S.; revising the definition of
33 the term "temporary layoff"; amending s. 443.091,
34 F.S.; revising the reporting requirements for
35 reemployment assistance benefit eligibility; defining
36 the term "address"; amending s. 443.101, F.S.;
37 deleting a provision providing that individuals who
38 voluntarily leave work as a direct result of
39 circumstances relating to domestic violence are
40 ineligible for benefits under certain circumstances;
41 amending s. 443.1113, F.S.; requiring the department
42 to implement an integrated, modular system hosted in a
43 cloud service, rather than an integrated Internet-
44 based system, for the reemployment assistance program;
45 revising the functions and objectives of the
46 Reemployment Assistance Claims and Benefits
47 Information System; revising the duties of the
48 department; providing reporting requirements; deleting
49 obsolete language; deleting provisions relating to
50 duties of the governance structure of the system

51 project; creating s. 443.1118, F.S.; defining terms;
52 requiring the department to establish specified
53 criteria; authorizing employers to initiate employer-
54 assisted claims under certain circumstances; providing
55 requirements for employer-assisted claims relating to
56 mass separations; specifying the effective date of
57 such claims; providing that benefits paid to a
58 claimant pursuant to an employer-assisted claim count
59 toward maximum benefits for which the claimant is
60 eligible; requiring a claimant covered by an employer-
61 assisted claim to file continued biweekly claims;
62 providing construction; requiring and authorizing the
63 department to adopt specified rules; amending s.
64 443.151, F.S.; revising the timeline for employers'
65 responses to notices of benefits claims sent by the
66 department; authorizing claimants to request the
67 department to reconsider a monetary determination;
68 providing requirements for such request; providing
69 that monetary determinations and redeterminations are
70 final after a specified period of time; providing
71 exceptions; deleting a requirement that appeals
72 referees be attorneys in good standing with The
73 Florida Bar or be admitted to The Florida Bar within 8
74 months after the date of employment; prohibiting
75 appeals from being filed after a specified time;

76 | amending s. 445.004, F.S.; revising the membership of
 77 | the state board, which directs CareerSource Florida,
 78 | Inc.; amending s. 553.79, F.S.; requiring specified
 79 | building permit applications applied for by licensed
 80 | contractors for property owners under certain programs
 81 | administered by the department to be issued within a
 82 | reduced timeframe; amending ss. 14.20195, 16.615,
 83 | 20.04, 213.053, 220.194, 288.005, 288.061, 288.0656,
 84 | 288.106, 288.1089, 288.1251, 288.8014, 288.955,
 85 | 288.9604, 288.987, 290.0065, 311.09, 311.105, 334.065,
 86 | 373.4149, 380.045, 403.0752, 420.0005, 420.0006,
 87 | 420.101, 420.503, 420.504, 420.506, 420.507, 420.511,
 88 | 420.602, 420.609, 420.622, 427.012, 443.1116, 446.53,
 89 | 450.261, 624.5105, and 1004.015, F.S.; conforming
 90 | provisions to changes made by the act; requiring the
 91 | department to take certain actions for a specified
 92 | fiscal year; providing an effective date.

93 |
 94 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

95 |
 96 | Section 1. Subsections (2) and (3), paragraph (a) of
 97 | subsection (5), paragraph (b) of subsection (6), and subsection
 98 | (9) of section 20.60, Florida Statutes, are amended, and
 99 | subsection (1) of that section is republished, to read:

100 | 20.60 Department of Economic Opportunity; creation; powers

101 and duties.—

102 (1) There is created the Department of Economic
103 Opportunity.

104 (2) The head of the department is the Secretary of
105 Economic Opportunity ~~executive director~~, who shall be appointed
106 by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate. The
107 secretary ~~executive director~~ shall serve at the pleasure of and
108 report to the Governor. The secretary may appoint deputy and
109 assistant secretaries as necessary to aid the secretary in
110 fulfilling his or her statutory obligations.

111 (3) (a) The following divisions and offices of the
112 Department of Economic Opportunity are established:

113 1. (a) The Division of Strategic Business Development.

114 2. (b) The Division of Community Development.

115 3. (c) The Division of Workforce Services.

116 4. (d) The Division of Finance and Administration.

117 5. (e) The Division of Information Technology.

118 6. The Office of the Secretary.

119 7. The Office of Economic Accountability and Transparency,
120 which shall:

121 a. Oversee the department's critical objectives as
122 determined by the secretary and make sure that the department's
123 key objectives are clearly communicated to the public.

124 b. Organize department resources, expertise, data, and
125 research to focus on and solve the complex economic challenges

126 facing the state.

127 c. Provide leadership for the department's priority issues
128 that require integration of policy, management, and critical
129 objectives from multiple programs and organizations internal and
130 external to the department; and organize and manage external
131 communication on such priority issues.

132 d. Promote and facilitate key department initiatives to
133 address priority economic issues and explore data and identify
134 opportunities for innovative approaches to address such economic
135 issues.

136 e. Promote strategic planning for the department.

137 (b) The secretary:

138 1. May create offices within the Office of the Secretary
139 and within the divisions established in paragraph (a) to promote
140 efficient and effective operation of the department.

141 2. Shall appoint a director for each division, who shall
142 directly administer his or her division and be responsible to
143 the secretary.

144 (5) The divisions within the department have specific
145 responsibilities to achieve the duties, responsibilities, and
146 goals of the department. Specifically:

147 (a) The Division of Strategic Business Development shall:

148 1. Analyze and evaluate business prospects identified by
149 the Governor, the secretary ~~executive director~~ of the
150 department, and Enterprise Florida, Inc.

151 2. Administer certain tax refund, tax credit, and grant
152 programs created in law. Notwithstanding any other provision of
153 law, the department may expend interest earned from the
154 investment of program funds deposited in the Grants and
155 Donations Trust Fund to contract for the administration of those
156 programs, or portions of the programs, assigned to the
157 department by law, by the appropriations process, or by the
158 Governor. Such expenditures shall be subject to review under
159 chapter 216.

160 3. Develop measurement protocols for the state incentive
161 programs and for the contracted entities which will be used to
162 determine their performance and competitive value to the state.
163 Performance measures, benchmarks, and sanctions must be
164 developed in consultation with the legislative appropriations
165 committees and the appropriate substantive committees, and are
166 subject to the review and approval process provided in s.
167 216.177. The approved performance measures, standards, and
168 sanctions shall be included and made a part of the strategic
169 plan for contracts entered into for delivery of programs
170 authorized by this section.

171 4. Develop a 5-year statewide strategic plan. The
172 strategic plan must include, but need not be limited to:

173 a. Strategies for the promotion of business formation,
174 expansion, recruitment, and retention through aggressive
175 marketing, international development, and export assistance,

176 | which lead to more and better jobs and higher wages for all
177 | geographic regions, disadvantaged communities, and populations
178 | of the state, including rural areas, minority businesses, and
179 | urban core areas.

180 | b. The development of realistic policies and programs to
181 | further the economic diversity of the state, its regions, and
182 | their associated industrial clusters.

183 | c. Specific provisions for the stimulation of economic
184 | development and job creation in rural areas and midsize cities
185 | and counties of the state, including strategies for rural
186 | marketing and the development of infrastructure in rural areas.

187 | d. Provisions for the promotion of the successful long-
188 | term economic development of the state with increased emphasis
189 | in market research and information.

190 | e. Plans for the generation of foreign investment in the
191 | state which create jobs paying above-average wages and which
192 | result in reverse investment in the state, including programs
193 | that establish viable overseas markets, assist in meeting the
194 | financing requirements of export-ready firms, broaden
195 | opportunities for international joint venture relationships, use
196 | the resources of academic and other institutions, coordinate
197 | trade assistance and facilitation services, and facilitate
198 | availability of and access to education and training programs
199 | that assure requisite skills and competencies necessary to
200 | compete successfully in the global marketplace.

201 f. The identification of business sectors that are of
202 current or future importance to the state's economy and to the
203 state's global business image, and development of specific
204 strategies to promote the development of such sectors.

205 g. Strategies for talent development necessary in the
206 state to encourage economic development growth, taking into
207 account factors such as the state's talent supply chain,
208 education and training opportunities, and available workforce.

209 5. Update the strategic plan every 5 years.

210 6. Involve Enterprise Florida, Inc.; CareerSource Florida,
211 Inc.; local governments; the general public; local and regional
212 economic development organizations; other local, state, and
213 federal economic, international, and workforce development
214 entities; the business community; and educational institutions
215 to assist with the strategic plan.

216 (6)

217 (b) The Department of Economic Opportunity shall serve as
218 the designated agency for purposes of each federal workforce
219 development grant assigned to it for administration. The
220 department shall carry out the duties assigned to it by the
221 Governor, under the terms and conditions of each grant. The
222 department shall have the level of authority and autonomy
223 necessary to be the designated recipient of each federal grant
224 assigned to it and shall disburse such grants pursuant to the
225 plans and policies of the state board as defined in s. 445.002.

226 The secretary ~~executive director~~ may, upon delegation from the
227 Governor and pursuant to agreement with the state board, sign
228 contracts, grants, and other instruments as necessary to execute
229 functions assigned to the department. Notwithstanding other
230 provisions of law, the department shall administer other
231 programs funded by federal or state appropriations, as
232 determined by the Legislature in the General Appropriations Act
233 or other law.

234 (9) The secretary ~~executive director~~ shall:

235 (a) Manage all activities and responsibilities of the
236 department.

237 (b) Serve as the manager for the state with respect to
238 contracts with Enterprise Florida, Inc., and all applicable
239 direct-support organizations. To accomplish the provisions of
240 this section and applicable provisions of chapter 288, and
241 notwithstanding the provisions of part I of chapter 287, the
242 secretary ~~director~~ shall enter into specific contracts with
243 Enterprise Florida, Inc., and other appropriate direct-support
244 organizations. Such contracts may be for multiyear terms and
245 must include specific performance measures for each year. For
246 purposes of this section, the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing
247 Corporation and the Institute for Commercialization of Florida
248 Technology are not appropriate direct-support organizations.

249 (c) Serve as a member of the board of directors of the
250 Florida Development Finance Corporation. The secretary ~~executive~~

251 ~~director~~ may designate an employee of the department to serve in
252 this capacity.

253 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section
254 288.901, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

255 288.901 Enterprise Florida, Inc.—

256 (5) APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—

257 (a) In addition to the Governor or his or her designee,
258 the board of directors shall consist of the following appointed
259 members:

- 260 1. The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee.
- 261 2. The Chief Financial Officer or his or her designee.
- 262 3. The Attorney General or his or her designee.
- 263 4. The Commissioner of Agriculture or his or her designee.
- 264 5. The chairperson of the state board as defined in s.
265 445.002.
- 266 6. The Secretary of State or his or her designee.
- 267 7. The Secretary of Economic Opportunity or his or her
268 designee.

269 8. Twelve members from the private sector, six of whom
270 shall be appointed by the Governor, three of whom shall be
271 appointed by the President of the Senate, and three of whom
272 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
273 Representatives. Members appointed by the Governor are subject
274 to Senate confirmation.

275

276 All board members shall serve without compensation, but are
 277 entitled to receive reimbursement for per diem and travel
 278 expenses pursuant to s. 112.061. Such expenses must be paid out
 279 of funds of Enterprise Florida, Inc.

