1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to the Department of Business and 3 Professional Regulation; amending ss. 210.15 and 4 210.32, F.S.; requiring persons or entities licensed 5 or permitted by the department's Division of Alcoholic 6 Beverages and Tobacco, or applying for such license or 7 permit, to create and maintain an account with the 8 division's online system and provide an e-mail address 9 to the division; specifying application requirements; prohibiting the division from processing applications 10 11 not submitted through the online system; amending s. 12 210.40, F.S.; revising the amount of an initial 13 corporate surety bond required as a condition of 14 licensure as a tobacco product distributor; requiring 15 the division to review corporate surety bond amounts 16 on a specified basis; authorizing the division to 17 increase a bond amount, subject to specified 18 conditions; authorizing the division to adjust bond 19 amounts by rule; authorizing the division to reduce a bond amount upon a showing of good cause; defining 20 21 terms; requiring the division to notify distributors 22 in writing if their corporate surety bond requirements 23 change; providing applicability; prohibiting the 24 division from reducing a bond amount under specified circumstances; authorizing the division to adopt 25

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rules; amending s. 310.0015, F.S.; deleting a provision requiring a competency-based mentor program at ports; deleting a requirement that the department submit an annual report on the mentor program; amending s. 310.081, F.S.; deleting a requirement that the department consider certain characteristics for applicants for certification as a deputy pilot; making technical changes; creating s. 399.18, F.S.; requiring certain persons or entities certified or registered under the Elevator Safety Act, or applying for such certifications or registrations, to create and maintain an online account with the department's Division of Hotels and Restaurants and provide an email address to the division; requiring such persons and entities to maintain the accuracy of their contact information; requiring the division to adopt rules; creating s. 468.519, F.S.; creating the employee leasing companies licensing program under the department; providing legislative intent; repealing s. 468.521, F.S., relating to the department's Board of Employee Leasing Companies; amending s. 469.006, F.S.; revising requirements for department rules governing evidence of financial responsibility of applicants seeking licensure as a business organization under ch. 469, F.S.; amending s. 473.306, F.S.; requiring

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applicants for the accountancy licensure examination to create and maintain an online account with the department and provide an e-mail address; requiring applicants to maintain the accuracy of their contact information; requiring that address changes be submitted through the department's online system within a specified timeframe; conforming crossreferences; amending s. 473.308, F.S.; requiring a person seeking licensure as a Florida certified public accountant, or a firm seeking to engage in public accountancy, to create and maintain an online account with the department and provide an e-mail address; requiring certified public accountants and accounting firms to maintain the accuracy of their contact information; requiring that address changes be submitted through the department's online system within a specified timeframe; amending s. 475.181, F.S.; revising conditions regarding issuance of a licensure under part I of ch. 475, F.S.; amending s. 476.114, F.S.; revising eligibility requirements for licensure as a barber; making technical changes; amending s. 477.019, F.S.; revising eligibility requirements for licensure by examination to practice cosmetology; amending s. 489.131, F.S.; revising the types of penalties that may be recommended by a local

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jurisdiction enforcement body against a contractor; specifying requirements for any such recommended penalties; amending s. 489.143, F.S.; revising payment limitations for payments made from the department's Florida Homeowners' Construction Recovery Fund; amending s. 499.012, F.S.; revising requirements for certification as a designated representative of a prescription drug wholesale distributor; amending s. 561.17, F.S.; requiring persons or entities licensed or permitted by the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, or applying for such license or permit, to create and maintain an account with the division's online system; specifying application requirements; prohibiting the division from processing applications not submitted through the online system; creating ss. 569.00256 and 569.3156, F.S.; requiring certain persons or entities licensed or permitted by the division, or applying for such a license or permit, to create and maintain an account with the division's online system; requiring licensees, permittees, and applicants to provide the division with an e-mail address and maintain accurate contact information; specifying application requirements; prohibiting the division from processing applications not submitted through the online system; amending s. 723.061, F.S.;

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conforming provisions to changes made by the act; replacing the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Corporation with the Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes with regard to a specified notice; repealing s. 723.0611, F.S., relating to the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Corporation; amending s. 723.06115, F.S.; replacing the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Corporation with the Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes as the manager and administrator of the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Trust Fund; revising the uses of the trust fund; making conforming changes; amending s. 723.06116, F.S.; replacing the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Corporation with the Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes with regard to payments made from mobile home park owners to the Mobile Home Relocation Trust Fund; amending s. 723.0612, F.S.; replacing the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Corporation with the Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes with regard to relocation expenses to be paid to mobile home owners from the Mobile Home Relocation Trust Fund; making technical changes; conforming a cross-reference; amending ss. 20.165, 210.16, 212.08, 440.02, 448.26, 468.520, 468.522, 468.524, 468.5245,

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126 468.525, 468.526, 468.527, 468.5275, 468.529, 468.530, 127 468.531, 468.532, 476.144, and 627.192, F.S.; 128 conforming cross-references and provisions to changes 129 made by the act; reenacting ss. 48.184(1), 723.004(5), 723.031(9), 723.032(1), and 723.085(2), F.S., relating 130 131 to service of process for the removal of unknown 132 parties in possession of mobile homes, legislative 133 intent, mobile home lot rental agreements, prohibited 134 or unenforceable provisions in mobile home lot rental agreements, and the rights of lienholders on mobile 135 136 homes in rental mobile home parks, respectively, to 137 incorporate the amendment made in s. 723.061, F.S., in 138 references thereto; reenacting s. 320.08015(1), F.S., 139 relating to license tax surcharges, to incorporate the amendment made in s. 723.06115, F.S., in a reference 140 141 thereto; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date. 142 143 144 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 145 146 Section 1. Present paragraphs (a) through (h) of subsection (1) of section 210.15, Florida Statutes, are 147 148 redesignated as paragraphs (b) through (i), respectively, and a 149 new paragraph (a) is added to that subsection, to read: 150 210.15 Permits.-

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151 (1)152 A person or an entity licensed or permitted by the 153 division, or applying for a license or a permit, must create and 154 maintain an account with the division's online system and 155 provide an e-mail address to the division to function as the 156 primary means of contact for all communication by the division to the licensee, permittee, or applicant. Licensees, permittees, 157 158 and applicants are responsible for maintaining accurate contact 159 information on file with the division. A person or an entity 160 seeking a license or permit under this part must apply using 161 forms furnished by the division which are filed through the 162 division's online system before commencing operations. The 163 division may not process an application for a license or permit 164 issued by the division under this part unless the application is 165 submitted through the division's online system. 166 Section 2. Section 210.32, Florida Statutes, is created to 167 read: 168 210.32 Account; online system.—A person or an entity 169 licensed or permitted by the division, or applying for a license 170 or a permit, must create and maintain an account with the 171 division's online system and provide an e-mail address to the 172 division to function as the primary means of contact for all 173 communication by the division to the licensee, permittee, or 174 applicant. Licensees, permittees, and applicants are responsible 175 for maintaining accurate contact information on file with the

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division. A person or an entity seeking a license or a permit under this part must apply using forms furnished by the division which are filed through the division's online system before commencing operations. The division may not process an application for a license or permit issued by the division under this part unless the application is submitted through the division's online system.

Section 3. Section 210.40, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 210.40 License fees; surety bond; application for each place of business.—
- (1) Each application for a distributor's license <u>must</u> shall be accompanied by a fee of \$25. The application <u>must</u> shall also be accompanied by a corporate surety bond issued by a surety company authorized to do business in this state, conditioned for the payment when due of all taxes, penalties, and accrued interest which may be due the state. The <u>initial</u> corporate surety bond shall be in the sum of \$25,000 \$1,000 and in a form prescribed by the division.
- (a) The division shall review the amount of a corporate surety bond on a semiannual basis to ensure that the bond amount is adequate to protect the state.
- (b) The division may increase the corporate surety bond amount before renewing a distributor's license or after completing its semiannual review of the bond amount.

