

## CHAPTER 2013-36

### Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 2

An act relating to ethics; amending s. 112.312, F.S.; revising the definitions of “business entity” and “gift”; creating s. 112.3125, F.S.; defining the term “public officer”; prohibiting public officers from accepting additional employment with the state or any of its political subdivisions under specified conditions; amending s. 112.313, F.S.; prohibiting a former legislator from acting as a lobbyist before an executive branch agency, agency official, or employee for a specified period following vacation of office; providing definitions; creating s. 112.3142, F.S.; defining the term “constitutional officers”; requiring constitutional officers to complete annual ethics training; specifying requirements for ethics training; requiring the commission to adopt rules to establish minimum course content; requiring each house of the Legislature to provide for ethics training pursuant to its rules; creating s. 112.31425, F.S.; providing legislative findings; providing that holding an economic interest in a qualified blind trust is not a prohibited conflict of interest; providing that a public officer may not attempt to influence, exercise control of, or obtain information regarding the holdings of the qualified blind trust; prohibiting communication regarding the qualified blind trust between a public officer or a person having a beneficial interest in the trust and the trustee; providing exceptions; requiring a public officer to report the qualified blind trust and its value on his or her financial disclosure form under specified circumstances; establishing requirements for creation of a qualified blind trust; requiring a public officer who holds a qualified blind trust to file a notice with the Commission on Ethics; requiring a covered public official to file an amendment to his or her most recent financial disclosure statement under specified conditions; amending s. 112.3143, F.S.; providing definitions; requiring state public officers to abstain from voting on any matter that the officer knows would inure to his or her special private gain or loss; requiring that a memorandum filed after a vote be filed no later than 15 days after the vote; providing that a member of the Legislature satisfies the disclosure requirement by filing a form created pursuant to the rules of his or her respective house; providing that confidential or privileged information need not be disclosed; amending s. 112.3144, F.S.; requiring the qualifying officer to electronically transmit a full and public disclosure of financial interests of a qualified candidate to the commission; providing timeframes for the filing of certain complaints; authorizing filing individuals to file an amended statement during a specified timeframe under specified conditions; authorizing the commission to immediately follow complaint procedures under specified conditions; prohibiting the commission from taking action on complaints alleging immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis errors or omissions; providing what constitutes an immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis error or omission; authorizing an individual required to file a disclosure to have the statement prepared by an attorney or a certified public accountant; requiring an attorney or

certified public accountant to sign the completed disclosure form to indicate compliance with applicable requirements and that the disclosure is true and correct based on reasonable knowledge and belief; providing circumstances under which the commission must determine if an attorney or a certified public accountant failed to disclose information provided by the filing individual on the filed statement; providing that the failure of the attorney or certified public accountant to accurately transcribe information provided by the filing individual does not constitute a violation; authorizing an elected officer or candidate to use funds in an office account or campaign depository to pay an attorney or certified public accountant for preparing a disclosure; creating s. 112.31445, F.S.; providing a definition for “electronic filing system”; requiring all disclosures of financial interests filed with the commission to be scanned and made publicly available on a searchable Internet database beginning with the 2012 filing year; requiring the commission to submit a proposal to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for a mandatory electronic filing system by a specified date; establishing minimum requirements for the commission’s proposal; amending s. 112.3145, F.S.; revising the definitions of “local officer” and “specified state employee”; revising procedures for the filing of a statement of financial interests with a candidate’s qualifying papers; requiring a person filing a statement of financial interest to indicate the method of reporting income; providing timeframes for the filing of certain complaints; authorizing filing individuals to file an amended statement during a specified timeframe under specified conditions; authorizing the commission to immediately follow complaint procedures under specified conditions; prohibiting the commission from taking action on complaints alleging immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis errors or omissions; providing what constitutes an immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis error or omission; authorizing an individual required to file a disclosure to have the statement prepared by an attorney or a certified public accountant; requiring an attorney or certified public accountant to sign the completed disclosure form to indicate compliance with applicable requirements and that the disclosure is true and correct based on reasonable knowledge and belief; providing circumstances under which the commission must determine if an attorney or a certified public accountant failed to disclose information provided by the filing individual on the filed statement; providing that the failure of the attorney or certified public accountant to accurately transcribe information provided by the filing individual does not constitute a violation; authorizing an elected officer or candidate to use funds in an office account or campaign depository to pay an attorney or certified public accountant for preparing a disclosure; creating s. 112.31455, F.S.; requiring the commission to attempt to determine whether an individual owing certain fines is a current public officer or public employee; authorizing the commission to notify the Chief Financial Officer or the governing body of a county, municipality, or special district of the total amount of any fine owed to the commission by such individuals; requiring that the Chief Financial Officer or the governing body of a county, municipality, or special district begin

withholding portions of any salary payment that would otherwise be paid to the current public officer or public employee; requiring that the withheld payments be remitted to the commission until the fine is satisfied; authorizing the Chief Financial Officer or the governing body to retain a portion of payment for administrative costs; authorizing collection methods for the commission or the Department of Financial Services for individuals who are no longer public officers or public employees; authorizing the commission to contract with a collection agency; authorizing a collection agency to utilize collection methods authorized by law; authorizing the commission to collect an unpaid fine within a specified period of issuance of the final order; amending s. 112.3147, F.S.; providing an exception to the requirement that all forms be prescribed by the commission; amending s. 112.3148, F.S.; revising the definition of “procurement employee”; creating a definition for “vendor”; prohibiting a reporting individual or procurement employee from soliciting or knowingly accepting a gift from a vendor; deleting references to committees of continuous existence; creating s. 112.31485, F.S.; providing definitions for “gift” and “immediate family”; prohibiting a reporting individual or procurement employee or a member of his or her immediate family from soliciting or knowingly accepting any gift from a political committee; prohibiting a political committee from giving any gift to a reporting individual or procurement employee or a member of his or her immediate family; providing penalties for a violation; requiring that individuals who violate this section be held personally liable; amending s. 112.3149, F.S.; revising the definition of “procurement employee”; defining the term “vendor”; prohibiting a reporting individual or procurement employee from knowingly accepting an honorarium from a vendor; prohibiting a vendor from giving an honorarium to a reporting individual or procurement employee; amending s. 112.317, F.S.; making technical changes; amending s. 112.3215, F.S.; authorizing the commission to investigate sworn complaints alleging a prohibited expenditure; authorizing the commission to investigate a lobbyist or principal upon a sworn complaint or random audit; authorizing the Governor and Cabinet to assess a fine on a lobbyist or principal under specified conditions; providing a civil penalty; amending s. 112.324, F.S.; authorizing specified parties to submit written referrals of a possible violation of the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees or other possible breaches of the public trust to the Commission on Ethics; establishing procedures for the receipt of written referrals by the commission; extending the period in which the disclosure of the intent to file or the filing of a complaint against a candidate is prohibited; providing exceptions; authorizing the commission to dismiss a complaint of a de minimis violation; providing exceptions; defining a de minimis violation; reenacting s. 120.665, F.S., relating to disqualification of agency personnel, to incorporate the amendments to s. 112.3143, F.S., in a reference thereto; reenacting s. 286.012, F.S., relating to voting requirements at meetings of governmental bodies, to incorporate the amendments made to s. 112.3143, F.S., in a reference thereto; reenacting s. 287.175, F.S., relating to penalties, to incorporate the amendments made to s. 112.324, F.S., in a reference thereto; amending s. 288.901, F.S.; conforming

a cross-reference; amending s. 445.007, F.S., and reenacting subsection (1) of that section, relating to regional workforce boards, to incorporate the amendments made to s. 112.3143, F.S., in a reference thereto; conforming cross-references; reenacting s. 627.311(5)(m), F.S., relating to joint underwriters and joint reinsurers, to incorporate the amendments made to s. 112.3143, F.S., in a reference thereto; reenacting s. 627.351(6)(d), F.S., relating to Citizens Property Insurance Corporation, to incorporate the amendments made to s. 112.3143, F.S.; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (5) and paragraph (b) of subsection (12) of section 112.312, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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

(5) “Business entity” means any corporation, partnership, limited partnership, company, limited liability company, proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, self-employed individual, or trust, whether fictitiously named or not, doing business in this state.

(12)

(b) “Gift” does not include:

1. Salary, benefits, services, fees, commissions, gifts, or expenses associated primarily with the donee’s employment, business, or service as an officer or director of a corporation or organization.

2. Except as provided in s. 112.31485, contributions or expenditures reported pursuant to chapter 106, contributions or expenditures reported pursuant to federal election law, campaign-related personal services provided without compensation by individuals volunteering their time, or any other contribution or expenditure by a political party or affiliated party committee.