280 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 290.042, Florida
 281 Statutes, is amended to read:

282 290.042 Definitions relating to Florida Small Cities
 283 Community Development Block Grant Program Act.—As used in ss.
 284 290.0401-290.048, the term:

285 (2) "Administrative costs" has the same meaning as defined
 286 in the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as
 287 amended, and applicable federal regulations ~~means the payment of~~
 288 ~~all reasonable costs of management, coordination, monitoring,~~
 289 ~~and evaluation, and similar costs and carrying charges, related~~
 290 ~~to the planning and execution of community development~~
 291 ~~activities which are funded in whole or in part under the~~
 292 ~~Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program.~~
 293 ~~Administrative costs shall include all costs of administration,~~
 294 ~~including general administration, planning and urban design, and~~
 295 ~~project administration costs.~~

296 Section 4. Subsections (3), (4), and (5) of section
 297 290.044, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

298 290.044 Florida Small Cities Community Development Block
 299 Grant Program Fund; administration; distribution.—

300 (3) The department shall require applicants for grants to

301 compete against each other in ~~the following grant program~~
302 categories that may include one or more of the following:

- 303 (a) Housing rehabilitation.
304 (b) Economic development.
305 (c) Neighborhood revitalization.
306 (d) Commercial revitalization.
307 (e) Any other activity authorized by the Housing and
308 Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and applicable
309 federal regulations.

310 (4) The department shall define broad community
311 development objectives to be achieved by the activities in ~~each~~
312 ~~of~~ the grant program categories with the use of funds from the
313 Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program
314 Fund. Such objectives shall be designed to meet at least one of
315 the national objectives provided in the Housing and Community
316 Development Act of 1974.

317 (5) The department may set aside an amount of up to 15 ~~5~~
318 percent of the funds annually for use in any eligible local
319 government jurisdiction for which an emergency or natural
320 disaster has been declared by executive order. Such funds may
321 only be provided to a local government to fund eligible
322 emergency-related activities for which no other source of
323 federal, state, or local disaster funds is available. The
324 department may provide for such set-aside by rule. In the last
325 quarter of the state fiscal year, any funds not allocated under

326 the emergency-related set-aside shall be distributed to unfunded
327 applications ~~from the most recent funding cycle.~~

328 Section 5. Subsection (2), paragraph (b) of subsection
329 (3), and subsection (6) of section 290.046, Florida Statutes,
330 are amended to read:

331 290.046 Applications for grants; procedures;
332 requirements.—

333 ~~(2)(a) Except for applications for economic development~~
334 ~~grants as provided in subparagraph (b)1., an eligible local~~
335 ~~government may submit one application for a grant during each~~
336 ~~application cycle.~~

337 ~~(b)1. An eligible local government may apply up to three~~
338 ~~times in any one annual funding cycle for an economic~~
339 ~~development grant but may not receive more than one such grant~~
340 ~~per annual funding cycle. A local government may have more than~~
341 ~~one open economic development grant.~~

342 (2)(a)2. The department shall establish minimum criteria
343 pertaining to the number of jobs created for persons of low or
344 moderate income, the degree of private sector financial
345 commitment, and the economic feasibility of the proposed project
346 and shall establish any other criteria the department deems
347 appropriate. Assistance to a private, for-profit business may
348 not be provided from a grant award unless sufficient evidence
349 exists to demonstrate that without such public assistance the
350 creation or retention of such jobs would not occur.

351 (b) ~~(c)~~1. A local government with an open housing
352 rehabilitation, neighborhood revitalization, or commercial
353 revitalization contract is not eligible to apply for another
354 housing rehabilitation, neighborhood revitalization, or
355 commercial revitalization grant until administrative closeout of
356 its existing contract. The department shall notify a local
357 government of administrative closeout or of any outstanding
358 closeout issues within 45 days after receipt of a closeout
359 package from the local government. A local government with an
360 open housing rehabilitation, neighborhood revitalization, or
361 commercial revitalization community development block grant
362 contract whose activities are on schedule in accordance with the
363 expenditure rates and accomplishments described in the contract
364 may apply for an economic development grant.

365 (c) ~~2~~. A local government with an open economic development
366 community development block grant contract whose activities are
367 on schedule in accordance with the expenditure rates and
368 accomplishments described in the contract may apply for a
369 housing rehabilitation, neighborhood revitalization, or
370 commercial revitalization community development block grant. A
371 local government with an open economic development contract
372 whose activities are on schedule in accordance with the
373 expenditure rates and accomplishments described in the contract
374 may receive ~~no~~ more than one additional economic development
375 grant in each fiscal year.

376 (d) The department may not award a grant until it has
377 conducted a site visit to verify the information contained in
378 the local government's application.

379 (3)

380 (b) Funds shall be distributed according to the rankings
381 established in each application cycle. If economic development
382 funds remain available after the application cycle closes, the
383 remaining funds shall be awarded to eligible projects ~~on a~~
384 ~~first-come, first-served basis until such funds are fully~~
385 ~~obligated.~~

386 (6) The department shall, before approving an application
387 for a grant, determine that the applicant has the administrative
388 capacity to carry out the proposed activities and has performed
389 satisfactorily in carrying out past activities funded by
390 community development block grants. The evaluation of past
391 performance shall take into account procedural aspects of
392 previous grants as well as substantive results. If the
393 department determines that any applicant has failed to
394 accomplish substantially the results it proposed in ~~its last~~
395 previously funded applications ~~application~~, it may prohibit the
396 applicant from receiving a grant or may penalize the applicant
397 in the rating of the current application. An application for
398 grant funds may not be denied solely upon the basis of the past
399 performance of the eligible applicant.

400 Section 6. Section 331.3081, Florida Statutes, is amended

401 to read:

402 331.3081 Board of directors.—Space Florida shall be
403 governed by a 13-member independent board of directors that
404 consists of the members appointed to the board of directors of
405 Enterprise Florida, Inc., by the Governor, the President of the
406 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives pursuant
407 to s. 288.901(5)(a)8. ~~s. 288.901(5)(a)7.~~ and the Governor, who
408 shall serve ex officio, or who may appoint a designee to serve,
409 as the chair and a voting member of the board.

410 Section 7. Subsection (5) of section 435.02, Florida
411 Statutes, is amended to read:

412 435.02 Definitions.—For the purposes of this chapter, the
413 term:

414 (5) "Specified agency" means the Department of Health, the
415 Department of Children and Families, the Division of Vocational
416 Rehabilitation within the Department of Education, the Agency
417 for Health Care Administration, the Department of Elderly
418 Affairs, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Agency for
419 Persons with Disabilities, regional workforce boards providing
420 services as defined in s. 445.002(3), and local licensing
421 agencies approved pursuant to s. 402.307, when these agencies
422 are conducting state and national criminal history background
423 screening on persons who work with children or persons who are
424 elderly or disabled.

425 Section 8. Subsection (43) of section 443.036, Florida

426 Statutes, is amended to read:

427 443.036 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

428 (43) "Temporary layoff" means:

429 (a) An individual's a job separation due to lack of work
 430 which does not exceed 8 consecutive weeks and which has a fixed
 431 or approximate return-to-work date; or

432 (b) An individual's employer-initiated furlough that
 433 causes a mandatory complete stoppage of work if such furlough is
 434 temporary and the individual remains job attached and is
 435 expected to return to work with the employer.

436 Section 9. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
 437 443.091, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

438 443.091 Benefit eligibility conditions.—

439 (1) An unemployed individual is eligible to receive
 440 benefits for any week only if the Department of Economic
 441 Opportunity finds that:

442 (c) To make continued claims for benefits, she or he is
 443 reporting to the department in accordance with this paragraph
 444 and department rules. Department rules may not conflict with s.
 445 443.111(1)(b), which requires that each claimant continue to
 446 report regardless of any pending appeal relating to her or his
 447 eligibility or disqualification for benefits.

448 1. For each week of unemployment claimed, each report
 449 must, at a minimum, include the name and, ~~address, and telephone~~
 450 ~~number~~ of each prospective employer contacted, or the date the

451 claimant reported to a one-stop career center, pursuant to
452 paragraph (d). For the purposes of this subparagraph, the term
453 "address" means a website address, a physical address, or an e-
454 mail address.

455 2. The department shall offer an online assessment aimed
456 at identifying an individual's skills, abilities, and career
457 aptitude. The skills assessment must be voluntary, and the
458 department shall allow a claimant to choose whether to take the
459 skills assessment. The online assessment shall be made available
460 to any person seeking services from a local workforce
461 development board or a one-stop career center.

462 a. If the claimant chooses to take the online assessment,
463 the outcome of the assessment shall be made available to the
464 claimant, local workforce development board, and one-stop career
465 center. The department, local workforce development board, or
466 one-stop career center shall use the assessment to develop a
467 plan for referring individuals to training and employment
468 opportunities. Aggregate data on assessment outcomes may be made
469 available to CareerSource Florida, Inc., and Enterprise Florida,
470 Inc., for use in the development of policies related to
471 education and training programs that will ensure that businesses
472 in this state have access to a skilled and competent workforce.

473 b. Individuals shall be informed of and offered services
474 through the one-stop delivery system, including career
475 counseling, the provision of skill match and job market

476 information, and skills upgrade and other training
477 opportunities, and shall be encouraged to participate in such
478 services at no cost to the individuals. The department shall
479 coordinate with CareerSource Florida, Inc., the local workforce
480 development boards, and the one-stop career centers to identify,
481 develop, and use best practices for improving the skills of
482 individuals who choose to participate in skills upgrade and
483 other training opportunities. The department may contract with
484 an entity to create the online assessment in accordance with the
485 competitive bidding requirements in s. 287.057. The online
486 assessment must work seamlessly with the Reemployment Assistance
487 Claims and Benefits Information System.

488 Section 10. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and subsection
489 (6) of section 443.101, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

490 443.101 Disqualification for benefits.—An individual shall
491 be disqualified for benefits:

492 (1)(a) For the week in which he or she has voluntarily
493 left work without good cause attributable to his or her
494 employing unit or for the week in which he or she has been
495 discharged by the employing unit for misconduct connected with
496 his or her work, based on a finding by the Department of
497 Economic Opportunity. As used in this paragraph, the term "work"
498 means any work, whether full-time, part-time, or temporary.

499 1. Disqualification for voluntarily quitting continues for
500 the full period of unemployment next ensuing after the

501 individual has left his or her full-time, part-time, or
502 temporary work voluntarily without good cause and until the
503 individual has earned income equal to or greater than 17 times
504 his or her weekly benefit amount. As used in this subsection,
505 the term "good cause" includes only that cause attributable to
506 the employing unit which would compel a reasonable employee to
507 cease working or attributable to the individual's illness or
508 disability requiring separation from his or her work. Any other
509 disqualification may not be imposed.

510 2. An individual is not disqualified under this subsection
511 for:

512 a. Voluntarily leaving temporary work to return
513 immediately when called to work by the permanent employing unit
514 that temporarily terminated his or her work within the previous
515 6 calendar months;

516 b. Voluntarily leaving work to relocate as a result of his
517 or her military-connected spouse's permanent change of station
518 orders, activation orders, or unit deployment orders; or

519 c. Voluntarily leaving work if he or she proves that his
520 or her discontinued employment is a direct result of
521 circumstances related to domestic violence as defined in s.
522 741.28. An individual who voluntarily leaves work under this
523 sub-subparagraph must:

524 (I) Make reasonable efforts to preserve employment, unless
525 the individual establishes that such remedies are likely to be

526 futile or to increase the risk of future incidents of domestic
 527 violence. Such efforts may include seeking a protective
 528 injunction, relocating to a secure place, or seeking reasonable
 529 accommodation from the employing unit, such as a transfer or
 530 change of assignment;

531 (II) Provide evidence such as an injunction, a protective
 532 order, or other documentation authorized by state law which
 533 reasonably proves that domestic violence has occurred; and

534 (III) Reasonably believe that he or she is likely to be
 535 the victim of a future act of domestic violence at, in transit
 536 to, or departing from his or her place of employment. ~~An~~
 537 ~~individual who is otherwise eligible for benefits under this~~
 538 ~~sub-subparagraph is ineligible for each week that he or she no~~
 539 ~~longer meets such criteria or refuses a reasonable accommodation~~
 540 ~~offered in good faith by his or her employing unit.~~

541 3. The employment record of an employing unit may not be
 542 charged for the payment of benefits to an individual who has
 543 voluntarily left work under sub-subparagraph 2.c.