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	(C))	The	cor	por	ate	sure	ety	bor	nd	amou	ınt	may	y be	i	ncre	ease	d	to
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- (2) A corporate surety bond, with the sum determined by the division in accordance with paragraph (1)(c), is required for renewal of a distributor's license.
- (3) The division may prescribe by rule increases in the corporate surety bond amounts required as a condition of licensure.
- (4) (a) The division may reduce the amount of a corporate surety bond upon a distributor's showing of good cause. For purposes of this subsection, the term:
- 1. "Fully resolved" means that criminal or administrative charges or investigations have been definitively closed or dismissed, have resulted in an acquittal, or have otherwise ended in such a manner that no further legal or administrative actions relating to charges or investigations are pending against a licensee under applicable laws, rules, or regulations.
- 2. "Good cause" means a consistent pattern of responsible financial behavior by the distributor over a period of at least the preceding 4 years, and having the sum of the distributor's final audited tax liabilities, penalties, and interest be less than the amount of the distributor's corporate surety bond for every month for a period of at least the preceding 4 years.

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and	compl	ete re	eporting	and	payme	ent o	of	all	tax	lial	bili	Lti	es,	
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- (b) The division may not reduce a corporate surety bond amount when a licensee:
- 1. Is in default of any tax liabilities, penalties, or interest due to the state;
- 2. Is the subject of a pending criminal prosecution in any jurisdiction until such prosecution has been fully resolved;
- 3. Has pending administrative charges brought by an authorized regulatory body or agency which have not been fully resolved in accordance with applicable rules and procedures; or
- 4. Is under investigation by any administrative body or agency for potential criminal violations until any such investigation is completed and the findings of the investigation have been fully resolved in accordance with applicable law.
- (5) The division shall notify a distributor in writing of any change in the distributor's corporate surety bond requirements by the date on which the distributor's audited tax assessments become final.
- (6) The provisions of this section governing corporate surety bonds are not subject to s. 120.60 Whenever it is the opinion of the division that the bond given by a licensee is inadequate in amount to fully protect the state, the division

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shall require an additional bond in such amount as is deemed sufficient.

- (7) A separate application for a license <u>must shall</u> be made for each place of business at which a distributor proposes to engage in business as a distributor under this part, but an applicant may provide one <u>corporate surety</u> bond in an amount determined by the division for all applications made by the distributor consistent with the requirements of this section.
- (8) The division may adopt rules to administer this section.

Section 4. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section 310.0015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

310.0015 Piloting regulation; general provisions.-

(3) The rate-setting process, the issuance of licenses only in numbers deemed necessary or prudent by the board, and other aspects of the economic regulation of piloting established in this chapter are intended to protect the public from the adverse effects of unrestricted competition which would result from an unlimited number of licensed pilots being allowed to market their services on the basis of lower prices rather than safety concerns. This system of regulation benefits and protects the public interest by maximizing safety, avoiding uneconomic duplication of capital expenses and facilities, and enhancing state regulatory oversight. The system seeks to provide pilots with reasonable revenues, taking into consideration the normal

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uncertainties of vessel traffic and port usage, sufficient to maintain reliable, stable piloting operations. Pilots have certain restrictions and obligations under this system, including, but not limited to, the following:

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- (d) $\frac{1}{1}$. The pilot or pilots in a port shall train and compensate all member deputy pilots in that port. Failure to train or compensate such deputy pilots <u>constitutes</u> shall constitute a ground for disciplinary action under s. 310.101. Nothing in this subsection <u>may shall</u> be deemed to create an agency or employment relationship between a pilot or deputy pilot and the pilot or pilots in a port.
- 2. The pilot or pilots in a port shall establish a competency-based mentor program by which minority persons as defined in s. 288.703 may acquire the skills for the professional preparation and education competency requirements of a licensed state pilot or certificated deputy pilot. The department shall provide the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives with a report each year on the number of minority persons as defined in s. 288.703 who have participated in each mentor program, who are licensed state pilots or certificated deputy pilots, and who have applied for state pilot licensure or deputy pilot certification.

Section 5. Subsection (2) of section 310.081, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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310.081 Department to examine and license state pilots and certificate deputy pilots; vacancies.—

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- The department shall similarly examine persons who file applications for certificate as deputy pilot, and, if upon examination to determine proficiency the department finds them qualified, the department must shall certify as qualified all applicants who pass the examination, provided that not more than five persons who passed the examination are certified for each declared opening. If more than five applicants per opening pass the examination, the persons having the highest scores must shall be certified as qualified up to the number of openings times five. The department shall give consideration to the minority and female status of applicants when qualifying deputy pilots, in the interest of ensuring diversification within the state piloting profession. The department shall appoint and certificate such number of deputy pilots from those applicants deemed qualified as in the discretion of the board are required in the respective ports of the state. A deputy pilot shall be authorized by the department to pilot vessels within the limits and specifications established by the licensed state pilots at the port where the deputy is appointed to serve.
- Section 6. Section 399.18, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
 - 399.18 Online services account.-
 - (1) A certified elevator inspector, certified elevator

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technician, or registered elevator company; a person or entity seeking to become certified or registered as such; a person who has been issued an elevator certificate of competency; a person who is seeking such certificate; a person or entity who has been issued an elevator certificate of operation; and a person or entity who is seeking such a certificate must create and maintain an online account with the division and provide an email address to the division to function as the primary means of contact for all communication from the division. Each person or entity is responsible for maintaining accurate contact information on file with the division. (2) The division shall adopt rules to implement this section. Section 7. Section 468.519, Florida Statutes, is created, and incorporated into part XI of chapter 468, Florida Statutes, to read: 468.519 Employee leasing companies licensing program; purpose.-(1) There is created within the department the employee leasing companies licensing program. (2) The Legislature finds it necessary in the interest of the public safety and welfare to ensure that consumers of employee leasing companies can rely on the competence and integrity of such companies through the licensing requirements

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351	Section 8. <u>Section 468.521, Florida Statutes, is repealed.</u>
352	Section 9. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section
353	469.006, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
354	469.006 Licensure of business organizations; qualifying
355	agents
356	(2)
357	(c) As a prerequisite to the issuance of a license under
358	this section, the applicant shall submit the following:
359	1. An affidavit on a form provided by the department
360	attesting that the applicant has obtained workers' compensation
361	insurance as required by chapter 440, public liability
362	insurance, and property damage insurance, in amounts determined
363	by department rule. The department shall establish by rule a
364	procedure to verify the accuracy of such affidavits based upon a
365	random sample method.
366	2. Evidence of financial responsibility. The department
367	shall adopt rules to determine financial responsibility which
368	${ m \underline{must}}$ ${ m shall}$ specify grounds on which the department may deny
369	licensure. Such criteria <u>must</u> shall include, but <u>is</u> not be
370	limited to, credit history and limits of bondability and credit.
371	Section 10. Section 473.306, Florida Statutes, is amended
372	to read:
373	473.306 Examinations.—
374	(1) A person desiring to be licensed as a Florida
375	certified public accountant shall apply to the department to

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376 take the licensure examination.