3. An honorarium or an expense related to an honorarium event paid to a person or the person’s spouse.

4. An award, plaque, certificate, or similar personalized item given in recognition of the donee’s public, civic, charitable, or professional service.

5. An honorary membership in a service or fraternal organization presented merely as a courtesy by such organization.

6. The use of a public facility or public property, made available by a governmental agency, for a public purpose.

7. Transportation provided to a public officer or employee by an agency in relation to officially approved governmental business.

8. Gifts provided directly or indirectly by a state, regional, or national organization which promotes the exchange of ideas between, or the professional development of, governmental officials or employees, and whose membership is primarily composed of elected or appointed public officials or staff, to members of that organization or officials or staff of a governmental agency that is a member of that organization.

Section 2. Section 112.3125, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

112.3125 Dual public employment.—

(1) As used in this section, the term “public officer” includes any person who is elected to state or local office or, for the period of his or her candidacy, any person who has qualified as a candidate for state or local office.

(2) A public officer may not accept public employment with the state or any of its political subdivisions if the public officer knows, or with the exercise of reasonable care should know, that the position is being offered by the employer for the purpose of gaining influence or other advantage based on the public officer’s office or candidacy.

(3) Any public employment accepted by a public officer must meet all of the following conditions:

(a)1. The position was already in existence or was created by the employer without the knowledge or anticipation of the public officer’s interest in such position;

2. The position was publicly advertised;

3. The public officer was subject to the same application and hiring process as other candidates for the position; and

4. The public officer meets or exceeds the required qualifications for the position.

(4) A person who was employed by the state or any of its political subdivisions before qualifying as a public officer for his or her current term of office or the next available term of office may continue his or her employment. However, he or she may not accept promotion, advancement, additional compensation, or anything of value that he or she knows, or with the exercise of reasonable care should know, is provided or given as a result of his or her election or position, or that is otherwise inconsistent with the promotion, advancement, additional compensation, or anything of value provided or given an employee who is similarly situated.

(5) This section may not be interpreted as authorizing employment that is otherwise prohibited by law.

Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (9) of section 112.313, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(9) POSTEMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS; STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR LEGISLATORS AND LEGISLATIVE EMPLOYEES.—

(a)1. It is the intent of the Legislature to implement by statute the provisions of s. 8(e), Art. II of the State Constitution relating to legislators, statewide elected officers, appointed state officers, and designated public employees.

2. As used in this paragraph:

a. “Employee” means:

(I) Any person employed in the executive or legislative branch of government holding a position in the Senior Management Service as defined in s. 110.402 or any person holding a position in the Selected Exempt Service as defined in s. 110.602 or any person having authority over policy or procurement employed by the Department of the Lottery.

(II) The Auditor General, the director of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, the Sergeant at Arms and Secretary of the Senate, and the Sergeant at Arms and Clerk of the House of Representatives.

(III) The executive director and deputy executive director of the Commission on Ethics.

(IV) An executive director, staff director, or deputy staff director of each joint committee, standing committee, or select committee of the Legislature; an executive director, staff director, executive assistant, analyst, or attorney of the Office of the President of the Senate, the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate Majority Party Office, Senate Minority Party Office, House Majority Party Office, or House Minority Party Office; or any person, hired on a contractual basis, having the power normally conferred upon such persons, by whatever title.

(V) The Chancellor and Vice Chancellors of the State University System; the general counsel to the Board of Governors of the State University System; and the president, provost, vice presidents, and deans of each state university.

(VI) Any person, including an other-personal-services employee, having the power normally conferred upon the positions referenced in this subparagraph.

b. "Appointed state officer" means any member of an appointive board, commission, committee, council, or authority of the executive or legislative branch of state government whose powers, jurisdiction, and authority are not solely advisory and include the final determination or adjudication of any personal or property rights, duties, or obligations, other than those relative to its internal operations.

c. "State agency" means an entity of the legislative, executive, or judicial branch of state government over which the Legislature exercises plenary budgetary and statutory control.

3.a. No member of the Legislature, appointed state officer, or statewide elected officer shall personally represent another person or entity for compensation before the government body or agency of which the individual was an officer or member for a period of 2 years following vacation of office. No member of the Legislature shall personally represent another person or entity for compensation during his or her term of office before any state agency other than judicial tribunals or in settlement negotiations after the filing of a lawsuit.

b. For a period of 2 years following vacation of office, a former member of the Legislature may not act as a lobbyist for compensation before an executive branch agency, agency official, or employee. The terms used in this sub-subparagraph have the same meanings as provided in s. 112.3215.

4. An agency employee, including an agency employee who was employed on July 1, 2001, in a Career Service System position that was transferred to the Selected Exempt Service System under chapter 2001-43, Laws of Florida, may not personally represent another person or entity for compensation before the agency with which he or she was employed for a period of 2 years following vacation of position, unless employed by another agency of state government.

5. Any person violating this paragraph shall be subject to the penalties provided in s. 112.317 and a civil penalty of an amount equal to the compensation which the person receives for the prohibited conduct.

6. This paragraph is not applicable to:

a. A person employed by the Legislature or other agency prior to July 1, 1989;

b. A person who was employed by the Legislature or other agency on July 1, 1989, whether or not the person was a defined employee on July 1, 1989;

c. A person who was a defined employee of the State University System or the Public Service Commission who held such employment on December 31, 1994;

d. A person who has reached normal retirement age as defined in s. 121.021(29), and who has retired under the provisions of chapter 121 by July 1, 1991; or

e. Any appointed state officer whose term of office began before January 1, 1995, unless reappointed to that office on or after January 1, 1995.

Section 4. Section 112.3142, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

112.3142 Ethics training for specified constitutional officers.—

(1) As used in this section, the term “constitutional officers” includes the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Attorney General, the Chief Financial Officer, the Commissioner of Agriculture, state attorneys, public defenders, sheriffs, tax collectors, property appraisers, supervisors of elections, clerks of the circuit court, county commissioners, district school board members, and superintendents of schools.

(2)(a) All constitutional officers must complete 4 hours of ethics training annually that addresses, at a minimum, s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, and the public records and public meetings laws of this state. This requirement may be satisfied by completion of a continuing legal education class or other continuing professional education class, seminar, or presentation if the required subjects are covered.

(b) The commission shall adopt rules establishing minimum course content for the portion of an ethics training class that addresses s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution and the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees.

(3) Each house of the Legislature shall provide for ethics training pursuant to its rules.

Section 5. Section 112.31425, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

112.31425 Qualified blind trusts.—

(1) The Legislature finds that if a public officer creates a trust and does not control the interests held by the trust, his or her official actions will not be influenced or appear to be influenced by private considerations.

(2) If a public officer holds a beneficial interest in a qualified blind trust as described in this section, he or she does not have a conflict of interest prohibited under s. 112.313(3) or (7) or a voting conflict of interest under s. 112.3143 with regard to matters pertaining to that interest.

(3) The public officer may not attempt to influence or exercise any control over decisions regarding the management of assets in a qualified blind trust. The public officer or any person having a beneficial interest in the qualified blind trust may not make any effort to obtain information with respect to the



holdings of the trust, including obtaining a copy of any trust tax return filed or any information relating thereto, except as otherwise provided in this section.

(4) Except for communications that consist solely of requests for distributions of cash or other unspecified assets of the trust, the public officer or the person who has a beneficial interest may not have any direct or indirect communication with the trustee with respect to the trust, unless such communication is in writing and relates only to:

(a) A distribution from the trust which does not specify the source or assets within the trust from which the distribution is to be made in cash or in kind;

(b) The general financial interests and needs of the public officer or the person who has a beneficial interest, including, but not limited to, an interest in maximizing income or long-term capital gain;

(c) A notification of the trustee of a law or regulation subsequently applicable to the public officer which prohibits the officer from holding an asset and directs that the asset not be held by the trust; or

(d) A direction to the trustee to sell all of an asset initially placed in the trust by the public officer which, in the determination of the public officer, creates a conflict of interest or the appearance thereof due to the subsequent assumption of duties by the public officer.

(5) The public officer shall report the beneficial interest in the qualified blind trust and its value as an asset on his or her financial disclosure form, if the value is required to be disclosed. The public officer shall report the blind trust as a primary source of income on his or her financial disclosure forms and its amount, if the amount of income is required to be disclosed. The public officer is not required to report as a secondary source of income any source of income to the blind trust.

(6) In order to constitute a qualified blind trust, the trust established by the public officer must meet the following requirements:

(a) The appointed trustee must be a bank, trust company, or other institutional fiduciary or an individual who is an attorney, certified public accountant, broker, or investment advisor. If the trustee is an individual or if the trustee is a bank, trust company, or other institutional fiduciary, the individual responsible for managing the trust may not be:

1. The public officer's spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, parent-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt, uncle, or first cousin, or the spouse of any such person;

2. A person who is an elected or appointed public officer or a public employee;

3. A person who has been appointed to serve in an agency by the public officer or by a public officer or public employee supervised by the public officer; or

4. A business associate or principal of the public officer.

(b) All assets in the trust must be free of any restrictions with respect to their transfer or sale. The trust may not contain investments or assets the transfer of which by the trustee is improbable or impractical without the public officer's knowledge.