544 4. Disqualification for being discharged for misconduct
 545 connected with his or her work continues for the full period of
 546 unemployment next ensuing after having been discharged and until
 547 the individual is reemployed and has earned income of at least
 548 17 times his or her weekly benefit amount and for not more than
 549 52 weeks immediately following that week, as determined by the
 550 department in each case according to the circumstances or the

551 | seriousness of the misconduct, under the department's rules for
552 | determining disqualification for benefits for misconduct.

553 | 5. If an individual has provided notification to the
554 | employing unit of his or her intent to voluntarily leave work
555 | and the employing unit discharges the individual for reasons
556 | other than misconduct before the date the voluntary quit was to
557 | take effect, the individual, if otherwise entitled, shall
558 | receive benefits from the date of the employer's discharge until
559 | the effective date of his or her voluntary quit.

560 | 6. If an individual is notified by the employing unit of
561 | the employer's intent to discharge the individual for reasons
562 | other than misconduct and the individual quits without good
563 | cause before the date the discharge was to take effect, the
564 | claimant is ineligible for benefits pursuant to s. 443.091(1)(d)
565 | for failing to be available for work for the week or weeks of
566 | unemployment occurring before the effective date of the
567 | discharge.

568 | (6) For making any false or fraudulent representation for
569 | the purpose of obtaining benefits contrary to this chapter,
570 | constituting a violation under s. 443.071. The disqualification
571 | imposed under this subsection shall begin with the week for ~~in~~
572 | which the false or fraudulent representation was ~~is~~ made and
573 | shall continue for a period not to exceed 1 year after the date
574 | the Department of Economic Opportunity discovers the false or
575 | fraudulent representation and until any overpayment of benefits

576 resulting from such representation has been repaid in full. This
577 disqualification may be appealed in the same manner as any other
578 disqualification imposed under this section. A conviction by any
579 court of competent jurisdiction in this state of the offense
580 prohibited or punished by s. 443.071 is conclusive upon the
581 appeals referee and the commission of the making of the false or
582 fraudulent representation for which disqualification is imposed
583 under this section.

584 Section 11. Section 443.1113, Florida Statutes, is amended
585 to read:

586 443.1113 Reemployment Assistance Claims and Benefits
587 Information System.—

588 (1) The Department of Economic Opportunity shall implement
589 an integrated, modular system hosted in a cloud computing
590 service, as defined in s. 282.0041, that provides for rapid
591 provisioning of additional data processing when necessary. The
592 system must support the efficient distribution of benefits and
593 the effective operation and management of the reemployment
594 assistance program. ~~To The extent that funds are appropriated~~
595 ~~for each phase of the Reemployment Assistance Claims and~~
596 ~~Benefits Information system may be cited by the Legislature, the~~
597 ~~Department of Economic Opportunity shall replace and enhance the~~
598 ~~functionality provided in the following systems with an~~
599 ~~integrated Internet-based system that is known as the~~
600 "Reemployment Assistance Claims and Benefits Information System"

601 and must:

602 (a) Be accessible through the Internet on both mobile
603 devices and personal computers ~~Claims and benefit mainframe~~
604 ~~system.~~

605 (b) Process reemployment assistance claims ~~Florida~~
606 ~~unemployment Internet direct.~~

607 (c) Process benefit payments ~~Florida continued claim~~
608 ~~Internet directory.~~

609 (d) Process and manage overpayments ~~Call center~~
610 ~~interactive voice response system.~~

611 (e) Perform adjudication functions ~~Benefit overpayment~~
612 ~~screening system.~~

613 (f) Process appeals and manage appeal hearings ~~Internet~~
614 ~~and Intranet appeals system.~~

615 (g) Manage and process employer charging.

616 (2) Wherever cost-effective and operationally feasible,
617 the Reemployment Assistance Claims and Benefits System shall
618 accomplish the following main ~~business~~ objectives:

619 (a) ~~Wherever cost-effective and operationally feasible,~~
620 Eliminate or automate existing paper processes and enhance any
621 existing automated workflows in order to expedite customer
622 transactions and eliminate redundancy.

623 (b) Enable and enhance online, self-service capabilities
624 ~~access~~ to claimant and employer information and federal and
625 state reporting.

626 (c) Integrate benefit payment control with the
627 adjudication program and collection system in order to improve
628 the detection of fraud.

629 (d) Comply with all requirements established in federal
630 and state law for reemployment assistance.

631 (e) Integrate with the Department of Revenue's statewide
632 unified tax system that collects reemployment assistance taxes.

633 (f) Maintain interoperability with other department
634 workforce systems.

635 (g) Allow for employer-assisted claims.

636 (3) The scope of the Reemployment Assistance Claims and
637 Benefits Information System does not include any of the
638 following functionalities:

639 (a) Collection of reemployment assistance taxes.

640 (b) General ledger, financial management, or budgeting
641 capabilities.

642 (c) Human resource planning or management capabilities.

643 (4) (a) The Department of Economic Opportunity shall
644 perform an annual review of the system and identify enhancements
645 or modernization efforts that improve the delivery of services
646 to claimants and employers and reporting to state and federal
647 entities. These improvements must include, but need not be
648 limited to:

649 1. Infrastructure upgrades through cloud services.

650 2. Software improvements.

- 651 3. Enhanced data analytics and reporting.
- 652 4. Increased cybersecurity pursuant to s. 282.318.
- 653 (b) The department shall seek input on recommended
654 enhancements from, at a minimum, the following entities:
- 655 1. The Florida Digital Service within the Department of
656 Management Services.
- 657 2. The General Tax Administration Program Office within
658 the Department of Revenue.
- 659 3. The Division of Accounting and Auditing within the
660 Department of Financial Services.
- 661 (5) By October 1, 2023, and each year thereafter, the
662 Department of Economic Opportunity shall submit a Reemployment
663 Assistance Claims and Benefits Information System report to the
664 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
665 House of Representatives. The report must, at a minimum,
666 include:
- 667 (a) A summary of maintenance, enhancement, and
668 modernization efforts over the last fiscal year.
- 669 (b) A 3-year outlook of recommended enhancements or
670 modernization efforts that includes projected costs and
671 timeframes for completion.
- 672 (6) The Department of Economic Opportunity shall provide
673 monthly project status reports to the chair of the Senate
674 Appropriations Committee, the chair of the House Appropriations
675 Committee, the Office of Policy and Budget in the Executive

676 Office of the Governor, and the Florida Digital Service. Each
677 status report must include ongoing system maintenance activities
678 and progress made to date for each project milestone,
679 deliverable, and task order; planned and actual completion
680 dates; planned and actual costs incurred; and any current
681 project issues and risks.

682 (7) The Department of Economic Opportunity shall provide
683 project-related data to the Florida Digital Service in support
684 of the Florida Digital Service's project oversight
685 responsibilities pursuant to s. 282.0051. ~~The project to~~
686 ~~implement the Reemployment Assistance Claims and Benefits~~
687 ~~Information System is comprised of the following phases and~~
688 ~~corresponding implementation timeframes:~~

689 ~~(a) No later than the end of fiscal year 2009-2010~~
690 ~~completion of the business re-engineering analysis and~~
691 ~~documentation of both the detailed system requirements and the~~
692 ~~overall system architecture.~~

693 ~~(b) The Reemployment Assistance Claims and Benefits~~
694 ~~Internet portal that replaces the Florida Unemployment Internet~~
695 ~~Direct and the Florida Continued Claims Internet Directory~~
696 ~~systems, the Call Center Interactive Voice Response System, the~~
697 ~~Benefit Overpayment Screening System, the Internet and Intranet~~
698 ~~Appeals System, and the Claims and Benefits Mainframe System~~
699 ~~shall be deployed to full operational status no later than the~~
700 ~~end of fiscal year 2013-2014.~~

701 ~~(5) The Department of Economic Opportunity shall implement~~
702 ~~the following project governance structure until such time as~~
703 ~~the project is completed, suspended, or terminated:~~

704 ~~(a) The project sponsor for the Reemployment Assistance~~
705 ~~Claims and Benefits Information System project is the~~
706 ~~department.~~

707 ~~(b) The project shall be governed by an executive steering~~
708 ~~committee composed of the following voting members or their~~
709 ~~designees:~~

710 ~~1. The executive director of the department.~~

711 ~~2. The executive director of the Department of Revenue.~~

712 ~~3. The director of the Division of Workforce Services~~
713 ~~within the department.~~

714 ~~4. The program director of the General Tax Administration~~
715 ~~Program Office within the Department of Revenue.~~

716 ~~5. The chief information officer of the department.~~

717 ~~(c) The executive steering committee has the overall~~
718 ~~responsibility for ensuring that the project meets its primary~~
719 ~~objectives and is specifically responsible for:~~

720 ~~1. Providing management direction and support to the~~
721 ~~project management team.~~

722 ~~2. Assessing the project's alignment with the strategic~~
723 ~~goals of the department for administering the reemployment~~
724 ~~assistance program.~~

725 ~~3. Reviewing and approving or disapproving any changes to~~

726 ~~the project's scope, schedule, and costs.~~

727 ~~4. Reviewing, approving or disapproving, and determining~~
728 ~~whether to proceed with any major project deliverables.~~

729 ~~5. Recommending suspension or termination of the project~~
730 ~~to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of~~
731 ~~the House of Representatives if it determines that the primary~~
732 ~~objectives cannot be achieved.~~

733 ~~(d) The project management team shall work under the~~
734 ~~direction of the executive steering committee and shall be~~
735 ~~minimally comprised of senior managers and stakeholders from the~~
736 ~~department and the Department of Revenue. The project management~~
737 ~~team is responsible for:~~

738 ~~1. Providing daily planning, management, and oversight of~~
739 ~~the project.~~

740 ~~2. Submitting an operational work plan and providing~~
741 ~~quarterly updates to that plan to the executive steering~~
742 ~~committee. The plan must specify project milestones,~~
743 ~~deliverables, and expenditures.~~

744 ~~3. Submitting written monthly project status reports to~~
745 ~~the executive steering committee which include:~~

746 ~~a. Planned versus actual project costs;~~

747 ~~b. An assessment of the status of major milestones and~~
748 ~~deliverables;~~

749 ~~e. Identification of any issues requiring resolution, the~~
750 ~~proposed resolution for these issues, and information regarding~~

751 ~~the status of the resolution;~~

752 ~~d. Identification of risks that must be managed; and~~

753 ~~e. Identification of and recommendations regarding~~
754 ~~necessary changes in the project's scope, schedule, or costs.~~

755 ~~All recommendations must be reviewed by project stakeholders~~
756 ~~before submission to the executive steering committee in order~~
757 ~~to ensure that the recommendations meet required acceptance~~
758 ~~criteria.~~

759 Section 12. Section 443.1118, Florida Statutes, is created
760 to read:

761 443.1118 Employer-assisted claims.—

762 (1) (a) For purposes of this section:

763 1. "Department" means the Department of Economic
764 Opportunity.

765 2. "Employer-assisted claim" means an initial claim filed
766 by an employer on behalf of its employees who are a part of a
767 mass separation from the employer.

768 3. "Mass separation" means a full, partial, permanent, or
769 temporary separation, including a temporary layoff, of full-time
770 employees from their employer if the separation occurs at or
771 around the same time, the employees are separated for the same
772 reason, and the separation is due to circumstances for which the
773 employees are not at fault.

774 (b) The department shall establish criteria for
775 determining what constitutes a mass separation.

776 (2) (a) An employer that commences a mass separation may
777 initiate an employer-assisted claim by submitting employee
778 information to the department pursuant to rules adopted by the
779 department.