- (2) A person applying to the department to take the licensure examination must create and maintain an online account with the department and provide an e-mail address to function as the primary means of contact for all communication to the applicant from the department. Each applicant is responsible for maintaining accurate contact information on file with the department and must submit any change in the applicant's e-mail address or home address within 30 days after the change. All changes must be submitted through the department's online system.
- (3) An applicant is entitled to take the licensure examination to practice in this state as a certified public accountant if:
- (a) The applicant has completed 120 semester hours or 180 quarter hours from an accredited college or university with a concentration in accounting and business courses as specified by the board by rule; and
- (b) The applicant shows that she or he has good moral character. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "good moral character" has the same meaning as provided in $\underline{s.\ 473.308(6)(a)}$. The board may refuse to allow an applicant to take the licensure examination for failure to satisfy this requirement if:
 - 1. The board finds a reasonable relationship between the

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lack of good moral character of the applicant and the professional responsibilities of a certified public accountant; and

2. The finding by the board of lack of good moral character is supported by competent substantial evidence.

- If an applicant is found pursuant to this paragraph to be unqualified to take the licensure examination because of a lack of good moral character, the board shall furnish to the applicant a statement containing the findings of the board, a complete record of the evidence upon which the determination was based, and a notice of the rights of the applicant to a rehearing and appeal.
- $\underline{(4)}$ (3) The board shall have the authority to establish the standards for determining and shall determine:
- (a) What constitutes a passing grade for each subject or part of the licensure examination;
- (b) Which educational institutions, in addition to the universities in the State University System of Florida, shall be deemed to be accredited colleges or universities;
- (c) What courses and number of hours constitute a major in accounting; and
- (d) What courses and number of hours constitute additional accounting courses acceptable under $\underline{s.\ 473.308(4)}\ \underline{s.\ 473.308(3)}$.
 - (5) (4) The board may adopt an alternative licensure

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examination for persons who have been licensed to practice public accountancy or its equivalent in a foreign country so long as the International Qualifications Appraisal Board of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy has ratified an agreement with that country for reciprocal licensure.

(6)(5) For the purposes of maintaining the proper educational qualifications for licensure under this chapter, the board may appoint an Educational Advisory Committee, which shall be composed of one member of the board, two persons in public practice who are licensed under this chapter, and four academicians on faculties of universities in this state.

Section 11. Present subsections (3) through (9) of section 473.308, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (4) through (10), respectively, a new subsection (3) is added to that section, and subsection (2), paragraph (b) of present subsection (4), and present subsection (8) of that section are amended, to read:

473.308 Licensure.-

(2) The board shall certify for licensure any applicant who successfully passes the licensure examination and satisfies the requirements of subsections (4), (5), and (6) (3), (4), and (5), and shall certify for licensure any firm that satisfies the requirements of ss. 473.309 and 473.3101. The board may refuse to certify any applicant or firm that has violated any of the provisions of s. 473.322.

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(3) A person desiring to be licensed as a Florida certified public accountant or a firm desiring to engage in the practice of public accounting must create and maintain an online account with the department and provide an e-mail address to function as the primary means of contact for all communication from the department. Certified public accountants and firms are responsible for maintaining accurate contact information on file with the department and must submit any change in an e-mail address or street address within 30 days after the change. All changes must be submitted through the department's online system.

(5) + (4)

- (b) However, an applicant who completed the requirements of subsection (4) (3) on or before December 31, 2008, and who passes the licensure examination on or before June 30, 2010, is exempt from the requirements of this subsection.
- (9)(8) If the applicant has at least 5 years of experience in the practice of public accountancy in the United States or in the practice of public accountancy or its equivalent in a foreign country that the International Qualifications Appraisal Board of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy has determined has licensure standards that are substantially equivalent to those in the United States, or has at least 5 years of work experience that meets the requirements of subsection (5) (4), the board <u>must shall</u> waive the requirements

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of subsection (4) (3) which are in excess of a baccalaureate degree. All experience that is used as a basis for waiving the requirements of subsection (4) (3) must be while licensed as a certified public accountant by another state or territory of the United States or while licensed in the practice of public accountancy or its equivalent in a foreign country that the International Qualifications Appraisal Board of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy has determined has licensure standards that are substantially equivalent to those in the United States. The board shall have the authority to establish the standards for experience that meet this requirement.

Section 12. Subsection (2) of section 475.181, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

475.181 Licensure.-

applicant who satisfies the requirements of ss. 475.17, 475.175, and 475.180. The commission may refuse to certify any applicant who has violated any of the provisions of s. 475.42 or who is subject to discipline under s. 475.25. The application shall expire 2 years after the date received if the applicant does not pass the appropriate examination. Additionally, if an applicant does not pass the licensing examination within 2 years after the successful course completion date, the applicant's successful course completion is invalid for licensure.

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501	Section 13. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 476.114,
502	Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
503	476.114 Examination; prerequisites
504	(2) An applicant <u>is</u> shall be eligible for licensure by
505	examination to practice barbering if the applicant:
506	(a) Is at least 16 years of age;
507	(b) Pays the required application fee; and
508	(c)1. Holds an active valid license to practice barbering
509	in another state, has held the license for at least 1 year, and
510	does not qualify for licensure by endorsement as provided for in
511	s. 476.144(5); or
512	$\frac{2}{2}$ Has received a minimum of 900 hours of training in
513	sanitation, safety, and laws and rules, as established by the
514	board, which $\underline{\text{must}}$ $\underline{\text{shall}}$ include, but $\underline{\text{is}}$ $\underline{\text{shall}}$ not $\underline{\text{be}}$ limited to,
515	the equivalent of completion of services directly related to the
516	practice of barbering at one of the following:
517	1.a. A school of barbering licensed pursuant to chapter
518	1005;
519	2.b. A barbering program within the public school system;
520	or
521	3.e. A government-operated barbering program in this
522	state.
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524	The board shall establish by rule procedures whereby the school
525	or program may certify that a person is qualified to take the

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required examination after the completion of a minimum of 600 actual school hours. If the person passes the examination, she or he <u>has shall have</u> satisfied this requirement; but if the person fails the examination, she or he <u>may shall</u> not be qualified to take the examination again until the completion of the full requirements provided by this section.

- (3) An applicant who meets the requirements set forth in paragraph (2)(c) subparagraphs (2)(c)1. and 2. who fails to pass the examination may take subsequent examinations as many times as necessary to pass, except that the board may specify by rule reasonable timeframes for rescheduling the examination and additional training requirements for applicants who, after the third attempt, fail to pass the examination. Prior to reexamination, the applicant must file the appropriate form and pay the reexamination fee as required by rule.
- Section 14. Subsection (2) of section 477.019, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 477.019 Cosmetologists; qualifications; licensure; supervised practice; license renewal; endorsement; continuing education.—
- (2) An applicant <u>is</u> shall be eligible for licensure by examination to practice cosmetology if the applicant:
- (a) Is at least 16 years of age or has received a high school diploma;
 - (b) Pays the required application fee, which is not

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551	refundable, and the required examination fee, which is
552	refundable if the applicant is determined to not be eligible for
553	licensure for any reason other than failure to successfully
554	complete the licensure examination; and
555	(c) 1. Is authorized to practice cosmetology in another
556	state or country, has been so authorized for at least 1 year,
557	and does not qualify for licensure by endorsement as provided
558	for in subsection (5); or
559	2. Has received a minimum of 1,200 hours of training as
560	established by the board, which $rac{ ext{must}}{ ext{shall}}$ include, but $rac{ ext{is}}{ ext{shall}}$
561	not be limited to, the equivalent of completion of services
562	directly related to the practice of cosmetology at one of the
563	following:
564	1.a. A school of cosmetology licensed pursuant to chapter
565	1005.
566	2.b. A cosmetology program within the public school
567	system.
568	3.e. The Cosmetology Division of the Florida School for
569	the Deaf and the Blind, provided the division meets the
570	standards of this chapter.
571	4.d. A government-operated cosmetology program in this
572	state.
573	
574	The board shall establish by rule procedures whereby the school
575	or program may certify that a person is qualified to take the

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

required examination after the completion of a minimum of 1,000 actual school hours. If the person then passes the examination, he or she <u>has shall have</u> satisfied this requirement; but if the person fails the examination, he or she <u>may shall</u> not be qualified to take the examination again until the completion of the full requirements provided by this section.