(c) The trust agreement must:

1. Contain a statement that its purpose is to remove from the grantor control and knowledge of investment of trust assets so that conflicts between the grantor's responsibilities as a public officer and his or her private interests are eliminated.

2. Give the trustee complete discretion to manage the trust, including, but not limited to, the power to dispose of and acquire trust assets without consulting or notifying the covered public officer or the person having a beneficial interest in the trust.

3. Prohibit communication between the trustee and the public officer, or the person who has a beneficial interest in the trust, concerning the holdings or sources of income of the trust, except amounts of cash value or net income or loss, if such report does not identify any asset or holding, or except as provided in this section.

4. Provide that the trust tax return is prepared by the trustee or his or her designee and that any information relating thereto is not disclosed to the public officer or to the person who has a beneficial interest, except as provided in this section.

5. Permit the trustee to notify the public officer of the date of disposition and value at disposition of any original investment or interest in real property to the extent required by federal tax law so that the information can be reported on the public officer's applicable tax returns.

6. Prohibit the trustee from disclosing to the public officer or the person who has a beneficial interest any information concerning replacement assets to the trust, except for the minimum tax information necessary to enable the public official to complete an individual tax return required by law.

(d) Within 5 business days after the agreement is executed, the public officer shall file with the commission a notice setting forth:

1. The date that the agreement is executed.

2. The name and address of the trustee.

3. The acknowledgement by the trustee that he or she has agreed to serve as trustee.

4. A certification by the trustee on a form prescribed by the commission that the trust meets all of the requirements of this section. In lieu of said certification, the public officer may file a copy of the trust agreement.

5. A complete list of assets placed in the trust that the public officer would be required to disclose pursuant to ss. 112.3144 or 112.3145.

(7) If the trust is revoked while the covered public official is a public officer, or if the covered public official learns of any replacement assets that have been added to the trust, the covered public official shall file an amendment to his or her most recent financial disclosure statement. The amendment shall be filed no later than 60 days after the date of revocation or the addition of the replacement assets. The covered public official shall disclose the previously unreported pro rata share of the trust's interests in investments or income deriving from any such investments. For purposes of this section, any replacement asset that becomes known to the covered public official shall thereafter be treated as though it were an original asset of the trust.

Section 6. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 112.3143, Florida Statutes, are amended, current subsection (5) of that section is renumbered as subsection (6), and a new subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

112.3143 Voting conflicts.—

(1) As used in this section:

(a) “Principal by whom retained” means an individual or entity, other than an agency as defined in s. 112.312(2), that for compensation, salary, pay, consideration, or similar thing of value, has permitted or directed another to act for the individual or entity, and includes, but is not limited to, one’s client, employer, or the parent, subsidiary, or sibling organization of one’s client or employer.

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

(c)(b) “Relative” means any father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law.

(d) “Special private gain or loss” means an economic benefit or harm that would inure to the officer, his or her relative, business associate, or principal, unless the measure affects a class that includes the officer, his or her relative, business associate, or principal, in which case, at least the following factors must be considered when determining whether a special private gain or loss exists:

1. The size of the class affected by the vote.

2. The nature of the interests involved.

3. The degree to which the interests of all members of the class are affected by the vote.

4. The degree to which the officer, his or her relative, business associate, or principal receives a greater benefit or harm when compared to other members of the class.

The degree to which there is uncertainty at the time of the vote as to whether there would be any economic benefit or harm to the public officer, his or her relative, business associate, or principal and, if so, the nature or degree of the economic benefit or harm must also be considered.

(2)(a) A No state public officer may not vote on any matter that the officer knows would inure to his or her special private gain or loss is prohibited from voting in an official capacity on any matter. However, Any state public officer who abstains from voting in an official capacity upon any measure that which the officer knows would inure to the officer's special private gain or loss, or who votes in an official capacity on a measure that; which he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of any principal by whom the officer is retained or to the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal by which the officer is retained other than an agency as defined in s. 112.312(2); or which the officer knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of a relative or business associate of the public officer, shall make every reasonable effort to, within 15 days after the vote occurs, disclose the nature of his or her interest as a public record in a memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who shall incorporate the memorandum in the minutes. If it is not possible for the state public officer to file a memorandum before the vote, the memorandum must be filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting no later than 15 days after the vote.

(b) A member of the Legislature may satisfy the disclosure requirements of this section by filing a disclosure form created pursuant to the rules of the member's respective house if the member discloses the information required by this subsection.

(5) If disclosure of specific information would violate confidentiality or privilege pursuant to law or rules governing attorneys, a public officer, who is also an attorney, may comply with the disclosure requirements of this section by disclosing the nature of the interest in such a way as to provide the public with notice of the conflict.

Section 7. Subsection (2) of section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, is amended, present subsection (7) is renumbered as subsection (9), and new subsections (7) and (8) are added to that section, to read:

112.3144 Full and public disclosure of financial interests.—

(2) A person who is required, pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, to file a full and public disclosure of financial interests and who has filed a full and public disclosure of financial interests for any calendar or fiscal year shall not be required to file a statement of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145(2) and (3) for the same year or for any part thereof notwithstanding any requirement of this part. When a candidate has qualified for office, the qualifying officer shall forward an electronic copy of the full and public disclosure of financial interests to the commission no later than July 1. The electronic copy of the full and public disclosure of financial interests satisfies the annual disclosure requirement of this section. A candidate who does not qualify until after the annual full and public disclosure has been filed pursuant to this section, except that a candidate for office shall file a copy of his or her disclosure with the officer before whom he or she qualifies.

(7)(a) The commission shall treat an amended full and public disclosure of financial interests that is filed prior to September 1 of the current year as the original filing, regardless of whether a complaint has been filed. If a complaint pertaining to the current year alleges a failure to properly and accurately disclose any information required by this section or if a complaint filed pertaining to a previous reporting period within the preceding 5 years alleges a failure to properly and accurately disclose any information required to be disclosed by this section, the commission may immediately follow complaint procedures in s. 112.324. However, if a complaint filed after August 25 alleges an immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis error or omission, the commission may not take any action on the complaint, other than notifying the filer of the complaint. The filer must be given 30 days to file an amended full and public disclosure of financial interests correcting any errors. If the filer does not file an amended full and public disclosure of financial interests within 30 days after the commission sends notice of the complaint, the commission may continue with proceedings pursuant to s. 112.324.

(b) For purposes of the final full and public disclosure of financial interests, the commission shall treat a new final full and public disclosure of financial interests as the original filing if filed within 60 days after the original filing, regardless of whether a complaint has been filed. If, more than 60 days after a final full and public disclosure of financial interests is filed, a complaint is filed alleging a complete omission of any information required to be disclosed by this section, the commission may immediately follow the complaint procedures in s. 112.324. However, if the complaint alleges an immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis error or omission, the commission may not take any action on the complaint, other than notifying the filer of the complaint. The filer must be given 30 days to file a new final full and public disclosure of financial interests correcting any errors. If the filer does not file a new final full and public disclosure of financial interests within 30 days after the commission sends notice of the complaint, the commission may continue with proceedings pursuant to s. 112.324.

(c) For purposes of this section, an error or omission is immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis if the original filing provided sufficient information for the public to identify potential conflicts of interest.

(8)(a) An individual required to file a disclosure pursuant to this section may have the disclosure prepared by an attorney in good standing with The Florida Bar or by a certified public accountant licensed under chapter 473. After preparing a disclosure form, the attorney or certified public accountant must sign the form indicating that he or she prepared the form in accordance with this section and the instructions for completing and filing the disclosure forms and that, upon his or her reasonable knowledge and belief, the disclosure is true and correct. If a complaint is filed alleging a failure to disclose information required by this section, the commission shall determine whether the information was disclosed to the attorney or certified public accountant. The failure of the attorney or certified public accountant to accurately transcribe information provided by the individual required to file is not a violation of this section.

(b) An elected officer or candidate who chooses to use an attorney or a certified public accountant to prepare his or her disclosure may pay for the services of the attorney or certified public accountant from funds in an office account created pursuant to s. 106.141 or, during a year that the individual qualifies for election to public office, the candidate's campaign depository pursuant to s. 106.021.

Section 8. Section 112.31445, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

112.31445 Electronic filing system; full and public disclosure of financial interests.—

(1) As used in this section, the term "electronic filing system" means an Internet system for recording and reporting full and public disclosure of financial interests or any other form that is required pursuant to s. 112.3144.