780 (b) Due to the sensitive nature of employee information,
781 an employer shall submit employee information through secure
782 means approved by department rule.

783 (c) For each employer-assisted claim, the employer shall
784 give notice and instructions to the employees regarding the
785 claim and provide an attestation in a form and format required
786 by the department.

787 (3) The effective date of an employer-assisted claim is
788 the Sunday immediately preceding the date on which the
789 department receives the employer-assisted claim.

790 (4) Weeks of benefits paid to a claimant pursuant to an
791 employer-assisted claim count toward the maximum benefits for
792 which the claimant is eligible.

793 (5) A claimant covered by an employer-assisted claim must
794 file continued biweekly claims pursuant to department rule.

795 (6) This section does not limit, alter, or amend a
796 claimant's rights under this chapter relating to a hearing if
797 the claimant is denied a claim.

798 (7) The department shall adopt rules establishing
799 additional procedures for filing an employer-assisted claim and
800 may adopt additional rules to administer this section.

801 Section 13. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (3) and
802 paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (4) of section 443.151,
803 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

804 443.151 Procedure concerning claims.—

805 (3) DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—

806 (a) Notices of claim.—The Department of Economic
807 Opportunity shall promptly provide a notice of claim to the
808 claimant's most recent employing unit and all employers whose
809 employment records are liable for benefits under the monetary
810 determination. The employer must respond to the notice of claim
811 within 14 ~~20~~ days after the mailing date of the notice, or in
812 lieu of mailing, within 14 ~~20~~ days after the delivery of the
813 notice. If a contributing employer or its agent fails to timely
814 or adequately respond to the notice of claim or request for
815 information, the employer's account may not be relieved of
816 benefit charges as provided in s. 443.131(3)(a), notwithstanding
817 paragraph (5)(b). The department may adopt rules as necessary to
818 implement the processes described in this paragraph relating to
819 notices of claim.

820 (b) Monetary determinations.—In addition to the notice of
821 claim, the department shall also promptly provide an initial
822 monetary determination to the claimant and each base period
823 employer whose account is subject to being charged for its
824 respective share of benefits on the claim. The monetary
825 determination must include a statement of whether and in what

826 amount the claimant is entitled to benefits, and, in the event
 827 of a denial, must state the reasons for the denial. A monetary
 828 determination for the first week of a benefit year must also
 829 include a statement of whether the claimant was paid the wages
 830 required under s. 443.091(1)(g) and, if so, the first day of the
 831 benefit year, the claimant's weekly benefit amount, and the
 832 maximum total amount of benefits payable to the claimant for a
 833 benefit year. The claimant may file a request for the department
 834 to reconsider a monetary determination within 20 days after the
 835 department mails the notice to the claimant's last known address
 836 or, in lieu of mailing, within 20 days after the delivery of the
 837 notice. A monetary determination is final for a claimant if the
 838 claimant does not file a timely request for the department to
 839 reconsider the monetary determination. A monetary
 840 redetermination is final for a claimant unless within 20 days
 841 after the mailing of the notice of monetary redetermination to
 842 the claimant's last known address or, in lieu of mailing, within
 843 20 days after the delivery of the notice, the claimant files an
 844 appeal. The monetary determination or monetary redetermination
 845 is final for an employer or other party entitled to notice
 846 unless within 20 days after the mailing of the respective notice
 847 to the employer or party to its last known address or, in lieu
 848 of mailing, within 20 days after delivery of the notice, an
 849 appeal is filed by the employer or the party ~~The monetary~~
 850 ~~determination is final unless within 20 days after the mailing~~

851 ~~of the notices to the parties' last known addresses, or in lieu~~
852 ~~of mailing, within 20 days after the delivery of the notices, an~~
853 ~~appeal or written request for reconsideration is filed by the~~
854 ~~claimant or other party entitled to notice.~~ The department may
855 adopt rules as necessary to implement the processes described in
856 this paragraph relating to notices of monetary determinations
857 and the appeals or reconsideration requests filed in response to
858 such notices.

859 (4) APPEALS.—

860 (a) Appeals referees.—

861 1. The Department of Economic Opportunity shall appoint
862 one or more impartial salaried appeals referees in accordance
863 with s. 443.171(3) to hear and decide appealed claims.

864 2. ~~An appeals referee must be an attorney in good standing~~
865 ~~with The Florida Bar or be successfully admitted to The Florida~~
866 ~~Bar within 8 months after his or her date of employment. This~~
867 ~~subparagraph does not apply to an appeals referee appointed~~
868 ~~before January 1, 2014.~~

869 ~~3.~~ A person may not participate on behalf of the
870 department as an appeals referee in any case in which she or he
871 is an interested party.

872 3.4. The department may designate alternates to serve in
873 the absence or disqualification of any appeals referee on a
874 temporary basis. These alternates must have the same
875 qualifications required of appeals referees.

876 ~~4.5.~~ The department shall provide the commission and the
 877 appeals referees with proper facilities and assistance for the
 878 execution of their functions.

879 (b) Filing and hearing.—

880 1. The claimant or any other party entitled to notice of a
 881 determination may appeal an adverse determination to an appeals
 882 referee within 20 days after the date of mailing of the notice
 883 to her or his last known address or, if the notice is not
 884 mailed, within 20 days after the date of delivering the notice.

885 2. Unless the appeal is untimely or withdrawn or review is
 886 initiated by the commission, the appeals referee, after mailing
 887 all parties and attorneys of record a notice of hearing at least
 888 10 days before the date of hearing, notwithstanding the 14-day
 889 notice requirement in s. 120.569(2)(b), may only affirm, modify,
 890 or reverse the determination. An appeal may not be withdrawn
 891 without the permission of the appeals referee.

892 3. ~~However,~~ If an appeal appears to have been filed after
 893 the permissible time limit, the Office of Appeals may issue an
 894 order to show cause to the appellant which requires the
 895 appellant to show why the appeal should not be dismissed as
 896 untimely. If, within 15 days after the mailing date of the order
 897 to show cause, the appellant does not provide written evidence
 898 of timely filing or good cause for failure to appeal timely, the
 899 appeal shall be dismissed. However, an appeal may not be filed
 900 more than 5 years after the date of the mailing of the

901 determination or, if the determination is not mailed, more than
902 5 years after the date of the delivery of the determination.

903 4. If an appeal involves a question of whether services
904 were performed by a claimant in employment or for an employer,
905 the referee must give special notice of the question and of the
906 pendency of the appeal to the employing unit and to the
907 department, both of which become parties to the proceeding.

908 5.a. Any part of the evidence may be received in written
909 form, and all testimony of parties and witnesses shall be made
910 under oath.

911 b. Irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious evidence
912 shall be excluded, but all other evidence of a type commonly
913 relied upon by reasonably prudent persons in the conduct of
914 their affairs is admissible, whether or not such evidence would
915 be admissible in a trial in state court.

916 c. Hearsay evidence may be used for the purpose of
917 supplementing or explaining other evidence, or to support a
918 finding if it would be admissible over objection in civil
919 actions. Notwithstanding s. 120.57(1)(c), hearsay evidence may
920 support a finding of fact if:

921 (I) The party against whom it is offered has a reasonable
922 opportunity to review such evidence prior to the hearing; and

923 (II) The appeals referee or special deputy determines,
924 after considering all relevant facts and circumstances, that the
925 evidence is trustworthy and probative and that the interests of

926 justice are best served by its admission into evidence.

927 6. The parties must be notified promptly of the referee's
928 decision. The referee's decision is final unless further review
929 is initiated under paragraph (c) within 20 days after the date
930 of mailing notice of the decision to the party's last known
931 address or, in lieu of mailing, within 20 days after the
932 delivery of the notice.

933 Section 14. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section
934 445.004, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsections (1) and
935 (2) of that section are republished, to read:

936 445.004 CareerSource Florida, Inc., and the state board;
937 creation; purpose; membership; duties and powers.—

938 (1) CareerSource Florida, Inc., is created as a not-for-
939 profit corporation, which shall be registered, incorporated,
940 organized, and operated in compliance with chapter 617 and shall
941 operate at the direction of the state board. CareerSource
942 Florida, Inc., is not a unit or entity of state government and
943 is exempt from chapters 120 and 287. CareerSource Florida, Inc.,
944 shall apply the procurement and expenditure procedures required
945 by federal law for the expenditure of federal funds.

946 CareerSource Florida, Inc., shall be administratively housed
947 within the department and shall operate under agreement with the
948 department. The Legislature finds that public policy dictates
949 that CareerSource Florida, Inc., operate in the most open and
950 accessible manner consistent with its public purpose. To this

951 end, the Legislature specifically declares that CareerSource
952 Florida, Inc., its board, councils, and any advisory committees
953 or similar groups created by CareerSource Florida, Inc., are
954 subject to the provisions of chapter 119 relating to public
955 records, and those provisions of chapter 286 relating to public
956 meetings.

957 (2) CareerSource Florida, Inc., provides administrative
958 support for the state board, the principal workforce policy
959 organization for the state. The purpose of the state board is to
960 design and implement strategies that help Floridians enter,
961 remain in, and advance in the workplace, so that they may become
962 more highly skilled and successful, which benefits these
963 Floridians, Florida businesses, and the entire state, and
964 fosters the development of the state's business climate.
965 CareerSource Florida, Inc., shall, consistent with its agreement
966 with the department, implement the policy directives of the
967 state board and administer state workforce development programs
968 as authorized by law.

969 (3)

970 (d) The state board must include the Secretary of Economic
971 Opportunity or his or her designee, the vice chairperson of the
972 board of directors of Enterprise Florida, Inc., and one member
973 representing each of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
974 Act partners, including the Division of Career and Adult
975 Education, and other entities representing programs identified

976 | in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, as determined
 977 | necessary.

978 | Section 15. Subsection (14) of section 553.79, Florida
 979 | Statutes, is amended to read:

980 | 553.79 Permits; applications; issuance; inspections.—

981 | (14) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), a building
 982 | permit for a single-family residential dwelling must be issued
 983 | within 30 working days after receipt of the application ~~therefor~~
 984 | unless unusual circumstances require a longer time for
 985 | processing the application or unless the permit application
 986 | fails to satisfy the Florida Building Code or the enforcing
 987 | agency's laws or ordinances.

988 | (b) A building permit for a single-family residential
 989 | dwelling applied for by a contractor licensed in this state on
 990 | behalf of a property owner who participates in a Community
 991 | Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery program administered
 992 | by the Department of Economic Opportunity must be issued within
 993 | 15 working days after receipt of the application unless the
 994 | permit application fails to satisfy the Florida Building Code or
 995 | the enforcing agency's laws or ordinances.

996 | Section 16. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
 997 | 14.20195, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

998 | 14.20195 Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council;
 999 | creation; membership; duties.—There is created within the
 1000 | Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention a Suicide Prevention

1001 Coordinating Council. The council shall develop strategies for
 1002 preventing suicide.

1003 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Suicide Prevention Coordinating
 1004 Council shall consist of 31 voting members and 1 nonvoting
 1005 member.

1006 (b) The following state officials or their designees shall
 1007 serve on the coordinating council:

- 1008 1. The Secretary of Elderly Affairs.
- 1009 2. The State Surgeon General.
- 1010 3. The Commissioner of Education.
- 1011 4. The Secretary of Health Care Administration.
- 1012 5. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice.
- 1013 6. The Secretary of Corrections.
- 1014 7. The executive director of the Department of Law
 1015 Enforcement.
- 1016 8. The executive director of the Department of Veterans'
 1017 Affairs.
- 1018 9. The Secretary of Children and Families.
- 1019 10. The Secretary ~~executive director of the Department of~~
 1020 Economic Opportunity.