Section 15. Paragraph (c) of subsection (7) of section 489.131, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

489.131 Applicability.-

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(C) In addition to any action the local jurisdiction enforcement body may take against the individual's local license, and any fine the local jurisdiction may impose, the local jurisdiction enforcement body shall issue a recommended penalty for board action. This recommended penalty may include a recommendation for no further action, or a recommendation for suspension, restitution, revocation, or restriction of the registration, or a fine to be levied by the board, or a combination thereof. The recommended penalty must specify the violations of this chapter upon which the recommendation is based. The local jurisdiction enforcement body shall inform the disciplined contractor and the complainant of the local license penalty imposed, the board penalty recommended, his or her rights to appeal, and the consequences should he or she decide not to appeal. The local jurisdiction enforcement body shall,

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upon having reached adjudication or having accepted a plea of nolo contendere, immediately inform the board of its action and the recommended board penalty.

Section 16. Subsections (3) and (6) of section 489.143, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

489.143 Payment from the fund.-

- (3) Beginning January 1, 2005, for each Division I contract entered into after July 1, 2004, payment from the recovery fund is subject to a \$50,000 maximum payment for each Division I claim. Beginning January 1, 2017, for each Division II contract entered into on or after July 1, 2016, payment from the recovery fund is subject to a \$15,000 maximum payment for each Division II claim. Beginning January 1, 2025, for Division I and Division II contracts entered into on or after July 1, 2024, payment from the recovery fund is subject to a \$100,000 maximum payment for each Division I claim and a \$30,000 maximum payment for each Division II claim.
- (6) For contracts entered into before July 1, 2004, payments for claims against any one licensee may not exceed, in the aggregate, \$100,000 annually, up to a total aggregate of \$250,000. For any claim approved by the board which is in excess of the annual cap, the amount in excess of \$100,000 up to the total aggregate cap of \$250,000 is eligible for payment in the next and succeeding fiscal years, but only after all claims for the then-current calendar year have been paid. Payments may not

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626	exceed the aggregate annual or per claimant limits under law.
627	Beginning January 1, 2005, for each Division I contract entered
628	into after July 1, 2004, payment from the recovery fund is
629	subject only to a total aggregate cap of \$500,000 for each
630	Division I licensee. Beginning January 1, 2017, for each
631	Division II contract entered into on or after July 1, 2016,
632	payment from the recovery fund is subject only to a total
633	aggregate cap of \$150,000 for each Division II licensee.
634	Beginning January 1, 2025, for Division I and Division II
635	contracts entered into on or after July 1, 2024, payment from
636	the recovery fund is subject only to a total aggregate cap of \$2
637	million for each Division I licensee and \$600,000 for each
638	Division II licensee.
639	Section 17. Paragraph (b) of subsection (15) of section
640	499.012, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
641	499.012 Permit application requirements
642	(15)
643	(b) To be certified as a designated representative, a
644	natural person must:
645	1. Submit an application on a form furnished by the
646	department and pay the appropriate fees.
647	2. Be at least 18 years of age.
648	3. Have at least 2 years of verifiable full-time:
649	a. Work experience in a pharmacy licensed in this state or
650	another state, where the person's responsibilities included, but

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were not limited to, recordkeeping for prescription drugs;

- b. Managerial experience with a prescription drug wholesale distributor licensed in this state or in another state; $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$
- c. Managerial experience with the United States Armed Forces, where the person's responsibilities included, but were not limited to, recordkeeping, warehousing, distributing, or other logistics services pertaining to prescription drugs;
- d. Managerial experience with a state or federal organization responsible for regulating or permitting establishments involved in the distribution of prescription drugs, whether in an administrative or a sworn law enforcement capacity; or
- e. Work experience as a drug inspector or investigator with a state or federal organization, whether in an administrative or a sworn law enforcement capacity, where the person's responsibilities related primarily to compliance with state or federal requirements pertaining to the distribution of prescription drugs.
- 4. Receive a passing score of at least 75 percent on an examination given by the department regarding federal laws governing distribution of prescription drugs and this part and the rules adopted by the department governing the wholesale distribution of prescription drugs. This requirement shall be effective 1 year after the results of the initial examination

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are mailed to the persons that took the examination. The department shall offer such examinations at least four times each calendar year.

- 5. Provide the department with a personal information statement and fingerprints pursuant to subsection (9).
- Section 18. Subsection (5) of section 561.17, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 561.17 License and registration applications; approved person.—
- division, or applying for a license or permit, must create and maintain an account with the division's online system and provide an e-mail electronic mail address to the division to function as the primary means of contact for all communication by the division to the licensee, er permittee, or applicant. Licensees, and applicants are responsible for maintaining accurate contact information on file with the division. A person or an entity seeking a license or permit from the division must apply using forms prepared by the division and filed through the division's online system before engaging in any business for which a license or permit is required. The division may not process an application for an alcoholic beverage license unless the application is submitted through the division's online system.
 - Section 19. Section 569.00256, Florida Statutes, is

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701 created to read:

1icensed or permitted by the division under this part, or applying for a license or a permit, must create and maintain an account with the division's online system and provide an e-mail address to the division to function as the primary means of contact for all communication by the division to the licensee, permittee, or applicant. Licensees, permittees, and applicants are responsible for maintaining accurate contact information with the division. A person or an entity seeking a license or permit from the division must apply using forms prepared by the division and filed through the division's online system before engaging in any business for which a license or permit is required. The division may not process an application to deal, at retail, in tobacco products unless the application is submitted through the division's online system.

Section 20. Section 569.3156, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

569.3156 Account; online system.—A person or an entity licensed or permitted by the division under this part, or applying for a license or a permit, must create and maintain an account with the division's online system and provide an e-mail address to the division to function as the primary means of contact for all communication by the division to the licensee, permittee, or applicant. Licensees, permittees, and applicants

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with the division. A person or an entity seeking a license or permit from the division must apply using forms prepared by the division and filed through the division's online system before engaging in any business for which a license or permit is required. The division may not process an application to deal, at retail, in nicotine products unless the application is submitted through the division's online system.

Section 21. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 723.061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

723.061 Eviction; grounds, proceedings.-

- (1) A mobile home park owner may evict a mobile home owner, a mobile home tenant, a mobile home occupant, or a mobile home only on one or more of the following grounds:
- (d) Change in use of the land comprising the mobile home park, or the portion thereof from which mobile homes are to be evicted, from mobile home lot rentals to some other use, if:
- 1. The park owner gives written notice to the homeowners' association formed and operating under ss. 723.075-723.079 of its right to purchase the mobile home park, if the land comprising the mobile home park is changing use from mobile home lot rentals to a different use, at the price and under the terms and conditions set forth in the written notice.
- a. The notice shall be delivered to the officers of the homeowners' association by United States mail. Within 45 days

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after the date of mailing of the notice, the homeowners' association may execute and deliver a contract to the park owner to purchase the mobile home park at the price and under the terms and conditions set forth in the notice. If the contract between the park owner and the homeowners' association is not executed and delivered to the park owner within the 45-day period, the park owner is under no further obligation to the homeowners' association except as provided in sub-subparagraph b.