(2) Beginning with the 2012 filing year, all full and public disclosures of financial interests filed with the commission pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144 must be scanned and made publicly available by the commission through a searchable Internet database.

(3) By December 1, 2015, the commission shall submit a proposal to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for a mandatory electronic filing system. The proposal must, at a minimum:

(a) Provide for access through the Internet.

(b) Establish a procedure to make filings available in a searchable format that is accessible by an individual using standard web-browsing software.

(c) Provide for direct completion of the full and public disclosure of financial interests forms as well as upload such information using software approved by the commission.

(d) Provide a secure method that prevents unauthorized access to electronic filing system functions.

(e) Provide a method for an attorney or certified public accountant licensed in this state to sign the disclosure form to indicate that he or she prepared the form in accordance with s. 112.3144 and the instructions for completing and filing the disclosure form and that, upon his or her reasonable knowledge and belief, the form is true and correct.

(f) Address whether additional statutory or rulemaking authority is necessary for implementation of the system, and must include, at a minimum, the following elements: alternate filing procedures to be used in the event that the commission’s electronic filing system is inoperable, issuance of an electronic receipt via electronic mail indicating and verifying to the individual who submitted the full and public disclosure of financial interests form that the form has been filed, and a determination of the feasibility and necessity of including statements of financial interests filed pursuant to s. 112.3145 in the proposed system.

Section 9. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection (2), and subsection (3) of section 112.3145, Florida Statutes, are amended, present subsection (9) of that section is renumbered as subsection (11), and new subsections (9) and (10) are added to that section, to read:

112.3145 Disclosure of financial interests and clients represented before agencies.—

(1) For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise requires, the term:

(a) “Local officer” means:

1. Every person who is elected to office in any political subdivision of the state, and every person who is appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term in such an elective office.

2. Any appointed member of any of the following boards, councils, commissions, authorities, or other bodies of any county, municipality, school district, independent special district, or other political subdivision of the state:

a. The governing body of the political subdivision, if appointed;

~~b. An expressway authority or transportation authority established by general law;~~

~~b.e.~~ A community college or junior college district board of trustees;

~~c.d.~~ A board having the power to enforce local code provisions;

d.e. A planning or zoning board, board of adjustment, board of appeals, community redevelopment agency board, or other board having the power to recommend, create, or modify land planning or zoning within the political subdivision, except for citizen advisory committees, technical coordinating committees, and such other groups who only have the power to make recommendations to planning or zoning boards;

e.f. A pension board or retirement board having the power to invest pension or retirement funds or the power to make a binding determination of one's entitlement to or amount of a pension or other retirement benefit; or

f.g. Any other appointed member of a local government board who is required to file a statement of financial interests by the appointing authority or the enabling legislation, ordinance, or resolution creating the board.

3. Any person holding one or more of the following positions: mayor; county or city manager; chief administrative employee of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision; county or municipal attorney; finance director of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision; chief county or municipal building code inspector; county or municipal water resources coordinator; county or municipal pollution control director; county or municipal environmental control director; county or municipal administrator, with power to grant or deny a land development permit; chief of police; fire chief; municipal clerk; district school superintendent; community college president; district medical examiner; or purchasing agent having the authority to make any purchase exceeding the threshold amount provided for in s. 287.017 for CATEGORY ONE, on behalf of any political subdivision of the state or any entity thereof.

(b) "Specified state employee" means:

1. Public counsel created by chapter 350, an assistant state attorney, an assistant public defender, a criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, an assistant criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, a full-time state employee who serves as counsel or assistant counsel to any state agency, the Deputy Chief Judge of Compensation Claims, a judge of compensation claims, an administrative law judge, or a hearing officer.

2. Any person employed in the office of the Governor or in the office of any member of the Cabinet if that person is exempt from the Career Service System, except persons employed in clerical, secretarial, or similar positions.

3. The State Surgeon General or each appointed secretary, assistant secretary, deputy secretary, executive director, assistant executive director, or deputy executive director of each state department, commission, board, or council; unless otherwise provided, the division director, assistant division director, deputy director, bureau chief, and assistant bureau chief of any state department or division; or any person having the power normally conferred upon such persons, by whatever title.



4. The superintendent or institute director of a state mental health institute established for training and research in the mental health field or the warden or director of any major state institution or facility established for corrections, training, treatment, or rehabilitation.

5. Business managers, purchasing agents having the power to make any purchase exceeding the threshold amount provided for in s. 287.017 for CATEGORY ONE, finance and accounting directors, personnel officers, or grants coordinators for any state agency.

6. Any person, other than a legislative assistant exempted by the presiding officer of the house by which the legislative assistant is employed, who is employed in the legislative branch of government, except persons employed in maintenance, clerical, secretarial, or similar positions.

7. Each employee of the Commission on Ethics.

(2)(a) A person seeking nomination or election to a state or local elective office shall file a statement of financial interests together with, and at the same time he or she files, qualifying papers. When a candidate has qualified for office prior to the deadline to file an annual statement of financial interests, the statement of financial interests that is filed with the candidate's qualifying papers shall be deemed to satisfy the annual disclosure requirement of this section. The qualifying officer must record that the statement of financial interests was timely filed. However, if a candidate does not qualify until after the annual statement of financial interests has been filed, the candidate may file a copy of his or her statement with the qualifying officer.

(3) The statement of financial interests for state officers, specified state employees, local officers, and persons seeking to qualify as candidates for state or local office shall be filed even if the reporting person holds no financial interests requiring disclosure, in which case the statement shall be marked "not applicable." Otherwise, the statement of financial interests shall include, at the filer's option, either:

(a)1. All sources of income in excess of 5 percent of the gross income received during the disclosure period by the person in his or her own name or by any other person for his or her use or benefit, excluding public salary. However, this shall not be construed to require disclosure of a business partner's sources of income. The person reporting shall list such sources in descending order of value with the largest source first;

2. All sources of income to a business entity in excess of 10 percent of the gross income of a business entity in which the reporting person held a material interest and from which he or she received an amount which was in excess of 10 percent of his or her gross income during the disclosure period and which exceeds \$1,500. The period for computing the gross income of the business entity is the fiscal year of the business entity which ended on, or immediately prior to, the end of the disclosure period of the person reporting;

3. The location or description of real property in this state, except for residences and vacation homes, owned directly or indirectly by the person reporting, when such person owns in excess of 5 percent of the value of such real property, and a general description of any intangible personal property worth in excess of 10 percent of such person's total assets. For the purposes of this paragraph, indirect ownership does not include ownership by a spouse or minor child; and

4. Every individual liability that equals more than the reporting person's net worth; or

(b)1. All sources of gross income in excess of \$2,500 received during the disclosure period by the person in his or her own name or by any other person for his or her use or benefit, excluding public salary. However, this shall not be construed to require disclosure of a business partner's sources of income. The person reporting shall list such sources in descending order of value with the largest source first;

2. All sources of income to a business entity in excess of 10 percent of the gross income of a business entity in which the reporting person held a material interest and from which he or she received gross income exceeding \$5,000 during the disclosure period. The period for computing the gross income of the business entity is the fiscal year of the business entity which ended on, or immediately prior to, the end of the disclosure period of the person reporting;

3. The location or description of real property in this state, except for residence and vacation homes, owned directly or indirectly by the person reporting, when such person owns in excess of 5 percent of the value of such real property, and a general description of any intangible personal property worth in excess of \$10,000. For the purpose of this paragraph, indirect ownership does not include ownership by a spouse or minor child; and

4. Every liability in excess of \$10,000.

A person filing a statement of financial interests shall indicate on the statement whether he or she is using the method specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) of this subsection.

(9)(a) The commission shall treat an amended statement of financial interests that is filed prior to September 1 of the current year as the original filing, regardless of whether a complaint has been filed. If a complaint pertaining to the current year alleges a failure to properly and accurately disclose any information required by this section or if a complaint filed pertaining to a previous reporting period within the preceding 5 years alleges a failure to properly and accurately disclose any information required to be disclosed by this section, the commission may immediately follow complaint procedures in s. 112.324. However, if a complaint filed after August 25 alleges an immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis error or omission, the commission may not take any action on the complaint, other than notifying

the filer of the complaint. The filer must be given 30 days to file an amended statement of financial interests correcting any errors. If the filer does not file an amended statement of financial interests within 30 days after the commission sends notice of the complaint, the commission may continue with proceedings pursuant to s. 112.324.