1021 Section 17. Paragraph (j) of subsection (1) of section
 1022 16.615, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1023 16.615 Council on the Social Status of Black Men and
 1024 Boys.—

1025 (1) The Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys

1026 | is established within the Department of Legal Affairs and shall
 1027 | consist of 19 members appointed as follows:

1028 | (j) The Secretary ~~executive director of the~~ Department of
 1029 | Economic Opportunity or his or her designee.

1030 | Section 18. Subsection (3) and paragraph (b) of subsection
 1031 | (7) of section 20.04, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1032 | 20.04 Structure of executive branch.—The executive branch
 1033 | of state government is structured as follows:

1034 | (3) For their internal structure, all departments, except
 1035 | for the Department of Financial Services, the Department of
 1036 | Economic Opportunity, the Department of Children and Families,
 1037 | the Department of Corrections, the Department of Management
 1038 | Services, the Department of Revenue, and the Department of
 1039 | Transportation, must adhere to the following standard terms:

1040 | (a) The principal unit of the department is the
 1041 | "division." Each division is headed by a "director."

1042 | (b) The principal unit of the division is the "bureau."
 1043 | Each bureau is headed by a "chief."

1044 | (c) The principal unit of the bureau is the "section."
 1045 | Each section is headed by an "administrator."

1046 | (d) If further subdivision is necessary, sections may be
 1047 | divided into "subsections," which are headed by "supervisors."

1048 | (7)

1049 | (b) Within the limitations of this subsection, the head of
 1050 | the department may recommend the establishment of additional

1051 divisions, bureaus, sections, and subsections of the department
 1052 to promote efficient and effective operation of the department.
 1053 However, additional divisions, or offices in the Department of
 1054 Children and Families, the Department of Corrections, the
 1055 Department of Economic Opportunity, and the Department of
 1056 Transportation, may be established only by specific statutory
 1057 enactment. New bureaus, sections, and subsections of departments
 1058 may be initiated by a department and established as recommended
 1059 by the Department of Management Services and approved by the
 1060 Executive Office of the Governor, or may be established by
 1061 specific statutory enactment.

1062 Section 19. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section
 1063 213.053, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1064 213.053 Confidentiality and information sharing.—

1065 (7) (a) Any information received by the Department of
 1066 Revenue in connection with the administration of taxes,
 1067 including, but not limited to, information contained in returns,
 1068 reports, accounts, or declarations filed by persons subject to
 1069 tax, shall be made available to the following in performance of
 1070 their official duties:

- 1071 1. The Auditor General or his or her authorized agent;
- 1072 2. The director of the Office of Program Policy Analysis
 1073 and Government Accountability or his or her authorized agent;
- 1074 3. The Chief Financial Officer or his or her authorized
 1075 agent;

1076 4. The Director of the Office of Insurance Regulation of
 1077 the Financial Services Commission or his or her authorized
 1078 agent;

1079 5. A property appraiser or tax collector or their
 1080 authorized agents pursuant to s. 195.084(1);

1081 6. Designated employees of the Department of Education
 1082 solely for determination of each school district's price level
 1083 index pursuant to s. 1011.62(2);

1084 7. The Secretary ~~executive director of the Department of~~
 1085 Economic Opportunity or his or her authorized agent;

1086 8. The taxpayers' rights advocate or his or her authorized
 1087 agent pursuant to s. 20.21(3); and

1088 9. The coordinator of the Office of Economic and
 1089 Demographic Research or his or her authorized agent.

1090 Section 20. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section
 1091 220.194, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1092 220.194 Corporate income tax credits for spaceflight
 1093 projects.—

1094 (5) APPLICATION AND CERTIFICATION.—

1095 (b) In order to take a tax credit under subparagraph (a)1.
 1096 or, if applicable, to transfer an approved credit under
 1097 subparagraph (a)2., a spaceflight business must submit an
 1098 application for certification to the Department of Economic
 1099 Opportunity along with a nonrefundable \$250 fee.

1100 1. The application must include:

- 1101 a. The name and physical in-state address of the taxpayer.
- 1102 b. Documentation demonstrating to the satisfaction of the
- 1103 Department of Economic Opportunity that:
- 1104 (I) The taxpayer is a spaceflight business.
- 1105 (II) The business has engaged in a qualifying spaceflight
- 1106 project before taking or transferring a credit under this
- 1107 section.
- 1108 c. In addition to any requirement specific to a credit,
- 1109 documentation that the business has:
- 1110 (I) Created 35 new jobs in this state directly associated
- 1111 with spaceflight projects during its immediately preceding 3
- 1112 taxable years. The business shall be deemed to have created new
- 1113 jobs if the number of full-time jobs located in this state at
- 1114 the time of application for certification is greater than the
- 1115 total number of full-time jobs located in this state at the time
- 1116 of application for approval to earn credits; and
- 1117 (II) Invested a total of at least \$15 million in this
- 1118 state on a spaceflight project during its immediately preceding
- 1119 3 taxable years.
- 1120 d. The total amount and types of credits sought.
- 1121 e. An acknowledgment that a transfer of a tax credit is to
- 1122 be accomplished pursuant to subsection (5).
- 1123 f. A copy of an audit or audits of the preceding 3 taxable
- 1124 years, prepared by a certified public accountant licensed to
- 1125 practice in this state, which identifies that portion of the

1126 business's activities in this state related to spaceflight
 1127 projects in this state.

1128 g. An acknowledgment that the business must file an annual
 1129 report on the spaceflight project's progress with the Department
 1130 of Economic Opportunity.

1131 h. Any other information necessary to demonstrate that the
 1132 applicant meets the job creation, investment, and other
 1133 requirements of this section.

1134 2. Within 60 days after receipt of the application for
 1135 certification, the Department of Economic Opportunity shall
 1136 evaluate the application and recommend the business for
 1137 certification or denial. The Secretary ~~executive director of the~~
 1138 ~~Department~~ of Economic Opportunity must approve or deny the
 1139 application within 30 days after receiving the recommendation.
 1140 If approved, the Department of Economic Opportunity must provide
 1141 a letter of certification to the applicant consistent with any
 1142 restrictions imposed. If the Department of Economic Opportunity
 1143 denies any part of the requested credit, the Department of
 1144 Economic Opportunity must inform the applicant of the grounds
 1145 for the denial. A copy of the certification shall be submitted
 1146 to the department within 10 days after the secretary's ~~executive~~
 1147 ~~director's~~ approval.

1148 Section 21. Subsection (3) of section 288.005, Florida
 1149 Statutes, is amended to read:

1150 288.005 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

1151 ~~(3) "Executive director" means the executive director of~~
1152 ~~the Department of Economic Opportunity, unless otherwise stated.~~

1153 Section 22. Subsections (1) and (3), paragraph (a) of
1154 subsection (5), and subsection (6) of section 288.061, Florida
1155 Statutes, are amended to read:

1156 288.061 Economic development incentive application
1157 process.—

1158 (1) Upon receiving a submitted economic development
1159 incentive application, the Division of Strategic Business
1160 Development of the Department of Economic Opportunity and
1161 designated staff of Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall review the
1162 application to ensure that the application is complete, whether
1163 and what type of state and local permits may be necessary for
1164 the applicant's project, whether it is possible to waive such
1165 permits, and what state incentives and amounts of such
1166 incentives may be available to the applicant. The department
1167 shall recommend to the Secretary of Economic Opportunity
1168 ~~executive director~~ to approve or disapprove an applicant
1169 business. If review of the application demonstrates that the
1170 application is incomplete, the secretary ~~executive director~~
1171 shall notify the applicant business within the first 5 business
1172 days after receiving the application.

1173 (3) Within 10 business days after the department receives
1174 the submitted economic development incentive application, the
1175 Secretary of Economic Opportunity ~~executive director~~ shall

1176 | approve or disapprove the application and issue a letter of
 1177 | certification to the applicant which includes a justification of
 1178 | that decision, unless the business requests an extension of that
 1179 | time.

1180 | (a) The contract or agreement with the applicant must
 1181 | specify the total amount of the award, the performance
 1182 | conditions that must be met to obtain the award, the schedule
 1183 | for payment, and sanctions that would apply for failure to meet
 1184 | performance conditions. The department may enter into one
 1185 | agreement or contract covering all of the state incentives that
 1186 | are being provided to the applicant. The contract must provide
 1187 | that release of funds is contingent upon sufficient
 1188 | appropriation of funds by the Legislature.

1189 | (b) The release of funds for the incentive or incentives
 1190 | awarded to the applicant depends upon the statutory requirements
 1191 | of the particular incentive program.

1192 | (5) (a) The Secretary of Economic Opportunity ~~executive~~
 1193 | ~~director~~ may not approve an economic development incentive
 1194 | application unless the application includes a signed written
 1195 | declaration by the applicant which states that the applicant has
 1196 | read the information in the application and that the information
 1197 | is true, correct, and complete to the best of the applicant's
 1198 | knowledge and belief.

1199 | (6) Beginning July 1, 2020, the Secretary of Economic
 1200 | Opportunity ~~executive director~~ may not approve an economic

1201 development incentive application unless the application
 1202 includes proof to the department that the applicant business is
 1203 registered with and uses the E-Verify system, as defined in s.
 1204 448.095, to verify the work authorization status of all newly
 1205 hired employees. If the department determines that an awardee is
 1206 not complying with this subsection, the department must notify
 1207 the awardee by certified mail of the department's determination
 1208 of noncompliance and the awardee's right to appeal the
 1209 determination. Upon a final determination of noncompliance, the
 1210 awardee must repay all moneys received as an economic
 1211 development incentive to the department within 30 days after the
 1212 final determination.

1213 Section 23. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section
 1214 288.0656, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1215 288.0656 Rural Economic Development Initiative.—

1216 (6) (a) By August 1 of each year, the head of each of the
 1217 following agencies and organizations shall designate a deputy
 1218 secretary or higher-level staff person from within the agency or
 1219 organization to serve as the REDI representative for the agency
 1220 or organization:

- 1221 1. The Department of Transportation.
- 1222 2. The Department of Environmental Protection.
- 1223 3. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- 1224 4. The Department of State.
- 1225 5. The Department of Health.

- 1226 | 6. The Department of Children and Families.
- 1227 | 7. The Department of Corrections.
- 1228 | 8. The Department of Education.
- 1229 | 9. The Department of Juvenile Justice.
- 1230 | 10. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- 1231 | 11. Each water management district.
- 1232 | 12. Enterprise Florida, Inc.
- 1233 | 13. CareerSource Florida, Inc.
- 1234 | 14. VISIT Florida.
- 1235 | 15. The Florida Regional Planning Council Association.
- 1236 | 16. The Agency for Health Care Administration.
- 1237 | 17. The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
- 1238 | (IFAS).

1239 |
 1240 | An alternate for each designee shall also be chosen, and the
 1241 | names of the designees and alternates shall be sent to the
 1242 | Secretary of Economic Opportunity ~~executive director of the~~
 1243 | ~~department.~~

1244 | Section 24. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) and subsection
 1245 | (8) of section 288.106, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1246 | 288.106 Tax refund program for qualified target industry
 1247 | businesses.—

1248 | (5) TAX REFUND AGREEMENT.—

1249 | (c) The agreement must be signed by the Secretary of
 1250 | Economic Opportunity ~~executive director~~ and by an authorized

1251 officer of the qualified target industry business within 120
1252 days after the issuance of the letter of certification under
1253 subsection (4), but not before passage and receipt of the
1254 resolution of local financial support. The department may grant
1255 an extension of this period at the written request of the
1256 qualified target industry business.