- b. If the park owner elects to offer or sell the mobile home park at a price lower than the price specified in her or his initial notice to the officers of the homeowners' association, the homeowners' association has an additional 10 days to meet the revised price, terms, and conditions of the park owner by executing and delivering a revised contract to the park owner.
- c. The park owner is not obligated under this subparagraph or s. 723.071 to give any other notice to, or to further negotiate with, the homeowners' association for the sale of the mobile home park to the homeowners' association after 6 months after the date of the mailing of the initial notice under subsubparagraph a.
- 2. The park owner gives the affected mobile home owners and tenants at least 6 months' notice of the eviction due to the projected change in use and of their need to secure other

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accommodations. Within 20 days after giving an eviction notice to a mobile home owner, the park owner must provide the division with a copy of the notice. The division must provide the executive director of the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Corporation with a copy of the notice.

The notice of eviction due to a change in use of the land must include in a font no smaller than the body of the notice the following statement:

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YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION FROM THE FLORIDA MOBILE HOME RELOCATION TRUST FUND, ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISION OF CONDOMINIUMS, TIMESHARES, AND MOBILE HOMES FLORIDA MOBILE HOME RELOCATION CORPORATION (FMHRC). DIVISION FMHRC CONTACT INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FROM THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION.

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- The park owner may not give a notice of increase in lot rental amount within 90 days before giving notice of a change in use.
- 796 Section 22. Section 723.0611, Florida Statutes, is 797 repealed.
- Section 23. Section 723.06115, Florida Statutes, is 799 amended to read:
 - 723.06115 Florida Mobile Home Relocation Trust Fund.-

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(1) The Florida Mobile Home Relocation Trust Fund is
established within the Department of Business and Professional
Regulation. The trust fund is to be used to fund the
administration and operations of the <u>Division of Florida</u>
Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes Florida Mobile Home
Relocation Corporation. All interest earned from the investment
or deposit of moneys in the trust fund shall be deposited in the
trust fund. The trust fund shall be funded from moneys collected
by the <u>division</u> corporation from mobile home park owners under
s. 723.06116, the surcharge collected by the department under s.
723.007(2), the surcharge collected by the Department of Highway
Safety and Motor Vehicles, and from other appropriated funds.

- (2) Moneys in the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Trust Fund may be expended only:
- (a) To pay the administration costs of the <u>division</u> Florida Mobile Home Relocation Corporation; and
- (b) To carry out the purposes and objectives of the division corporation by making payments to mobile home owners under the relocation program.
- (3) The department shall distribute moneys in the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Trust Fund to the <u>division</u> Florida Mobile Home Relocation Corporation in accordance with the following:
- (a) Before the beginning of each fiscal year, the <u>division</u> corporation shall submit its annual operating budget, as approved by the <u>division</u> corporation board, for the fiscal year

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and set forth that amount to the department in writing. One-fourth of the operating budget shall be transferred to the division corporation each quarter. The department shall make the first one-fourth quarter transfer on the first business day of the fiscal year and make the remaining one-fourth quarter transfers before the second business day of the second, third, and fourth quarters. The division corporation board may approve changes to the operational budget for a fiscal year by providing written notification of such changes to the department. The written notification must indicate the changes to the operational budget and the conditions that were unforeseen at the time the division corporation developed the operational budget and why the changes are essential in order to continue operation of the division corporation.

(b) The <u>division</u> corporation shall periodically submit requests to the department for the transfer of funds to the <u>division</u> corporation needed to make payments to mobile home owners under the relocation program. Requests must include documentation indicating the amount of funds needed, the name and location of the mobile home park, the number of approved applications for moving expenses or abandonment allowance, and summary information specifying the number and type, singlesection or multisection, of homes moved or abandoned. The department shall process requests that include such documentation, subject to the availability of sufficient funds

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within the trust fund, within 5 business days after receipt of the request. Transfer requests may be submitted electronically.

- (c) Funds transferred from the trust fund to the <u>division</u> corporation shall be transferred electronically and shall be transferred to and maintained in a qualified public depository as defined in s. 280.02 which is specified by the <u>division</u> corporation.
- (4) Other than the requirements specified under this section, neither the <u>division</u> corporation nor the department is required to take any other action as a prerequisite to accomplishing the provisions of this section.
- (5) This section does not preclude department inspection of <u>division</u> corporation records 5 business days after receipt of written notice.
- Section 24. Section 723.06116, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 723.06116 Payments to the <u>Division of Florida</u>

 <u>Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes</u>

 <u>Relocation Corporation.</u>
- (1) If a mobile home owner is required to move due to a change in use of the land comprising a mobile home park as set forth in s. 723.061(1)(d), the mobile home park owner shall, upon such change in use, pay to the <u>Division of Florida Condominiums</u>, <u>Timeshares</u>, and <u>Mobile Homes Mobile Home</u>

 Relocation Corporation for deposit in the Florida Mobile Home

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Relocation Trust Fund \$2,750 for each single-section mobile home and \$3,750 for each multisection mobile home for which a mobile home owner has made application for payment of moving expenses. The mobile home park owner shall make the payments required by this section and by s. 723.0612(7) to the <u>division corporation</u> within 30 days after receipt from the <u>division corporation</u> of the invoice for payment. Failure to make such payment within the required time period shall result in a late fee being imposed.

- (a) If payment is not submitted within 30 days after receipt of the invoice, a 10-percent late fee shall be assessed.
- (b) If payment is not submitted within 60 days after receipt of the invoice, a 15-percent late fee shall be assessed.
- (c) If payment is not submitted within 90 days after receipt of the invoice, a 20-percent late fee shall be assessed.
- (d) Any payment received 120 days or more after receipt of the invoice shall include a 25-percent late fee.
- (2) A mobile home park owner is not required to make the payment prescribed in subsection (1), nor is the mobile home owner entitled to compensation under s. 723.0612(1), when:
- (a) The mobile home park owner moves a mobile home owner to another space in the mobile home park or to another mobile home park at the park owner's expense;
- (b) A mobile home owner is vacating the premises and has informed the mobile home park owner or manager before the change in use notice has been given; or

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(c) A mobile home owner abandons the mobile home as set forth in s. 723.0612(7).

- (d) The mobile home owner has a pending eviction action for nonpayment of lot rental amount pursuant to s. 723.061(1)(a) which was filed against him or her prior to the mailing date of the notice of change in use of the mobile home park given pursuant to s. 723.061(1)(d).
- (3) This section and s. 723.0612(7) are enforceable by the division corporation by action in a court of appropriate jurisdiction.
- (4) In any action brought by the <u>division</u> corporation to collect payments assessed under this chapter, the <u>division</u> corporation may file and maintain such action in Leon County. If the <u>division</u> corporation is a party in any other action, venue for such action shall be in Leon County.
- Section 25. Subsections (1) through (5), (7) through (9), (11), and (12) of section 723.0612, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (2) of that section is reenacted, to read:
- 723.0612 Change in use; relocation expenses; payments by park owner.—
- (1) If a mobile home owner is required to move due to a change in use of the land comprising the mobile home park as set forth in s. 723.061(1)(d) and complies with the requirements of this section, the mobile home owner is entitled to payment from

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the <u>Division of Florida Condominiums</u>, <u>Timeshares</u>, and <u>Mobile Homes Mobile Home Relocation Corporation</u> of:

- (a) The amount of actual moving expenses of relocating the mobile home to a new location within a 50-mile radius of the vacated park, or
- (b) The amount of \$3,000 for a single-section mobile home or \$6,000 for a multisection mobile home, whichever is less. Moving expenses include the cost of taking down, moving, and setting up the mobile home in a new location.
- (2) A mobile home owner <u>is not shall not be</u> entitled to compensation under subsection (1) when:
- (a) The park owner moves a mobile home owner to another space in the mobile home park or to another mobile home park at the park owner's expense;
- (b) A mobile home owner is vacating the premises and has informed the park owner or manager before notice of the change in use has been given;
- (c) A mobile home owner abandons the mobile home as set forth in subsection (7); or
- (d) The mobile home owner has a pending eviction action for nonpayment of lot rental amount pursuant to s. 723.061(1)(a) which was filed against him or her prior to the mailing date of the notice of change in use of the mobile home park given pursuant to s. 723.061(1)(d).
 - (3) Except as provided in subsection (7), in order to

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obtain payment from the <u>division</u> Florida Mobile Home Relocation Corporation, the mobile home owner shall submit to the <u>division</u> corporation, with a copy to the park owner, an application for payment which includes:

- (a) A copy of the notice of eviction due to change in use; and
- (b) A contract with a moving or towing contractor for the moving expenses for the mobile home.
- Corporation must approve payment within 45 days after receipt of the information set forth in subsection (3), or payment is deemed approved. A copy of the approval must be forwarded to the park owner with an invoice for payment. Upon approval, the division corporation shall issue a voucher in the amount of the contract price for relocating the mobile home. The moving contractor may redeem the voucher from the division corporation following completion of the relocation and upon approval of the relocation by the mobile home owner.
- (5) Actions of the <u>division</u> Florida Mobile Home Relocation Corporation under this section are not subject to the provisions of chapter 120 but are reviewable only by writ of certiorari in the circuit court in the county in which the claimant resides in the manner and within the time provided by the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.
 - (7) In lieu of collecting payment from the division

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Florida Mobile Home Relocation Corporation as set forth in subsection (1), a mobile home owner may abandon the mobile home in the mobile home park and collect \$1,375 for a single section and \$2,750 for a multisection from the division corporation as long as the mobile home owner delivers to the park owner the current title to the mobile home duly endorsed by the owner of record and valid releases of all liens shown on the title. If a mobile home owner chooses this option, the park owner shall make payment to the division corporation in an amount equal to the amount the mobile home owner is entitled to under this subsection. The mobile home owner's application for funds under this subsection shall require the submission of a document signed by the park owner stating that the home has been abandoned under this subsection and that the park owner agrees to make payment to the division corporation in the amount provided to the home owner under this subsection. However, in the event that the required documents are not submitted with the application, the division corporation may consider the facts and circumstances surrounding the abandonment of the home to determine whether the mobile home owner is entitled to payment pursuant to this subsection. The mobile home owner is not entitled to any compensation under this subsection if there is a pending eviction action for nonpayment of lot rental amount pursuant to s. 723.061(1)(a) which was filed against him or her prior to the mailing date of the notice of change in the use of

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the mobile home park given pursuant to s. 723.061(1)(d).

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- Corporation may shall not be liable to any person for recovery if funds are insufficient to pay the amounts claimed. In any such event, the division corporation shall keep a record of the time and date of its approval of payment to a claimant. If sufficient funds become available, the division corporation must shall pay the claimant whose unpaid claim is the earliest by time and date of approval.
- Any person whose application for funding pursuant to subsection (1) or subsection (7) is approved for payment by the <u>division</u> <u>corporation</u> <u>is</u> <u>shall be</u> barred from asserting any claim or cause of action under this chapter directly relating to or arising out of the change in use of the mobile home park against the division corporation, the park owner, or the park owner's successors in interest. An No application for funding pursuant to subsection (1) or subsection (7) <u>may not</u> shall be approved by the division corporation if the applicant has filed a claim or cause of action, is actively pursuing a claim or cause of action, has settled a claim or cause of action, or has a judgment against the division corporation, the park owner, or the park owner's successors in interest under this chapter directly relating to or arising out of the change in use of the mobile home park, unless such claim or cause of action is dismissed with prejudice.

(11) In an action to enforce the provisions of this section and ss. 723.0611_{7} 723.06115₇ and 723.06116, the prevailing party is entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

- (12) An application to the <u>division corporation</u> for compensation under subsection (1) or subsection (7) must be received within 1 year after the expiration of the eviction period as established in the notice required under s.

 723.061(1)(d). If the applicant files a claim or cause of action that disqualifies the applicant under subsection (9) and the claim is subsequently dismissed, the application must be received within 6 months following filing of the dismissal with prejudice as required under subsection (9). However, such an applicant must apply within 2 years after the expiration of the eviction period as established in the notice required under s.

 723.061(1)(d).
- Section 26. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 20.165, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 20.165 Department of Business and Professional Regulation.—There is created a Department of Business and Professional Regulation.
- (4)(a) The following boards and programs are established within the Division of Professions:
- 1049 1. Board of Architecture and Interior Design, created under part I of chapter 481.

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1051	2.	Florida	Board	of	Auctioneers,	created	under	part	VI	of
1052	chapter	468.								

3. Barbers' Board, created under chapter 476.

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- 4. Florida Building Code Administrators and Inspectors
 Board, created under part XII of chapter 468.
- 5. Construction Industry Licensing Board, created under part I of chapter 489.
 - 6. Board of Cosmetology, created under chapter 477.
- 7. Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board, created under part II of chapter 489.
- 8. Employee leasing companies licensing program Board of Employee Leasing Companies, created under part XI of chapter 468.
- 9. Board of Landscape Architecture, created under part II of chapter 481.
- 1066 10. Board of Pilot Commissioners, created under chapter 1067 310.
- 1068 11. Board of Professional Engineers, created under chapter 1069 471.
- 1070 12. Board of Professional Geologists, created under 1071 chapter 492.
- 1072 13. Board of Veterinary Medicine, created under chapter 1073 474.
- 1074 14. Home inspection services licensing program, created under part XV of chapter 468.

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1076 15. Mold-related services licensing program, created under part XVI of chapter 468.

Section 27. Subsection (2) of section 210.16, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

210.16 Revocation or suspension of permit. -

(2) The division shall revoke the permit or permits of any person who would be ineligible to obtain a new license or renew a license by reason of any of the conditions for permitting provided in s. 210.15(1)(d)1.-6. s. 210.15(1)(c)1.-6.

Section 28. Paragraph (uuu) of subsection (7) of section 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.
- entity by this chapter do not inure to any transaction that is otherwise taxable under this chapter when payment is made by a representative or employee of the entity by any means, including, but not limited to, cash, check, or credit card, even when that representative or employee is subsequently reimbursed by the entity. In addition, exemptions provided to any entity by this subsection do not inure to any transaction that is

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otherwise taxable under this chapter unless the entity has obtained a sales tax exemption certificate from the department or the entity obtains or provides other documentation as required by the department. Eligible purchases or leases made with such a certificate must be in strict compliance with this subsection and departmental rules, and any person who makes an exempt purchase with a certificate that is not in strict compliance with this subsection and the rules is liable for and shall pay the tax. The department may adopt rules to administer this subsection.

- (uuu) Small private investigative agencies.-
- 1. As used in this paragraph, the term:

- a. "Private investigation services" has the same meaning as "private investigation," as defined in s. 493.6101(17).
- b. "Small private investigative agency" means a private investigator licensed under s. 493.6201 which:
- (I) Employs three or fewer full-time or part-time employees, including those performing services pursuant to an employee leasing arrangement as defined in $\underline{s.\ 468.520(3)}\ \underline{s.}$
- (II) During the previous calendar year, performed private investigation services otherwise taxable under this chapter in which the charges for the services performed were less than \$150,000 for all its businesses related through common ownership.

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2. The sale of private investigation services by a small private investigative agency to a client is exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.

3. The exemption provided by this paragraph may not apply in the first calendar year a small private investigative agency conducts sales of private investigation services taxable under this chapter.