(b) For purposes of the final statement of financial interests, the commission shall treat a new final statement of financial interests, as the original filing, if filed within 60 days of the original filing regardless of whether a complaint has been filed. If, more than 60 days after a final statement of financial interests is filed, a complaint is filed alleging a complete omission of any information required to be disclosed by this section, the commission may immediately follow the complaint procedures in s. 112.324. However, if the complaint alleges an immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis error or omission, the commission may not take any action on the complaint other than notifying the filer of the complaint. The filer must be given 30 days to file a new final statement of financial interests correcting any errors. If the filer does not file a new final statement of financial interests within 30 days after the commission sends notice of the complaint, the commission may continue with proceedings pursuant to s. 112.324.

(c) For purposes of this section, an error or omission is immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis if the original filing provided sufficient information for the public to identify potential conflicts of interest.

(10)(a) An individual required to file a disclosure pursuant to this section may have the disclosure prepared by an attorney in good standing with The Florida Bar or by a certified public accountant licensed under chapter 473. After preparing a disclosure form, the attorney or certified public accountant must sign the form indicating that he or she prepared the form in accordance with this section and the instructions for completing and filing the disclosure forms and that, upon his or her reasonable knowledge and belief, the disclosure is true and correct. If a complaint is filed alleging a failure to disclose information required by this section, the commission shall determine whether the information was disclosed to the attorney or certified public accountant. The failure of the attorney or certified public accountant to accurately transcribe information provided by the individual who is required to file the disclosure does not constitute a violation of this section.

(b) An elected officer or candidate who chooses to use an attorney or a certified public accountant to prepare his or her disclosure may pay for the services of the attorney or certified public accountant from funds in an office account created pursuant to s. 106.141 or, during a year that the individual qualifies for election to public office, the candidate's campaign depository pursuant to s. 106.021.

Section 10. Section 112.31455, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

112.31455 Collection methods for unpaid automatic fines for failure to timely file disclosure of financial interests.—

(1) Before referring any unpaid fine accrued pursuant to s. 112.3144(5) or s. 112.3145(6) to the Department of Financial Services, the commission shall attempt to determine whether the individual owing such a fine is a current public officer or current public employee. If so, the commission may notify the Chief Financial Officer or the governing body of the appropriate county, municipality, or special district of the total amount of any fine owed to the commission by such individual.

(a) After receipt and verification of the notice from the commission, the Chief Financial Officer or the governing body of the county, municipality, or special district shall begin withholding the lesser of 10 percent or the maximum amount allowed under federal law from any salary-related payment. The withheld payments shall be remitted to the commission until the fine is satisfied.

(b) The Chief Financial Officer or the governing body of the county, municipality, or special district may retain an amount of each withheld payment, as provided in s. 77.0305, to cover the administrative costs incurred under this section.

(2) If the commission determines that the individual who is the subject of an unpaid fine accrued pursuant to s. 112.3144(5) or s. 112.3145(6) is no longer a public officer or public employee or if the commission is unable to determine whether the individual is a current public officer or public employee, the commission may, 6 months after the order becomes final, seek garnishment of any wages to satisfy the amount of the fine, or any unpaid portion thereof, pursuant to chapter 77. Upon recording the order imposing the fine with the clerk of the circuit court, the order shall be deemed a judgment for purposes of garnishment pursuant to chapter 77.

(3) The commission may refer unpaid fines to the appropriate collection agency, as directed by the Chief Financial Officer, to utilize any collection methods provided by law. Except as expressly limited by this section, any other collection methods authorized by law are allowed.

(4) Action may be taken to collect any unpaid fine imposed by ss. 112.3144 and 112.3145 within 20 years after the date the final order is rendered.

Section 11. Section 112.3147, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.3147 Forms.—~~Except as otherwise provided~~, all information required to be furnished by ss. 112.313, 112.3143, 112.3144, 112.3145, 112.3148, and 112.3149 and by s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution shall be on forms prescribed by the Commission on Ethics.

Section 12. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section 112.3148, Florida Statutes, is amended and paragraph (f) is added to that subsection, and subsections (3) through (5) of that section are amended, to read:

112.3148 Reporting and prohibited receipt of gifts by individuals filing full or limited public disclosure of financial interests and by procurement employees.—

(2) As used in this section:

(e) “Procurement employee” means any employee of an officer, department, board, commission, ~~or~~ agency of the executive branch or judicial branch of state government who has participated in the preceding 12 months ~~participates~~ through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, or auditing or in any other advisory capacity in the procurement of contractual services or commodities as defined in s. 287.012, if the cost of such services or commodities exceeds or is expected to exceed \$10,000 ~~\$1,000~~ in any fiscal year.

(f) “Vendor” means a business entity doing business directly with an agency, such as renting, leasing, or selling any realty, goods, or services.

(3) A reporting individual or procurement employee is prohibited from soliciting any gift from a vendor doing business with the reporting individual’s or procurement employee’s agency, a political committee ~~or committee of continuous existence~~, as defined in s. 106.011, or ~~from~~ a lobbyist who lobbies the reporting individual’s or procurement employee’s agency, or the partner, firm, employer, or principal of such lobbyist, where such gift is for the personal benefit of the reporting individual or procurement employee, another reporting individual or procurement employee, or any member of the immediate family of a reporting individual or procurement employee.

(4) A reporting individual or procurement employee or any other person on his or her behalf is prohibited from knowingly accepting, directly or indirectly, a gift from a vendor doing business with the reporting individual’s or procurement employee’s agency, a political committee ~~or committee of continuous existence~~, as defined in s. 106.011, or ~~from~~ a lobbyist who lobbies the reporting individual’s or procurement employee’s agency, or directly or indirectly on behalf of the partner, firm, employer, or principal of a lobbyist, if he or she knows or reasonably believes that the gift has a value in excess of \$100; however, such a gift may be accepted by such person on behalf of a governmental entity or a charitable organization. If the gift is accepted on behalf of a governmental entity or charitable organization, the person receiving the gift shall not maintain custody of the gift for any period of time beyond that reasonably necessary to arrange for the transfer of custody and ownership of the gift.

(5)(a) A vendor doing business with the reporting individual’s or procurement employee’s agency; a political committee ~~or a committee of continuous existence~~, as defined in s. 106.011; a lobbyist who lobbies a reporting individual’s or procurement employee’s agency; the partner, firm, employer, or principal of a lobbyist; or another on behalf of the lobbyist or

partner, firm, principal, or employer of the lobbyist is prohibited from giving, either directly or indirectly, a gift that has a value in excess of \$100 to the reporting individual or procurement employee or any other person on his or her behalf; however, such person may give a gift having a value in excess of \$100 to a reporting individual or procurement employee if the gift is intended to be transferred to a governmental entity or a charitable organization.

(b) However, a person who is regulated by this subsection, who is not regulated by subsection (6), and who makes, or directs another to make, an individual gift having a value in excess of \$25, but not in excess of \$100, other than a gift that the donor knows will be accepted on behalf of a governmental entity or charitable organization, must file a report on the last day of each calendar quarter for the previous calendar quarter in which a reportable gift is made. The report shall be filed with the Commission on Ethics, except with respect to gifts to reporting individuals of the legislative branch, in which case the report shall be filed with the Office of Legislative Services. The report must contain a description of each gift, the monetary value thereof, the name and address of the person making such gift, the name and address of the recipient of the gift, and the date such gift is given. In addition, if a gift is made which requires the filing of a report under this subsection, the donor must notify the intended recipient at the time the gift is made that the donor, or another on his or her behalf, will report the gift under this subsection. Under this paragraph, a gift need not be reported by more than one person or entity.

Section 13. Section 112.31485, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

112.31485 Prohibition on gifts involving political committees.—

(1)(a) For purposes of this section, the term “gift” means any purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, transfer of funds, or disbursement of money or anything of value that is not primarily related to contributions, expenditures, or other political activities authorized pursuant to chapter 106.

(b) For purposes of this section, the term “immediate family” means any parent, spouse, child, or sibling.

(2)(a) A reporting individual or procurement employee or a member of his or her immediate family is prohibited from soliciting or knowingly accepting, directly or indirectly, any gift from a political committee.

(b) A political committee is prohibited from giving, directly or indirectly, any gift to a reporting individual or procurement employee or a member of his or her immediate family.

(3) Any person who violates this section is subject to a civil penalty equal to three times the amount of the gift. Such penalty is in addition to the penalties provided in s. 112.317 and shall be paid to the General Revenue Fund of the state. A reporting individual or procurement employee or a member of his or her immediate family who violates this section is personally

liable for payment of the treble penalty. Any agent or person acting on behalf of a political committee who gives a prohibited gift is personally liable for payment of the treble penalty.