1257 (8) SPECIAL INCENTIVES.—If the department determines it is
1258 in the best interest of the public for reasons of facilitating
1259 economic development, growth, or new employment opportunities
1260 within a Disproportionally Affected County, the department may,
1261 between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2014, waive any or all wage
1262 or local financial support eligibility requirements and allow a
1263 qualified target industry business from another state which
1264 relocates all or a portion of its business to a
1265 Disproportionally Affected County to receive a tax refund
1266 payment of up to \$6,000 multiplied by the number of jobs
1267 specified in the tax refund agreement under subparagraph
1268 (5) (a)1. over the term of the agreement. Before ~~Prior to~~
1269 granting such waiver, the Secretary of Economic Opportunity
1270 ~~executive director of the department~~ shall file with the
1271 Governor a written statement of the conditions and circumstances
1272 constituting the reason for the waiver. Such business shall be
1273 eligible for the additional tax refund payments specified in
1274 subparagraph (3) (b)4. if it meets the criteria. As used in this
1275 section, the term "Disproportionally Affected County" means Bay

1276 County, Escambia County, Franklin County, Gulf County, Okaloosa
 1277 County, Santa Rosa County, Walton County, or Wakulla County.

1278 Section 25. Subsection (5) of section 288.1089, Florida
 1279 Statutes, is amended to read:

1280 288.1089 Innovation Incentive Program.—

1281 (5) The department shall review proposals pursuant to s.
 1282 288.061 for all three categories of innovation incentive awards.
 1283 Before making a recommendation to the Secretary of Economic
 1284 Opportunity ~~executive director~~, the department shall solicit
 1285 comments and recommendations from the Department of Agriculture
 1286 and Consumer Services. For each project, the evaluation and
 1287 recommendation to the department must include, but need not be
 1288 limited to:

1289 (a) A description of the project, its required facilities,
 1290 and the associated product, service, or research and development
 1291 associated with the project.

1292 (b) The percentage of match provided for the project.

1293 (c) The number of full-time equivalent jobs that will be
 1294 created by the project, the total estimated average annual wages
 1295 of such jobs, and the types of business activities and jobs
 1296 likely to be stimulated by the project.

1297 (d) The cumulative investment to be dedicated to the
 1298 project within 5 years and the total investment expected in the
 1299 project if more than 5 years.

1300 (e) The projected economic and fiscal impacts on the local

1301 and state economies relative to investment.

1302 (f) A statement of any special impacts the project is
1303 expected to stimulate in a particular business sector in the
1304 state or regional economy or in the state's universities and
1305 community colleges.

1306 (g) A statement of any anticipated or proposed
1307 relationships with state universities.

1308 (h) A statement of the role the incentive is expected to
1309 play in the decision of the applicant to locate or expand in
1310 this state.

1311 (i) A recommendation and explanation of the amount of the
1312 award needed to cause the applicant to expand or locate in this
1313 state.

1314 (j) A discussion of the efforts and commitments made by
1315 the local community in which the project is to be located to
1316 induce the applicant's location or expansion, taking into
1317 consideration local resources and abilities.

1318 (k) A recommendation for specific performance criteria the
1319 applicant would be expected to achieve in order to receive
1320 payments from the fund and penalties or sanctions for failure to
1321 meet or maintain performance conditions.

1322 (l) Additional evaluative criteria for a research and
1323 development facility project, including:

1324 1. A description of the extent to which the project has
1325 the potential to serve as catalyst for an emerging or evolving

1326 cluster.

1327 2. A description of the extent to which the project has or
 1328 could have a long-term collaborative research and development
 1329 relationship with one or more universities or community colleges
 1330 in this state.

1331 3. A description of the existing or projected impact of
 1332 the project on established clusters or targeted industry
 1333 sectors.

1334 4. A description of the project's contribution to the
 1335 diversity and resiliency of the innovation economy of this
 1336 state.

1337 5. A description of the project's impact on special needs
 1338 communities, including, but not limited to, rural areas,
 1339 distressed urban areas, and enterprise zones.

1340 (m) Additional evaluative criteria for alternative and
 1341 renewable energy proposals, including:

1342 1. The availability of matching funds or other in-kind
 1343 contributions applied to the total project from an applicant.
 1344 The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall give
 1345 greater preference to projects that provide such matching funds
 1346 or other in-kind contributions.

1347 2. The degree to which the project stimulates in-state
 1348 capital investment and economic development in metropolitan and
 1349 rural areas, including the creation of jobs and the future
 1350 development of a commercial market for renewable energy

1351 technologies.

1352 3. The extent to which the proposed project has been
 1353 demonstrated to be technically feasible based on pilot project
 1354 demonstrations, laboratory testing, scientific modeling, or
 1355 engineering or chemical theory that supports the proposal.

1356 4. The degree to which the project incorporates an
 1357 innovative new technology or an innovative application of an
 1358 existing technology.

1359 5. The degree to which a project generates thermal,
 1360 mechanical, or electrical energy by means of a renewable energy
 1361 resource that has substantial long-term production potential.

1362 6. The degree to which a project demonstrates efficient
 1363 use of energy and material resources.

1364 7. The degree to which the project fosters overall
 1365 understanding and appreciation of renewable energy technologies.

1366 8. The ability to administer a complete project.

1367 9. Project duration and timeline for expenditures.

1368 10. The geographic area in which the project is to be
 1369 conducted in relation to other projects.

1370 11. The degree of public visibility and interaction.

1371 Section 26. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
 1372 288.1251, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1373 288.1251 Promotion and development of entertainment
 1374 industry; Office of Film and Entertainment; creation; purpose;
 1375 powers and duties.—

1376 (1) CREATION.—

1377 (b) The department shall conduct a national search for a
 1378 qualified person to fill the position of Commissioner of Film
 1379 and Entertainment when the position is vacant. The Secretary of
 1380 Economic Opportunity ~~executive director of the department~~ has
 1381 the responsibility to hire the film commissioner. Qualifications
 1382 for the film commissioner include, but are not limited to, the
 1383 following:

1384 1. A working knowledge of the equipment, personnel,
 1385 financial, and day-to-day production operations of the
 1386 industries to be served by the Office of Film and Entertainment;

1387 2. Marketing and promotion experience related to the film
 1388 and entertainment industries to be served;

1389 3. Experience working with a variety of individuals
 1390 representing large and small entertainment-related businesses,
 1391 industry associations, local community entertainment industry
 1392 liaisons, and labor organizations; and

1393 4. Experience working with a variety of state and local
 1394 governmental agencies.

1395 Section 27. Subsection (8) of section 288.8014, Florida
 1396 Statutes, is amended to read:

1397 288.8014 Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.; organization; board of
 1398 directors.—

1399 (8) The Secretary ~~executive director of the Department of~~
 1400 Economic Opportunity, or his or her designee, the secretary of

1401 the Department of Environmental Protection, or his or her
 1402 designee, and the chair of the Committee of 8 Disproportionally
 1403 Affected Counties, or his or her designee, shall be available to
 1404 consult with the board of directors and may be requested to
 1405 attend meetings of the board of directors. These individuals
 1406 shall not be permitted to vote on any matter before the board.

1407 Section 28. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section
 1408 288.955, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1409 288.955 Scripps Florida Funding Corporation.—

1410 (4) BOARD; MEMBERSHIP.—The corporation shall be governed
 1411 by a board of directors.

1412 (a) The board of directors shall consist of nine voting
 1413 members, of whom the Governor shall appoint three, the President
 1414 of the Senate shall appoint three, and the Speaker of the House
 1415 of Representatives shall appoint three. The Secretary of
 1416 Economic Opportunity ~~executive director of the department~~ or the
 1417 secretary's ~~director's~~ designee shall serve as an ex-officio,
 1418 nonvoting member of the board of directors.

1419 Section 29. Subsection (2) of section 288.9604, Florida
 1420 Statutes, is amended to read:

1421 288.9604 Creation of the corporation.—

1422 (2) The board of directors of the corporation shall
 1423 consist of seven directors. The Secretary of Economic
 1424 Opportunity ~~executive director of the department~~, or his or her
 1425 designee, shall serve as chair of the board of directors of the

1426 corporation. The director of the Division of Bond Finance of the
 1427 State Board of Administration, or his or her designee, shall
 1428 serve as a director on the board of directors of the
 1429 corporation. The Governor, subject to confirmation by the
 1430 Senate, shall appoint the remaining five directors of the board
 1431 of directors of the corporation. The terms of office for the
 1432 appointed directors are for 4 years after the date of their
 1433 appointment. A vacancy occurring during a term of an appointed
 1434 director shall be filled for the unexpired term. An appointed
 1435 director is eligible for reappointment. At least three of the
 1436 appointed directors of the corporation must have experience in
 1437 finance, and one of the directors must have experience in
 1438 economic development.

1439 Section 30. Subsection (5) of section 288.987, Florida
 1440 Statutes, is amended to read:

1441 288.987 Florida Defense Support Task Force.—

1442 (5) The Secretary ~~executive director of the Department~~ of
 1443 Economic Opportunity, or his or her designee, shall serve as the
 1444 ex officio, nonvoting executive director of the task force.

1445 Section 31. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section
 1446 290.0065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1447 290.0065 State designation of enterprise zones.—

1448 (6) (a) The department may develop guidelines necessary for
 1449 the approval of areas under this section by the Secretary of
 1450 Economic Opportunity ~~executive director~~.

1451 Section 32. Subsection (1) of section 311.09, Florida
 1452 Statutes, is amended to read:

1453 311.09 Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic
 1454 Development Council.—

1455 (1) The Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic
 1456 Development Council is created within the Department of
 1457 Transportation. The council consists of the following 17
 1458 members: the port director, or the port director's designee, of
 1459 each of the ports of Jacksonville, Port Canaveral, Port Citrus,
 1460 Fort Pierce, Palm Beach, Port Everglades, Miami, Port Manatee,
 1461 St. Petersburg, Tampa, Port St. Joe, Panama City, Pensacola, Key
 1462 West, and Fernandina; the secretary of the Department of
 1463 Transportation or his or her designee; and the secretary
 1464 ~~director~~ of the Department of Economic Opportunity or his or her
 1465 designee.

1466 Section 33. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
 1467 311.105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1468 311.105 Florida Seaport Environmental Management
 1469 Committee; permitting; mitigation.—

1470 (1)

1471 (b) The committee shall consist of the following members:
 1472 the Secretary of Environmental Protection, or his or her
 1473 designee, as an ex officio, nonvoting member; a designee from
 1474 the United States Army Corps of Engineers, as an ex officio,
 1475 nonvoting member; a designee from the Florida Inland Navigation

1476 District, as an ex officio, nonvoting member; the Secretary
 1477 ~~executive director of the Department~~ of Economic Opportunity, or
 1478 his or her designee, as an ex officio, nonvoting member; and
 1479 five or more port directors, as voting members, appointed to the
 1480 committee by the council chair, who shall also designate one
 1481 such member as committee chair.

1482 Section 34. Subsection (3) of section 334.065, Florida
 1483 Statutes, is amended to read:

1484 334.065 Center for Urban Transportation Research.—

1485 (3) An advisory board shall be created to periodically and
 1486 objectively review and advise the center concerning its research
 1487 program. Except for projects mandated by law, state-funded base
 1488 projects shall not be undertaken without approval of the
 1489 advisory board. The membership of the board shall consist of
 1490 nine experts in transportation-related areas, including the
 1491 secretaries of the Department ~~Florida Departments~~ of
 1492 Transportation, the Department of ~~and~~ Environmental Protection,
 1493 and the ~~executive director of~~ the Department of Economic
 1494 Opportunity, or their designees, and a member of the Florida
 1495 Transportation Commission. The nomination of the remaining
 1496 members of the board shall be made to the President of the
 1497 University of South Florida by the College of Engineering at the
 1498 University of South Florida, and the appointment of these
 1499 members must be reviewed and approved by the Florida
 1500 Transportation Commission and confirmed by the Board of

1501 Governors.

1502 Section 35. Subsection (5) of section 373.4149, Florida
 1503 Statutes, is amended to read:

1504 373.4149 Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Plan.—

1505 (5) The secretary of the Department of Environmental
 1506 Protection, the secretary ~~executive director~~ of the Department
 1507 of Economic Opportunity, the secretary of the Department of
 1508 Transportation, the Commissioner of Agriculture, the executive
 1509 director of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and
 1510 the executive director of the South Florida Water Management
 1511 District may enter into agreements with landowners, developers,
 1512 businesses, industries, individuals, and governmental agencies
 1513 as necessary to effectuate the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Plan
 1514 and the provisions of this section.