Section 29. Paragraph (a) of subsection (19) of section 440.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

440.02 Definitions.—When used in this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(19) (a) "Employer" means the state and all political subdivisions thereof, all public and quasi-public corporations therein, every person carrying on any employment, and the legal representative of a deceased person or the receiver or trustees of any person. The term also includes employee leasing companies, as defined in <u>s. 468.520(4)</u> <u>s. 468.520(5)</u>, and employment agencies that provide their own employees to other persons. If the employer is a corporation, parties in actual control of the corporation, including, but not limited to, the president, officers who exercise broad corporate powers, directors, and all shareholders who directly or indirectly own a controlling interest in the corporation, are considered the employer for the purposes of ss. 440.105, 440.106, and 440.107.

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1151 Section 30. Section 448.26, Florida Statutes, is amended 1152 to read: 1153 448.26 Application.—Nothing in this part shall exempt any 1154 client of any labor pool or temporary help arrangement entity as defined in s. 468.520(3)(a) s. 468.520(4)(a) or any assigned 1155 employee from any other license requirements of state, local, or 1156 1157 federal law. Any employee assigned to a client who is licensed, 1158 registered, or certified pursuant to law shall be deemed an 1159 employee of the client for such licensure purposes but shall remain an employee of the labor pool or temporary help 1160 1161 arrangement entity for purposes of chapters 440 and 443. Section 31. Subsection (2) of section 468.520, Florida 1162 1163 Statutes, is amended to read: 1164 468.520 Definitions.—As used in this part: 1165 (2) "Board" means the Board of Employee Leasing Companies. 1166 Section 32. Section 468.522, Florida Statutes, is amended 1167 to read: 1168 468.522 Rules of the board.—The department may board has 1169 authority to adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 1170 to implement the provisions of this part. Every licensee shall 1171 be governed and controlled by this part and the rules adopted by 1172 the department board. 1173 Section 33. Subsections (2) and (4) of section 468.524, 1174 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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468.524 Application for license. -

(2) The <u>department</u> board may require information and certifications necessary to determine that the applicant is of good moral character and meets other licensure requirements of this part.

- (4) An applicant or licensee is ineligible to reapply for a license for a period of 1 year following final agency action on the denial or revocation of a license applied for or issued under this part. This time restriction does not apply to administrative denials or revocations entered because:
- (a) The applicant or licensee has made an inadvertent error or omission on the application;
- (b) The experience documented to the <u>department</u> board was insufficient at the time of the previous application;
- (c) The department is unable to complete the criminal background investigation because of insufficient information from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or any other applicable law enforcement agency;
- (d) The applicant or licensee has failed to submit required fees; or
- (e) An applicant or licensed employee leasing company has been deemed ineligible for a license because of the lack of good moral character of an individual or individuals when such individual or individuals are no longer employed in a capacity that would require their licensing under this part.

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Section 34. Section 468.5245, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

468.5245 Change of ownership.-

- (1) A license or registration issued to any entity under this part may not be transferred or assigned. The <u>department</u> board shall adopt rules to provide for a licensee's or registrant's change of name or location.
- control of an employee leasing company or group licensed or registered under this part must first apply to the <u>department</u> board for a certificate of approval for the proposed change of ownership. However, prior approval is not required if, at the time the purchase or acquisition occurs, a controlling person of the employee leasing company or group maintains a controlling person license under this part. Notification must be provided to the <u>department</u> board within 30 days after the purchase or acquisition of such company in the manner prescribed by the <u>department</u> board.
- (3) Any application that is submitted to the <u>department</u> board under this section <u>is</u> shall be deemed approved if the <u>department</u> board has not approved the application or rejected the application, and provided the applicant with the basis for a rejection, within 90 days after the receipt of the completed application.
 - (4) The department board shall establish filing fees for a

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change-of-ownership application in accordance with s. 468.524(1).

Section 35. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 468.525, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

468.525 License requirements.-

- (2)(a) As used in this part, "good moral character" means a personal history of honesty, trustworthiness, fairness, a good reputation for fair dealings, and respect for the rights of others and for the laws of this state and nation. A thorough background investigation of the individual's good moral character shall be instituted by the department. Such investigation shall require:
- 1. The submission of fingerprints, for processing through appropriate law enforcement agencies, by the applicant and the examination of police records by the <u>department</u> board.
- 2. Such other investigation of the individual as the department board may deem necessary.
- (b) The <u>department</u> board may deny an application for licensure or renewal citing lack of good moral character. Conviction of a crime within the last 7 years <u>does shall</u> not automatically bar any applicant or licensee from obtaining a license or continuing as a licensee. The <u>department</u> board shall consider the type of crime committed, the crime's relevancy to the employee leasing industry, the length of time since the conviction and any other factors deemed relevant by the

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1251 <u>department</u> board.

- (3) Each employee leasing company licensed by the department shall have a registered agent for service of process in this state and at least one licensed controlling person. In addition, each licensed employee leasing company shall comply with the following requirements:
- (a) The employment relationship with workers provided by the employee leasing company to a client company shall be established by written agreement between the leasing company and the client, and written notice of that relationship shall be given by the employee leasing company to each worker who is assigned to perform services at the client company's worksite.
- (b) An applicant for an initial employee leasing company license shall have a tangible accounting net worth of not less than \$50,000.
- (c) An applicant for initial or renewal license of an employee leasing company license or employee leasing company group shall have an accounting net worth or shall have guaranties, letters of credit, or other security acceptable to the department board in sufficient amounts to offset any deficiency. A guaranty will not be acceptable to satisfy this requirement unless the applicant submits sufficient evidence to satisfy the department board that the guarantor has adequate resources to satisfy the obligation of the guaranty.
 - (d) Each employee leasing company shall maintain an

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accounting net worth and positive working capital, as determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, or shall have guaranties, letters of credit, or other security acceptable to the <u>department board</u> in sufficient amounts to offset any deficiency. A guaranty will not be acceptable to satisfy this requirement unless the licensee submits sufficient evidence, as defined by rule, that the guarantor has adequate resources to satisfy the obligation of the guaranty. In determining the amount of working capital, a licensee shall include adequate reserves for all taxes and insurance, including plans of self-insurance or partial self-insurance for claims incurred but not paid and for claims incurred but not reported. Compliance with the requirements of this paragraph is subject to verification by department or board audit.

- (e) Each employee leasing company or employee leasing company group shall submit annual financial statements audited by an independent certified public accountant, with the application and within 120 days after the end of each fiscal year, in a manner and time prescribed by the department board, provided however, that any employee leasing company or employee leasing company group with gross Florida payroll of less than \$2.5 million during any fiscal year may submit financial statements reviewed by an independent certified public accountant for that year.
 - (f) The licensee shall notify the department or board in

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writing within 30 days after any change in the application or status of the license.

(g) Each employee leasing company or employee leasing company group shall maintain accounting and employment records relating to all employee leasing activities for a minimum of 3 calendar years.

Section 36. Subsections (3) and (5) of section 468.526, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

468.526 License required; fees.—

- company group licensee shall pay to the department upon the initial issuance of a license and upon each renewal thereafter a license fee not to exceed \$2,500 to be established by the department board. In addition to the license fee, the department board shall establish an annual assessment for each employee leasing company and each employee leasing company group sufficient to cover all costs for regulation of the profession pursuant to this chapter, chapter 455, and any other applicable provisions of law. The annual assessment shall:
- (a) Be due and payable upon initial licensure and subsequent renewals thereof and 1 year before the expiration of any licensure period; and
- (b) Be based on a fixed percentage, variable classes, or a combination of both, as determined by the <u>department</u> board, of gross Florida payroll for employees leased to clients by the

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applicant or licensee during the period beginning five quarters before and ending one quarter before each assessment. It is the intent of the Legislature that the greater weight of total fees for licensure and assessments should be on larger companies and groups.