Section 14. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section 112.3149, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (f) is added to that subsection, and subsections (3) and (4) of that section are amended, to read:

112.3149 Solicitation and disclosure of honoraria.—

(1) As used in this section:

(e) “Procurement employee” means any employee of an officer, department, board, commission, ~~or council,~~ or agency of the executive branch or judicial branch of state government who has participated in the preceding 12 months ~~participates~~ through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, or auditing or in any other advisory capacity in the procurement of contractual services or commodities as defined in s. 287.012, if the cost of such services or commodities exceeds \$10,000 ~~\$1,000~~ in any fiscal year.

(f) “Vendor” means a business entity doing business directly with an agency, such as renting, leasing, or selling any realty, goods, or services.

(3) A reporting individual or procurement employee is prohibited from knowingly accepting an honorarium from a political committee ~~or committee of continuous existence,~~ as defined in s. 106.011, from a vendor doing business with the reporting individual’s or procurement employee’s agency, from a lobbyist who lobbies the reporting individual’s or procurement employee’s agency, or from the employer, principal, partner, or firm of such a lobbyist.

(4) A political committee ~~or committee of continuous existence,~~ as defined in s. 106.011, a vendor doing business with the reporting individual’s or procurement employee’s agency, a lobbyist who lobbies a reporting individual’s or procurement employee’s agency, or the employer, principal, partner, or firm of such a lobbyist is prohibited from giving an honorarium to a reporting individual or procurement employee.

Section 15. Section 112.317, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.317 Penalties.—

(1) Any violation of any provision of this part, including, but not limited to, any failure to file any disclosures required by this part or violation of any standard of conduct imposed by this part, or any violation of any provision of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, in addition to any criminal penalty or other civil penalty involved, shall, under applicable constitutional and statutory procedures, constitute ~~constitute~~ grounds for, and may be punished by, one or more of the following:

(a) In the case of a public officer:

1. Impeachment.
2. Removal from office.
3. Suspension from office.
4. Public censure and reprimand.
5. Forfeiture of no more than one-third of his or her salary per month for no more than 12 months.
6. A civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000.
7. Restitution of any pecuniary benefits received because of the violation committed. The commission may recommend that the restitution penalty be paid to the agency of which the public officer was a member or to the General Revenue Fund.

(b) In the case of an employee or a person designated as a public officer by this part who otherwise would be deemed to be an employee:

1. Dismissal from employment.
2. Suspension from employment for not more than 90 days without pay.
3. Demotion.
4. Reduction in his or her salary level.
5. Forfeiture of no more than one-third salary per month for no more than 12 months.
6. A civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000.
7. Restitution of any pecuniary benefits received because of the violation committed. The commission may recommend that the restitution penalty be paid to the agency by which the public employee was employed, or of which the officer was deemed to be an employee, or to the General Revenue Fund.
8. Public censure and reprimand.

(c) In the case of a candidate who violates ~~the provisions of this part or s. 8(a) and (i), Art. II of the State Constitution:~~

1. Disqualification from being on the ballot.
2. Public censure.
3. Reprimand.
4. A civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000.



(d) In the case of a former public officer or employee who has violated a provision applicable to former officers or employees or whose violation occurred before the officer’s or employee’s leaving public office or employment:

- 1. Public censure and reprimand.
- 2. A civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000.
- 3. Restitution of any pecuniary benefits received because of the violation committed. The commission may recommend that the restitution penalty be paid to the agency of the public officer or employee or to the General Revenue Fund.

(e) In the case of a person who is subject to the standards of this part, other than a lobbyist or lobbying firm under s. 112.3215 for a violation of s. 112.3215, but who is not a public officer or employee:

- 1. Public censure and reprimand.
- 2. A civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000.
- 3. Restitution of any pecuniary benefits received because of the violation committed. The commission may recommend that the restitution penalty be paid to the agency of the person or to the General Revenue Fund.

(2) In any case in which the commission finds a violation of this part or of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution and the proper disciplinary official or body under s. 112.324 imposes a civil penalty or restitution penalty, the Attorney General shall bring a civil action to recover such penalty. No defense may be raised in the civil action to enforce the civil penalty or order of restitution that could have been raised by judicial review of the administrative findings and recommendations of the commission by certiorari to the district court of appeal. The Attorney General shall collect any costs, attorney’s fees, expert witness fees, or other costs of collection incurred in bringing the action.

(3) The penalties prescribed in this part shall not be construed to limit or to conflict with:

- (a) The power of either house of the Legislature to discipline its own members or impeach a public officer.
- (b) The power of agencies to discipline officers or employees.

(4) Any violation of this part or of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution by a public officer constitutes ~~shall constitute~~ malfeasance, misfeasance, or neglect of duty in office within the meaning of s. 7, Art. IV of the State Constitution.

(5) By order of the Governor, upon recommendation of the commission, any elected municipal officer who violates ~~any provision of this part or of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution~~ may be suspended from office and the office filled by appointment for the period of suspension. The suspended officer may at any time before removal be reinstated by the Governor. The Senate may, in proceedings prescribed by law, remove from office, or reinstate, the suspended official, and for such purpose the Senate may be convened in special session by its President or by a majority of its membership.

(6) In any case in which the commission finds probable cause to believe that a complainant has committed perjury in regard to any document filed with, or any testimony given before, the commission, it shall refer such evidence to the appropriate law enforcement agency for prosecution and taxation of costs.

(7) In any case in which the commission determines that a person has filed a complaint against a public officer or employee with a malicious intent to injure the reputation of such officer or employee by filing the complaint with knowledge that the complaint contains one or more false allegations or with reckless disregard for whether the complaint contains false allegations of fact material to a violation of this part, the complainant shall be liable for costs plus reasonable attorney ~~attorney's~~ fees incurred in the defense of the person complained against, including the costs and reasonable attorney ~~attorney's~~ fees incurred in proving entitlement to and the amount of costs and fees. If the complainant fails to pay such costs and fees voluntarily within 30 days following such finding by the commission, the commission shall forward such information to the Department of Legal Affairs, which shall bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover the amount of such costs and fees awarded by the commission.

Section 16. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (8) and subsection (10) of section 112.3215, Florida Statutes, are amended, present subsections (11) through (14) are renumbered as (12) through (15), respectively, and a new subsection (11) is added to that section to read:

112.3215 Lobbying before the executive branch or the Constitution Revision Commission; registration and reporting; investigation by commission.—

(8)(a) The commission shall investigate every sworn complaint that is filed with it alleging that a person covered by this section has failed to register, has failed to submit a compensation report, has made a prohibited expenditure, or has knowingly submitted false information in any report or registration required in this section.

(c) The commission shall investigate any lobbying firm, lobbyist, principal, agency, officer, or employee upon receipt of information from a sworn complaint or from a random audit of lobbying reports indicating a possible violation other than a late-filed report.

(10) If the Governor and Cabinet finds that a violation occurred, it may reprimand the violator, censure the violator, or prohibit the violator from lobbying all agencies for a period not to exceed 2 years. If the violator is a lobbying firm, lobbyist, or principal, the Governor and Cabinet may also assess a fine of not more than \$5,000 to be deposited in the Executive Branch Lobby Registration Trust Fund.

(11) Any person who is required to be registered or to provide information under this section or under rules adopted pursuant to this section and who knowingly fails to disclose any material fact that is required by this section or by rules adopted pursuant to this section, or who knowingly provides false information on any report required by this section or by rules adopted pursuant to this section, commits a noncriminal infraction, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$5,000. Such penalty is in addition to any other penalty assessed by the Governor and Cabinet pursuant to subsection (10).

Section 17. Section 112.324, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.324 Procedures on complaints of violations and referrals; public records and meeting exemptions.—

~~(1) Upon a written complaint executed on a form prescribed by the commission and signed under oath or affirmation by any person, The commission shall investigate an any alleged violation of this part or any other alleged breach of the public trust within the jurisdiction of the commission as provided in s. 8(f), Art. II of the State Constitution; in accordance with procedures set forth herein.~~

(a) Upon a written complaint executed on a form prescribed by the commission and signed under oath of affirmation by any person; or

(b) Upon receipt of a written referral of a possible violation of this part or other possible breach of the public trust from the Governor, the Department of Law Enforcement, a state attorney, or a United States Attorney which at least six members of the commission determine is sufficient to indicate a violation of this part or any other breach of the public trust.

Within 5 days after receipt of a complaint by the commission or a determination by at least six members of the commission that the referral received is deemed sufficient, a copy shall be transmitted to the alleged violator.

(2)(a) The complaint and records relating to the complaint or to any preliminary investigation held by the commission or its agents, by a Commission on Ethics and Public Trust established by any county defined in s. 125.011(1) or by any municipality defined in s. 165.031, or by any county or municipality that has established a local investigatory process to enforce more stringent standards of conduct and disclosure requirements as provided in s. 112.326 are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

(b) Any proceeding conducted by the commission, a Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, or a county or municipality that has established such local investigatory process, pursuant to a complaint or preliminary investigation, is exempt from the provisions of s. 286.011, s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution, and s. 120.525.