1515 Section 36. Subsection (2) of section 380.045, Florida
 1516 Statutes, is amended to read:

1517 380.045 Resource planning and management committees;
 1518 objectives; procedures.—

1519 (2) The committee must ~~shall~~ include, but is ~~shall~~ not be
 1520 limited to, representation from each of the following: elected
 1521 officials from the local governments within the area under
 1522 study; the planning office of each of the local governments
 1523 within the area under study; the state land planning agency; any
 1524 other state agency under chapter 20 a representative of which
 1525 the Governor feels is relevant to the compilation of the

1526 | committee; and a water management district, if appropriate, and
 1527 | regional planning council all or part of whose jurisdiction lies
 1528 | within the area under study. After the appointment of the
 1529 | members, the Governor shall select a chair and vice chair. A
 1530 | staff member of the state land planning agency shall be
 1531 | appointed by the secretary ~~director~~ of such agency to serve as
 1532 | the secretary of the committee. The state land planning agency
 1533 | shall, to the greatest extent possible, provide technical
 1534 | assistance and administrative support to the committee. Meetings
 1535 | will be called as needed by the chair or on the demand of three
 1536 | or more members of the committee. The committee will act on a
 1537 | simple majority of a quorum present and shall make a report
 1538 | within 6 months to the head of the state land planning agency.
 1539 | The committee must ~~shall~~, from the time of appointment, remain
 1540 | in existence for no less than 6 months.

1541 | Section 37. Subsection (5) of section 403.0752, Florida
 1542 | Statutes, is amended to read:

1543 | 403.0752 Ecosystem management agreements.—

1544 | (5) The Secretary ~~Executive Director~~ of the Department of
 1545 | Economic Opportunity, the Secretary of Transportation, the
 1546 | Commissioner of Agriculture, the Executive Director of the Fish
 1547 | and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the executive
 1548 | directors of the water management districts are authorized to
 1549 | participate in the development of ecosystem management
 1550 | agreements with regulated entities and other governmental

1551 agencies as necessary to effectuate the provisions of this
1552 section. Local governments are encouraged to participate in
1553 ecosystem management agreements.

1554 Section 38. Subsection (1) of section 420.0005, Florida
1555 Statutes, is amended to read:

1556 420.0005 State Housing Trust Fund; State Housing Fund.—

1557 (1) There is established in the State Treasury a separate
1558 trust fund to be named the "State Housing Trust Fund." There
1559 shall be deposited in the fund all moneys appropriated by the
1560 Legislature, or moneys received from any other source, for the
1561 purpose of this chapter, and all proceeds derived from the use
1562 of such moneys. The fund shall be administered by the Florida
1563 Housing Finance Corporation on behalf of the department, as
1564 specified in this chapter. Money deposited to the fund and
1565 appropriated by the Legislature must, notwithstanding the
1566 provisions of chapter 216 or s. 420.504(3), be transferred
1567 quarterly in advance, to the extent available, or, if not so
1568 available, as soon as received into the State Housing Trust
1569 Fund, and subject to the provisions of s. 420.5092(6)(a) and (b)
1570 by the Chief Financial Officer to the corporation upon
1571 certification by the Secretary ~~executive director of the~~
1572 ~~Department~~ of Economic Opportunity that the corporation is in
1573 compliance with the requirements of s. 420.0006. The
1574 certification made by the secretary ~~executive director~~ shall
1575 also include the split of funds among programs administered by

1576 the corporation and the department as specified in chapter 92-
1577 317, Laws of Florida, as amended. Moneys advanced by the Chief
1578 Financial Officer must be deposited by the corporation into a
1579 separate fund established with a qualified public depository
1580 meeting the requirements of chapter 280 to be named the "State
1581 Housing Fund" and used for the purposes of this chapter.
1582 Administrative and personnel costs incurred in implementing this
1583 chapter may be paid from the State Housing Fund, but such costs
1584 may not exceed 5 percent of the moneys deposited into such fund.
1585 To the State Housing Fund shall be credited all loan repayments,
1586 penalties, and other fees and charges accruing to such fund
1587 under this chapter. It is the intent of this chapter that all
1588 loan repayments, penalties, and other fees and charges collected
1589 be credited in full to the program account from which the loan
1590 originated. Moneys in the State Housing Fund which are not
1591 currently needed for the purposes of this chapter shall be
1592 invested in such manner as is provided for by statute. The
1593 interest received on any such investment shall be credited to
1594 the State Housing Fund.

1595 Section 39. Section 420.0006, Florida Statutes, is amended
1596 to read:

1597 420.0006 Authority to contract with corporation; contract
1598 requirements; nonperformance.—The Secretary ~~executive director~~
1599 of Economic Opportunity ~~the department~~ shall contract,
1600 notwithstanding part I of chapter 287, with the Florida Housing

1601 Finance Corporation on a multiyear basis to stimulate, provide,
1602 and foster affordable housing in the state. The contract must
1603 incorporate the performance measures required by s. 420.511 and
1604 be consistent with the corporation's strategic business plan
1605 prepared in accordance with s. 420.511. The contract must
1606 provide that if the corporation fails to comply with a
1607 performance measure required by s. 420.511, the secretary
1608 ~~executive director~~ shall notify the Governor and refer the
1609 nonperformance to the department's inspector general for review
1610 and determination as to whether such failure is due to forces
1611 beyond the corporation's control or whether such failure is due
1612 to inadequate management of the corporation's resources.
1613 Advances shall continue to be made pursuant to s. 420.0005
1614 during the pendency of the review. If such failure is due to
1615 outside forces, it may not be deemed a violation of the
1616 contract. If such failure is due to inadequate management, the
1617 department's inspector general shall provide recommendations
1618 regarding solutions. The Governor may resolve differences of
1619 opinion with respect to performance under the contract and may
1620 request that advances continue in the event of a failure under
1621 the contract due to inadequate management. The Chief Financial
1622 Officer shall approve the request absent a finding by the Chief
1623 Financial Officer that continuing such advances would adversely
1624 impact the state; however, the Chief Financial Officer shall
1625 provide advances sufficient to meet the debt service

1626 requirements of the corporation and sufficient to fund contracts
 1627 committing funds from the State Housing Trust Fund if such
 1628 contracts are in accordance with the laws of this state.

1629 Section 40. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section
 1630 420.101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1631 420.101 Housing Development Corporation of Florida;
 1632 creation, membership, and purposes.—

1633 (1) Twenty-five or more persons, a majority of whom shall
 1634 be residents of this state, who may desire to create a housing
 1635 development corporation under the provisions of this part for
 1636 the purpose of promoting and developing housing and advancing
 1637 the prosperity and economic welfare of the state and, to that
 1638 end, to exercise the powers and privileges hereinafter provided,
 1639 may be incorporated by filing in the Department of State, as
 1640 hereinafter provided, articles of incorporation. The articles of
 1641 incorporation shall contain:

1642 (d) The names and post office addresses of the members of
 1643 the first board of directors. The first board of directors shall
 1644 be elected by and from the stockholders of the corporation and
 1645 shall consist of 21 members. However, five of such members shall
 1646 consist of the following persons, who shall be nonvoting
 1647 members: the Secretary ~~executive director of the Department of~~
 1648 Economic Opportunity or her or his designee; the head of the
 1649 Department of Financial Services or her or his designee with
 1650 expertise in banking matters; a designee of the head of the

1651 Department of Financial Services with expertise in insurance
 1652 matters; one state senator appointed by the President of the
 1653 Senate; and one representative appointed by the Speaker of the
 1654 House of Representatives.

1655 Section 41. Subsection (8) of section 420.503, Florida
 1656 Statutes, is amended to read:

1657 420.503 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

1658 (8) "Contract" means the contract between the Secretary
 1659 ~~executive director~~ of Economic Opportunity ~~the department~~ and
 1660 the corporation for provision of housing services referenced in
 1661 s. 420.0006.

1662 Section 42. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 420.504,
 1663 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1664 420.504 Public corporation; creation, membership, terms,
 1665 expenses.—

1666 (1) A public corporation and a public body corporate and
 1667 politic, to be known as the "Florida Housing Finance
 1668 Corporation," is created within the Department of Economic
 1669 Opportunity. It is declared to be the intent of and
 1670 constitutional construction by the Legislature that the Florida
 1671 Housing Finance Corporation constitutes an entrepreneurial
 1672 public corporation organized to provide and promote the public
 1673 welfare by administering the governmental function of financing
 1674 or refinancing housing and related facilities in this state and
 1675 that the corporation is not a department of the executive branch

1676 of state government within the scope and meaning of s. 6, Art.
1677 IV of the State Constitution, but is functionally related to the
1678 Department of Economic Opportunity in which it is placed. The
1679 executive function of state government to be performed by the
1680 Secretary ~~executive director of the Department~~ of Economic
1681 Opportunity in the conduct of the business of the Florida
1682 Housing Finance Corporation must be performed pursuant to a
1683 contract to monitor and set performance standards for the
1684 implementation of the business plan for the provision of housing
1685 approved for the corporation as provided in s. 420.0006. This
1686 contract must include performance standards for the provision of
1687 affordable housing in this state established in the strategic
1688 business plan described in s. 420.511.

1689 (3) The corporation is a separate budget entity and is not
1690 subject to control, supervision, or direction by the Department
1691 of Economic Opportunity in any manner, including, but not
1692 limited to, personnel, purchasing, transactions involving real
1693 or personal property, and budgetary matters. The corporation
1694 shall consist of a board of directors composed of the Secretary
1695 ~~executive director of the Department~~ of Economic Opportunity as
1696 an ex officio and voting member, or a senior-level agency
1697 employee designated by the secretary ~~director~~, and eight members
1698 appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate
1699 from the following:

1700 (a) One citizen actively engaged in the residential home

1701 building industry.

1702 (b) One citizen actively engaged in the banking or
1703 mortgage banking industry.

1704 (c) One citizen who is a representative of those areas of
1705 labor engaged in home building.

1706 (d) One citizen with experience in housing development who
1707 is an advocate for low-income persons.

1708 (e) One citizen actively engaged in the commercial
1709 building industry.

1710 (f) One citizen who is a former local government elected
1711 official.

1712 (g) Two citizens of the state who are not principally
1713 employed as members or representatives of any of the groups
1714 specified in paragraphs (a)-(f).

1715 Section 43. Subsection (1) of section 420.506, Florida
1716 Statutes, is amended to read:

1717 420.506 Executive director; agents and employees;
1718 inspector general.—

1719 (1) The appointment and removal of an executive director
1720 shall be by the Secretary ~~executive director of the Department~~
1721 of Economic Opportunity, with the advice and consent of the
1722 corporation's board of directors. The executive director shall
1723 employ legal and technical experts and such other agents and
1724 employees, permanent and temporary, as the corporation may
1725 require, and shall communicate with and provide information to

1726 the Legislature with respect to the corporation's activities.
 1727 Notwithstanding s. 216.262, the board may develop and implement
 1728 rules regarding the employment of employees of the corporation
 1729 and service providers, including legal counsel. The board is
 1730 entitled to establish travel procedures and guidelines for
 1731 employees of the corporation, subject to s. 112.061(6) and (7).
 1732 The executive director's office and the corporation's files and
 1733 records must be located in Leon County.