(c) The exemptions in paragraphs (a) and (b) apply until the complaint is dismissed as legally insufficient, until the alleged violator requests in writing that such records and proceedings be made public, or until the commission, a Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, or a county or municipality that has established such local investigatory process determines, based on such investigation, whether probable cause exists to believe that a violation has occurred. ~~In no event shall~~ A complaint or referral under this part against a candidate in any general, special, or primary election may not be filed nor may ~~or~~ any intention of filing such a complaint or referral be disclosed on the day of any such election or within the 30 ~~5~~ days immediately preceding the date of the election, unless the complaint or referral is based upon personal information or information other than hearsay.

(d) This subsection is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2015, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

(3) A preliminary investigation shall be undertaken by the commission of each legally sufficient complaint or referral over which the commission has jurisdiction to determine whether there is probable cause to believe that a violation has occurred. If, upon completion of the preliminary investigation, the commission finds no probable cause to believe that this part has been violated or that any other breach of the public trust has been committed, the commission shall dismiss the complaint or referral with the issuance of a public report to the complainant and the alleged violator, stating with particularity its reasons for dismissal ~~of the complaint~~. At that time, the complaint or referral and all materials relating to the complaint or referral shall become a matter of public record. If the commission finds from the preliminary investigation probable cause to believe that this part has been violated or that any other breach of the public trust has been committed, it shall so notify the complainant and the alleged violator in writing. Such notification and all documents made or received in the disposition of the complaint or referral shall then become public records. Upon request submitted to the commission in writing, any person who the commission finds probable cause to believe has violated any provision of this part or has committed any other breach of the public trust shall be entitled to a public hearing. Such person shall be deemed to have waived the right to a public hearing if the request is not received within 14 days following the mailing of the probable cause notification required by this subsection. However, the commission may on its own motion, require a public hearing, may conduct such further investigation as it deems necessary, and may enter into such stipulations and settlements as it finds to be just and in the best interest of the state. The commission is without jurisdiction to, and no respondent may

voluntarily or involuntarily, enter into a stipulation or settlement which imposes any penalty, including, but not limited to, a sanction or admonition or any other penalty contained in s. 112.317. Penalties shall be imposed only by the appropriate disciplinary authority as designated in this section.

(4) If, in cases pertaining to members of the Legislature, upon completion of a full and final investigation by the commission, the commission finds that there has been a violation of this part or of any provision of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, the commission shall forward a copy of the complaint or referral and its findings by certified mail to the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, whichever is applicable, who shall refer the complaint or referral to the appropriate committee for investigation and action which shall be governed by the rules of its respective house. It is ~~shall~~ be the duty of the committee to report its final action upon the matter ~~complaint~~ to the commission within 90 days of the date of transmittal to the respective house. Upon request of the committee, the commission shall submit a recommendation as to what penalty, if any, should be imposed. In the case of a member of the Legislature, the house in which the member serves has ~~shall have~~ the power to invoke the penalty provisions of this part.

(5) If, in cases ~~pertaining to complaints~~ against impeachable officers, upon completion of a full and final investigation by the commission, the commission finds that there has been a violation of this part or of any provision of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, and the commission finds that the violation may constitute grounds for impeachment, the commission shall forward a copy of the complaint or referral and its findings by certified mail to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall refer the complaint or referral to the appropriate committee for investigation and action which shall be governed by the rules of the House of Representatives. It is ~~shall~~ be the duty of the committee to report its final action upon the matter ~~complaint~~ to the commission within 90 days of the date of transmittal.

(6) If the commission finds that there has been a violation of this part or of any provision of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution by an impeachable officer other than the Governor, and the commission recommends public censure and reprimand, forfeiture of a portion of the officer's salary, a civil penalty, or restitution, the commission shall report its findings and recommendation of disciplinary action to the Governor, who has ~~shall~~ have the power to invoke the penalty provisions of this part.

(7) If the commission finds that there has been a violation of this part or of any provision of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution by the Governor, and the commission recommends public censure and reprimand, forfeiture of a portion of the Governor's salary, a civil penalty, or restitution, the commission shall report its findings and recommendation of disciplinary action to the Attorney General, who shall have the power to invoke the penalty provisions of this part.

(8) If, in cases ~~pertaining to complaints~~ other than complaints or referrals against impeachable officers or members of the Legislature, upon completion

of a full and final investigation by the commission, the commission finds that there has been a violation of this part or of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, it ~~is shall~~ be the duty of the commission to report its findings and recommend appropriate action to the proper disciplinary official or body as follows, and such official or body ~~has shall have~~ the power to invoke the penalty provisions of this part, including the power to order the appropriate elections official to remove a candidate from the ballot for a violation of s. 112.3145 or s. 8(a) and (i), Art. II of the State Constitution:

(a) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, jointly, in any case concerning the Public Counsel, members of the Public Service Commission, members of the Public Service Commission Nominating Council, the Auditor General, or the director of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.

(b) The Supreme Court, in any case concerning an employee of the judicial branch.

(c) The President of the Senate, in any case concerning an employee of the Senate; the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in any case concerning an employee of the House of Representatives; or the President and the Speaker, jointly, in any case concerning an employee of a committee of the Legislature whose members are appointed solely by the President and the Speaker or in any case concerning an employee of the Public Counsel, Public Service Commission, Auditor General, or Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.

(d) Except as otherwise provided by this part, the Governor, in the case of any other public officer, public employee, former public officer or public employee, candidate or former candidate, or person who is not a public officer or employee, other than lobbyists and lobbying firms under s. 112.3215 for violations of s. 112.3215.

(e) The President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, whichever is applicable, in any case concerning a former member of the Legislature who has violated a provision applicable to former members or whose violation occurred while a member of the Legislature.

(9) In addition to reporting its findings to the proper disciplinary body or official, the commission shall report these findings to the state attorney or any other appropriate official or agency having authority to initiate prosecution when violation of criminal law is indicated.

(10) Notwithstanding the foregoing procedures of this section, a sworn complaint against any member or employee of the Commission on Ethics for violation of this part or of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution shall be filed with the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Each presiding officer shall, after determining that there are sufficient grounds for review, appoint three members of their respective bodies to a special joint committee who shall investigate the complaint. The

members shall elect a chair from among their number. If the special joint committee finds insufficient evidence to establish probable cause to believe a violation of this part or of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution has occurred, it shall dismiss the complaint. If, upon completion of its preliminary investigation, the committee finds sufficient evidence to establish probable cause to believe a violation has occurred, the chair thereof shall transmit such findings to the Governor who shall convene a meeting of the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to take such final action on the complaint as they shall deem appropriate, consistent with the penalty provisions of this part. Upon request of a majority of the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the special joint committee shall submit a recommendation as to what penalty, if any, should be imposed.

(11)(a) Notwithstanding subsections (1)-(8), the commission may dismiss any complaint or referral at any stage of disposition if it determines that the violation that is alleged or has occurred is a de minimis violation attributable to inadvertent or unintentional error. In determining whether a violation was de minimis, the commission shall consider whether the interests of the public were protected despite the violation. This subsection does not apply to complaints or referrals pursuant to ss. 112.3144 and 112.3145.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection, a de minimis violation is any violation that is unintentional and not material in nature.

~~(12)(11)~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1)-(8), the commission may, at its discretion, dismiss any complaint or referral at any stage of disposition should it determine that the public interest would not be served by proceeding further, in which case the commission shall issue a public report stating with particularity its reasons for the dismissal.

Section 18. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.3143, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 120.665, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

120.665 Disqualification of agency personnel.—

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 112.3143, any individual serving alone or with others as an agency head may be disqualified from serving in an agency proceeding for bias, prejudice, or interest when any party to the agency proceeding shows just cause by a suggestion filed within a reasonable period of time prior to the agency proceeding. If the disqualified individual was appointed, the appointing power may appoint a substitute to serve in the matter from which the individual is disqualified. If the individual is an elected official, the Governor may appoint a substitute to serve in the matter from which the individual is disqualified. However, if a quorum remains after the individual is disqualified, it shall not be necessary to appoint a substitute.

Section 19. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.3143, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, section 286.012, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

286.012 Voting requirement at meetings of governmental bodies.—No member of any state, county, or municipal governmental board, commission, or agency who is present at any meeting of any such body at which an official decision, ruling, or other official act is to be taken or adopted may abstain from voting in regard to any such decision, ruling, or act; and a vote shall be recorded or counted for each such member present, except when, with respect to any such member, there is, or appears to be, a possible conflict of interest under the provisions of s. 112.311, s. 112.313, or s. 112.3143. In such cases, said member shall comply with the disclosure requirements of s. 112.3143.

Section 20. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.324, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, section 287.175, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

287.175 Penalties.—A violation of this part or a rule adopted hereunder, pursuant to applicable constitutional and statutory procedures, constitutes misuse of public position as defined in s. 112.313(6), and is punishable as provided in s. 112.317. The Chief Financial Officer shall report incidents of suspected misuse to the Commission on Ethics, and the commission shall investigate possible violations of this part or rules adopted hereunder when reported by the Chief Financial Officer, notwithstanding the provisions of s. 112.324. Any violation of this part or a rule adopted hereunder shall be presumed to have been committed with wrongful intent, but such presumption is rebuttable. Nothing in this section is intended to deny rights provided to career service employees by s. 110.227.

Section 21. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 288.901, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.901 Enterprise Florida, Inc.—

(1) CREATION.—

(c) The Legislature determines that it is in the public interest for the members of Enterprise Florida, Inc., board of directors to be subject to the requirements of ss. 112.3135, 112.3143(2) ~~112.3143~~, and 112.313, excluding s. 112.313(2), notwithstanding the fact that the board members are not public officers or employees. For purposes of those sections, the board members shall be considered to be public officers or employees. The exemption set forth in s. 112.313(12) for advisory boards applies to the members of Enterprise Florida, Inc., board of directors. Further, each member of the board of directors who is not otherwise required to file financial disclosures pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144, shall file disclosure of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145.



Section 22. Subsection (1) of section 445.007, Florida Statutes, is reenacted for the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.3143, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, and subsection (11) of that section is amended, to read:

445.007 Regional workforce boards.—

(1) One regional workforce board shall be appointed in each designated service delivery area and shall serve as the local workforce investment board pursuant to Pub. L. No. 105-220. The membership of the board shall be consistent with Pub. L. No. 105-220, Title I, s. 117(b) but may not exceed the minimum membership required in Pub. L. No. 105-220, Title I, s. 117(b)(2)(A) and in this subsection. Upon approval by the Governor, the chief elected official may appoint additional members above the limit set by this subsection. If a public education or training provider is represented on the board, a representative of a private nonprofit provider and a representative of a private for-profit provider must also be appointed to the board. The board shall include one nonvoting representative from a military installation if a military installation is located within the region and the appropriate military command or organization authorizes such representation. It is the intent of the Legislature that membership of a regional workforce board include persons who are current or former recipients of welfare transition assistance as defined in s. 445.002(2) or workforce services as provided in s. 445.009(1) or that such persons be included as ex officio members of the board or of committees organized by the board. The importance of minority and gender representation shall be considered when making appointments to the board. The board, its committees, subcommittees, and subdivisions, and other units of the workforce system, including units that may consist in whole or in part of local governmental units, may use any method of telecommunications to conduct meetings, including establishing a quorum through telecommunications, provided that the public is given proper notice of the telecommunications meeting and reasonable access to observe and, when appropriate, participate. Regional workforce boards are subject to chapters 119 and 286 and s. 24, Art. I of the State Constitution. If the regional workforce board enters into a contract with an organization or individual represented on the board of directors, the contract must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the board, a quorum having been established, and the board member who could benefit financially from the transaction must abstain from voting on the contract. A board member must disclose any such conflict in a manner that is consistent with the procedures outlined in s. 112.3143. Each member of a regional workforce board who is not otherwise required to file a full and public disclosure of financial interests pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144 shall file a statement of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145. The executive director or designated person responsible for the operational and administrative functions of the regional workforce board who is not otherwise required to file a full and public disclosure of financial interests pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144 shall file a statement of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145.

(11) To increase transparency and accountability, a regional workforce board must comply with the requirements of this section before contracting with a member of the board or a relative, as defined in s. 112.3143(1)(c) ~~112.3143(1)(b)~~, of a board member or of an employee of the board. Such contracts may not be executed before or without the approval of Workforce Florida, Inc. Such contracts, as well as documentation demonstrating adherence to this section as specified by Workforce Florida, Inc., must be submitted to the Department of Economic Opportunity for review and recommendation according to criteria to be determined by Workforce Florida, Inc. Such a contract must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the board, a quorum having been established; all conflicts of interest must be disclosed before the vote; and any member who may benefit from the contract, or whose relative may benefit from the contract, must abstain from the vote. A contract under \$25,000 between a regional workforce board and a member of that board or between a relative, as defined in s. 112.3143(1)(c) ~~112.3143(1)(b)~~, of a board member or of an employee of the board is not required to have the prior approval of Workforce Florida, Inc., but must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the board, a quorum having been established, and must be reported to the Department of Economic Opportunity and Workforce Florida, Inc., within 30 days after approval. If a contract cannot be approved by Workforce Florida, Inc., a review of the decision to disapprove the contract may be requested by the regional workforce board or other parties to the disapproved contract.

Section 23. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.3143, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (m) of subsection (5) of section 627.311, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

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

(5)

(m) Senior managers and officers, as defined in the plan of operation, and members of the board of governors are subject to the provisions of ss. 112.313, 112.3135, 112.3143, 112.3145, 112.316, and 112.317. Senior managers, officers, and board members are also required to file such disclosures with the Commission on Ethics and the Office of Insurance Regulation. The executive director of the plan or his or her designee shall notify each newly appointed and existing appointed member of the board of governors, senior manager, and officer of his or her duty to comply with the reporting requirements of s. 112.3145. At least quarterly, the executive director of the plan or his or her designee shall submit to the Commission on Ethics a list of names of the senior managers, officers, and members of the board of governors who are subject to the public disclosure requirements under s. 112.3145. Notwithstanding s. 112.313, an employee, officer, owner, or director of an insurance agency, insurance company, or other insurance entity may be a member of the board of governors unless such employee, officer, owner, or director of an insurance agency, insurance company, other

insurance entity, or an affiliate provides policy issuance, policy administration, underwriting, claims handling, or payroll audit services. Notwithstanding s. 112.3143, such board member may not participate in or vote on a matter if the insurance agency, insurance company, or other insurance entity would obtain a special or unique benefit that would not apply to other similarly situated insurance entities.

Section 24. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made to this act to section 112.3143, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (d) of subsection (6) of section 627.351, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

627.351 Insurance risk apportionment plans.—

(6) CITIZENS PROPERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION.—

(d)1. All prospective employees for senior management positions, as defined by the plan of operation, are subject to background checks as a prerequisite for employment. The office shall conduct the background checks pursuant to ss. 624.34, 624.404(3), and 628.261.

2. On or before July 1 of each year, employees of the corporation must sign and submit a statement attesting that they do not have a conflict of interest, as defined in part III of chapter 112. As a condition of employment, all prospective employees must sign and submit to the corporation a conflict-of-interest statement.

3. Senior managers and members of the board of governors are subject to part III of chapter 112, including, but not limited to, the code of ethics and public disclosure and reporting of financial interests, pursuant to s. 112.3145. Notwithstanding s. 112.3143(2), a board member may not vote on any measure that would inure to his or her special private gain or loss; that he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of any principal by whom he or she is retained or to the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal by which he or she is retained, other than an agency as defined in s. 112.312; or that he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of a relative or business associate of the public officer. Before the vote is taken, such member shall publicly state to the assembly the nature of his or her interest in the matter from which he or she is abstaining from voting and, within 15 days after the vote occurs, disclose the nature of his or her interest as a public record in a memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who shall incorporate the memorandum in the minutes. Senior managers and board members are also required to file such disclosures with the Commission on Ethics and the Office of Insurance Regulation. The executive director of the corporation or his or her designee shall notify each existing and newly appointed member of the board of governors and senior managers of their duty to comply with the reporting requirements of part III of chapter 112. At least quarterly, the executive director or his or her designee shall submit to the Commission on Ethics a list of names of the senior managers and

members of the board of governors who are subject to the public disclosure requirements under s. 112.3145.

4. Notwithstanding s. 112.3148 or s. 112.3149, or any other provision of law, an employee or board member may not knowingly accept, directly or indirectly, any gift or expenditure from a person or entity, or an employee or representative of such person or entity, which has a contractual relationship with the corporation or who is under consideration for a contract. An employee or board member who fails to comply with subparagraph 3. or this subparagraph is subject to penalties provided under ss. 112.317 and 112.3173.

5. Any senior manager of the corporation who is employed on or after January 1, 2007, regardless of the date of hire, who subsequently retires or terminates employment is prohibited from representing another person or entity before the corporation for 2 years after retirement or termination of employment from the corporation.

6. Any senior manager of the corporation who is employed on or after January 1, 2007, regardless of the date of hire, who subsequently retires or terminates employment is prohibited from having any employment or contractual relationship for 2 years with an insurer that has entered into a take-out bonus agreement with the corporation.

Section 25. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 1, 2013.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 1, 2013.