1734 Section 44. Subsection (30) of section 420.507, Florida
 1735 Statutes, is amended to read:

1736 420.507 Powers of the corporation.—The corporation shall
 1737 have all the powers necessary or convenient to carry out and
 1738 effectuate the purposes and provisions of this part, including
 1739 the following powers which are in addition to all other powers
 1740 granted by other provisions of this part:

1741 (30) To prepare and submit to the Secretary ~~executive~~
 1742 ~~director~~ of Economic Opportunity ~~the department~~ a budget request
 1743 for purposes of the corporation, which request shall,
 1744 notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 216 and in accordance
 1745 with s. 216.351, contain a request for operational expenditures
 1746 and separate requests for other authorized corporation programs.
 1747 The request need not contain information on the number of
 1748 employees, salaries, or any classification thereof, and the
 1749 approved operating budget therefor need not comply with s.
 1750 216.181(8)-(10). The secretary ~~executive director~~ may include

1751 within the department's budget request the corporation's budget
1752 request in the form as authorized by this section.

1753 Section 45. Subsection (2) of section 420.511, Florida
1754 Statutes, is amended to read:

1755 420.511 Strategic business plan; long-range program plan;
1756 annual report; audited financial statements.—

1757 (2) The corporation, in coordination with the department,
1758 shall annually develop a long-range program plan for the
1759 provision of affordable housing in this state as required
1760 pursuant to chapter 186. In part, the plan must include
1761 provisions that maximize the abilities of the corporation to
1762 implement the state housing strategy established under s.
1763 420.0003, to respond to federal housing initiatives, and to
1764 develop programs in a manner that is more responsive to the
1765 needs of public and private partners. The plan shall be
1766 developed on a schedule consistent with that established by s.
1767 186.021. For purposes of this section, the Secretary of Economic
1768 Opportunity ~~executive director~~ or his or her designee shall
1769 serve as the corporation's representative to achieve a
1770 coordinated and integrated planning relationship with the
1771 department.

1772 Section 46. Subsection (7) of section 420.602, Florida
1773 Statutes, is amended to read:

1774 420.602 Definitions.—As used in this part, the following
1775 terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context

1776 otherwise requires:

1777 ~~(7) "Director" means the executive director of the~~
 1778 ~~Department of Economic Opportunity.~~

1779 Section 47. Subsection (5) of section 420.609, Florida
 1780 Statutes, is amended to read:

1781 420.609 Affordable Housing Study Commission.—Because the
 1782 Legislature firmly supports affordable housing in Florida for
 1783 all economic classes:

1784 (5) The commission shall review, evaluate, and make
 1785 recommendations regarding existing and proposed housing programs
 1786 and initiatives. The commission shall provide these and any
 1787 other housing recommendations to the Secretary ~~director~~ of
 1788 Economic Opportunity ~~the department~~ and the executive director
 1789 of the corporation.

1790 Section 48. Subsection (2) of section 420.622, Florida
 1791 Statutes, is amended to read:

1792 420.622 State Office on Homelessness; Council on
 1793 Homelessness.—

1794 (2) The Council on Homelessness is created to consist of
 1795 19 representatives of public and private agencies who shall
 1796 develop policy and advise the State Office on Homelessness. The
 1797 council members shall be: the Secretary of Children and
 1798 Families, or his or her designee; the Secretary ~~executive~~
 1799 ~~director of the Department~~ of Economic Opportunity, or his or
 1800 her designee, who shall advise the council on issues related to

1801 rural development; the State Surgeon General, or his or her
1802 designee; the Executive Director of Veterans' Affairs, or his or
1803 her designee; the Secretary of Corrections, or his or her
1804 designee; the Secretary of Health Care Administration, or his or
1805 her designee; the Commissioner of Education, or his or her
1806 designee; the Executive Director of CareerSource Florida, Inc.,
1807 or his or her designee; one representative of the Florida
1808 Association of Counties; one representative of the Florida
1809 League of Cities; one representative of the Florida Supportive
1810 Housing Coalition; one representative of the Florida Housing
1811 Coalition; the Executive Director of the Florida Housing Finance
1812 Corporation, or his or her designee; one representative of the
1813 Florida Coalition for the Homeless; the secretary of the
1814 Department of Elder Affairs, or his or her designee; and four
1815 members appointed by the Governor. The council members shall be
1816 nonpaid volunteers and shall be reimbursed only for travel
1817 expenses. The appointed members of the council shall be
1818 appointed to staggered 2-year terms and are encouraged to have
1819 experience in the administration or provision of resources,
1820 services, or housing that addresses the needs of persons
1821 experiencing homelessness. The council shall meet at least four
1822 times per year. The importance of minority, gender, and
1823 geographic representation shall be considered in appointing
1824 members to the council.

1825 Section 49. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section

1826 427.012, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1827 427.012 The Commission for the Transportation
 1828 Disadvantaged.—There is created the Commission for the
 1829 Transportation Disadvantaged in the Department of
 1830 Transportation.

1831 (1) The commission shall consist of seven members, all of
 1832 whom shall be appointed by the Governor, in accordance with the
 1833 requirements of s. 20.052.

1834 (g) The Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of
 1835 Children and Families, the Secretary ~~executive director of the~~
 1836 ~~Department~~ of Economic Opportunity, the executive director of
 1837 the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Secretary of Elderly
 1838 Affairs, the Secretary of Health Care Administration, the
 1839 director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, and a
 1840 county manager or administrator who is appointed by the
 1841 Governor, or a senior management level representative of each,
 1842 shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting advisors to the commission.

1843 Section 50. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section
 1844 443.1116, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1845 443.1116 Short-time compensation.—

1846 (2) APPROVAL OF SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION PLANS.—An employer
 1847 wishing to participate in the short-time compensation program
 1848 must submit a signed, written, short-time plan to the Department
 1849 of Economic Opportunity for approval. The Secretary of Economic
 1850 Opportunity ~~director~~ or his or her designee shall approve the

1851 plan if:

1852 (a) The plan applies to and identifies each specific

1853 affected unit;

1854 (b) The individuals in the affected unit are identified by

1855 name and social security number;

1856 (c) The normal weekly hours of work for individuals in the

1857 affected unit are reduced by at least 10 percent and by not more

1858 than 40 percent;

1859 (d) The plan includes a certified statement by the

1860 employer that the aggregate reduction in work hours is in lieu

1861 of layoffs that would affect at least 10 percent of the

1862 employees in the affected unit and that would have resulted in

1863 an equivalent reduction in work hours;

1864 (e) The plan applies to at least 10 percent of the

1865 employees in the affected unit;

1866 (f) The plan is approved in writing by the collective

1867 bargaining agent for each collective bargaining agreement

1868 covering any individual in the affected unit;

1869 (g) The plan does not serve as a subsidy to seasonal

1870 employers during the off-season or as a subsidy to employers who

1871 traditionally use part-time employees;

1872 (h) The plan certifies that, if the employer provides

1873 fringe benefits to any employee whose workweek is reduced under

1874 the program, the fringe benefits will continue to be provided to

1875 the employee participating in the short-time compensation

1876 program under the same terms and conditions as though the
1877 workweek of such employee had not been reduced or to the same
1878 extent as other employees not participating in the short-time
1879 compensation program. As used in this paragraph, the term
1880 "fringe benefits" includes, but is not limited to, health
1881 insurance, retirement benefits under defined benefit pension
1882 plans as defined in subsection 35 of s. 1002 of the Employee
1883 Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, 29 U.S.C., contributions
1884 under a defined contribution plan as defined in s. 414(i) of the
1885 Internal Revenue Code, paid vacation and holidays, and sick
1886 leave;

1887 (i) The plan describes the manner in which the
1888 requirements of this subsection will be implemented, including a
1889 plan for giving notice, if feasible, to an employee whose
1890 workweek is to be reduced, together with an estimate of the
1891 number of layoffs that would have occurred absent the ability to
1892 participate in short-time compensation; and

1893 (j) The terms of the employer's written plan and
1894 implementation are consistent with employer obligations under
1895 applicable federal laws and laws of this state.

1896 (3) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE PLAN.—The Secretary of
1897 Economic Opportunity ~~director~~ or his or her designee shall
1898 approve or disapprove a short-time compensation plan in writing
1899 within 15 days after its receipt. If the plan is denied, the
1900 secretary ~~director~~ or his or her designee shall notify the

1901 employer of the reasons for disapproval.

1902 (4) BEGINNING AND TERMINATION OF SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION
 1903 BENEFIT PERIOD.—A plan takes effect on the date of its approval
 1904 by the Secretary of Economic Opportunity ~~director~~ or his or her
 1905 designee and expires at the end of the 12th full calendar month
 1906 after its effective date.

1907 Section 51. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section
 1908 446.53, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1909 446.53 Concrete masonry education.—

1910 (2)

1911 (d) In addition to the 13 voting members described in
 1912 paragraph (a), the Secretary ~~executive director of the~~
 1913 ~~Department~~ of Economic Opportunity, or his or her designee,
 1914 shall serve ex officio as a nonvoting member of the board of
 1915 directors of the council.

1916 Section 52. Section 450.261, Florida Statutes, is amended
 1917 to read:

1918 450.261 Interstate Migrant Labor Commission; Florida
 1919 membership.—In selecting the Florida membership of the
 1920 Interstate Migrant Labor Commission, the Governor may designate
 1921 the Secretary ~~executive director of the Department~~ of Economic
 1922 Opportunity as his or her representative.

1923 Section 53. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1), paragraph (a)
 1924 of subsection (4), and paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of
 1925 subsection (5) of section 624.5105, Florida Statutes, are

1926 amended to read:

1927 624.5105 Community contribution tax credit; authorization;
1928 limitations; eligibility and application requirements;
1929 administration; definitions; expiration.—

1930 (1) AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT TAX CREDITS; LIMITATIONS.—

1931 (d) Each proposal for the granting of such tax credit
1932 requires the prior approval of the Secretary of Economic
1933 Opportunity ~~director~~.

1934 (4) ADMINISTRATION.—

1935 (a)1. The Department of Economic Opportunity may adopt
1936 rules to administer this section, including rules for the
1937 approval or disapproval of proposals by insurers.

1938 2. The decision of the Secretary of Economic Opportunity
1939 ~~director~~ shall be in writing, and, if approved, the proposal
1940 shall state the maximum credit allowable to the insurer. A copy
1941 of the decision shall be transmitted to the executive director
1942 of the Department of Revenue, who shall apply such credit to the
1943 tax liability of the insurer.

1944 3. The Department of Economic Opportunity shall monitor
1945 all projects periodically, in a manner consistent with available
1946 resources to ensure that resources are utilized in accordance
1947 with this section; however, each project shall be reviewed no
1948 less frequently than once every 2 years.

1949 4. The Department of Economic Opportunity shall, in
1950 consultation with the Florida Housing Finance Corporation and

1951 the statewide and regional housing and financial intermediaries,
 1952 market the availability of the community contribution tax credit
 1953 program to community-based organizations.

1954 (5) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

1955 ~~(b) "Director" means the director of the Department of~~
 1956 ~~Economic Opportunity.~~

1957 (b)~~(e)~~ "Local government" means any county or incorporated
 1958 municipality in the state.

1959 (c)~~(d)~~ "Project" means an activity as defined in s.
 1960 220.03(1)(t).

1961 Section 54. Paragraph (f) of subsection (2) of section
 1962 1004.015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1963 1004.015 Florida Talent Development Council.—

1964 (2) Members of the council shall include:

1965 (f) The Secretary ~~executive director of the Department of~~
 1966 Economic Opportunity.

1967 Section 55. For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the Department
 1968 of Economic Opportunity shall take actions to modernize the
 1969 Reemployment Assistance Claims and Benefits Information System
 1970 as provided in the General Appropriations Act.

1971 Section 56. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
 1972 law.