(5) Each controlling person licensee shall pay to the department upon the initial issuance of a license and upon each renewal thereafter a license fee to be established by the department board in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.

Section 37. Subsection (1) of section 468.527, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

468.527 Licensure and license renewal.-

(1) The department shall license any applicant who the <u>department</u> board certifies is qualified to practice employee leasing as an employee leasing company, employee leasing company group, or controlling person.

Section 38. Subsection (2) of section 468.5275, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

468.5275 Registration and exemption of de minimis operations.—

- (2) A registration is valid for 1 year. Each registrant shall pay to the department upon initial registration, and upon each renewal thereafter, a registration fee to be established by the <u>department</u> board in an amount not to exceed:
 - (a) Two hundred and fifty dollars for an employee leasing

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- 1352 (b) Five hundred dollars for an employee leasing company 1353 group.
- Section 39. Subsections (2), (4), and (5) of section 468.529, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 1356 468.529 Licensee's insurance; employment tax; benefit 1357 plans.—
 - (2) An initial or renewal license may not be issued to any employee leasing company unless the employee leasing company first files with the <u>department</u> board evidence of workers' compensation coverage for all leased employees in this state. Each employee leasing company shall maintain and make available to its workers' compensation carrier the following information:
 - (a) The correct name and federal identification number of each client company.
 - (b) A listing of all covered employees provided to each client company, by classification code.
 - (c) The total eligible wages by classification code and the premiums due to the carrier for the employees provided to each client company.
 - (4) An initial or renewal license may not be issued to any employee leasing company unless the employee leasing company first provides evidence to the <u>department</u> board, as required by <u>department</u> board rule, that the employee leasing company has paid all of the employee leasing company's obligations for

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payroll, payroll-related taxes, workers' compensation insurance, and employee benefits. All disputed amounts must be disclosed in the application.

(5) The provisions of this section are subject to verification by department or board audit.

Section 40. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 468.530, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

468.530 License, contents; posting.-

- engages in the business under any name other than that specified in the license. A license issued under this part is shall not be assignable, and no licensee may conduct a business under a fictitious name without prior written authorization of the department board to do so. The department board may not authorize the use of a name which is so similar to that of a public officer or agency, or of that used by another licensee, that the public may be confused or misled thereby. No licensee shall be permitted to conduct business under more than one name unless it has obtained a separate license. A licensee desiring to change its licensed name at any time except upon license renewal shall notify the department board and pay a fee not to exceed \$50 for each authorized change of name.
- (4) Each employee leasing company or employee leasing company group licensed under this part shall be properly identified in all advertisements, which must include the license

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number, licensed business name, and other appropriate

information in accordance with <u>department</u> rules established by

the board.

Section 41. Subsection (1) of section 468.531, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

468.531 Prohibitions; penalties.-

(1) No person or entity shall:

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- (a) Practice or offer to practice as an employee leasing company, an employee leasing company group, or a controlling person unless such person or entity is licensed pursuant to this part;
- (b) Practice or offer to practice as an employee leasing company or employee leasing company group unless all controlling persons thereof are licensed pursuant to this part;
- (c) Use the name or title "licensed employee leasing company," "employee leasing company," "employee leasing company group," "professional employer," "professional employer organization," "controlling person," or words that would tend to lead one to believe that such person or entity is registered pursuant to this part, when such person or entity has not registered pursuant to this part;
- (d) Present as his or her own or his or her entity's own the license of another;
- (e) Knowingly give false or forged evidence to the department board or a member thereof; or

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(f) Use or attempt to use a license that has been suspended or revoked.

Section 42. Subsections (1), (2), and (4) of section 468.532, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

468.532 Discipline.-

- (1) The following constitute grounds for which disciplinary action against a licensee may be taken by the department board:
- (a) Being convicted or found guilty of, or entering a plea of nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, bribery, fraud, or willful misrepresentation in obtaining, attempting to obtain, or renewing a license.
- (b) Being convicted or found guilty of, or entering a plea of nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a crime in any jurisdiction which relates to the operation of an employee leasing business or the ability to engage in business as an employee leasing company.
- (c) Being convicted or found guilty of, or entering a plea of nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, fraud, deceit, or misconduct in the classification of employees pursuant to chapter 440.
- (d) Being convicted or found guilty of, or entering a plea of nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, fraud, deceit, or misconduct in the establishment or maintenance of self-insurance, be it health insurance or workers' compensation

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- (e) Being convicted or found guilty of, or entering a plea of nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, fraud, deceit, or misconduct in the operation of an employee leasing company.
 - (f) Conducting business without an active license.
- (g) Failing to maintain workers' compensation insurance as required in s. 468.529.
- (h) Transferring or attempting to transfer a license issued pursuant to this part.
- (i) Violating any provision of this part or any lawful order or rule issued under the provisions of this part or chapter 455.
- (j) Failing to notify the <u>department</u> board, in writing, of any change of the primary business address or the addresses of any of the licensee's offices in the state.
- (k) Having been confined in any county jail, postadjudication, or being confined in any state or federal prison or mental institution, or when through mental disease or deterioration, the licensee can no longer safely be entrusted to deal with the public or in a confidential capacity.
- (1) Having been found guilty for a second time of any misconduct that warrants suspension or being found guilty of a course of conduct or practices which shows that the licensee is so incompetent, negligent, dishonest, or untruthful that the

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money, property, transactions, and rights of investors, or those with whom the licensee may sustain a confidential relationship, may not safely be entrusted to the licensee.

- (m) Failing to inform the <u>department</u> board in writing within 30 days after being convicted or found guilty of, or entering a plea of nolo contendere to, any felony, regardless of adjudication.
- (n) Failing to conform to any lawful order of the department board.

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- (o) Being determined liable for civil fraud by a court in any jurisdiction.
- (p) Having adverse material final action taken by any state or federal regulatory agency for violations within the scope of control of the licensee.
- (q) Failing to inform the <u>department</u> board in writing within 30 days after any adverse material final action by a state or federal regulatory agency.
- (r) Failing to meet or maintain the requirements for licensure as an employee leasing company or controlling person.
- (s) Engaging as a controlling person any person who is not licensed as a controlling person by the department board.
- (t) Attempting to obtain, obtaining, or renewing a license to practice employee leasing by bribery, misrepresentation, or fraud.
 - (2) When the department board finds any violation of

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1501 subsection (1), it may do one or more of the following:

- (a) Deny an application for licensure.
- 1503 (b) Permanently revoke, suspend, restrict, or not renew a license.
 - (c) Impose an administrative fine not to exceed \$5,000 for every count or separate offense.
 - (d) Issue a reprimand.

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- (e) Place the licensee on probation for a period of time and subject to such conditions as the <u>department</u> board may specify.
- (f) Assess costs associated with investigation and prosecution.
- (4) The <u>department</u> board shall specify the penalties for any violation of this part.
- Section 43. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 476.144, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 476.144 Licensure.
- (6) A person may apply for a restricted license to practice barbering. The board shall adopt rules specifying procedures for an applicant to obtain a restricted license if the applicant:
- (a)1. Has successfully completed a restricted barber course, as established by rule of the board, at a school of barbering licensed pursuant to chapter 1005, a barbering program within the public school system, or a government-operated

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1526 barbering program in this state; or

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- 2.a. Holds or has within the previous 5 years held an active valid license to practice barbering in another state or country or has held a Florida barbering license which has been declared null and void for failure to renew the license, and the applicant fulfilled the requirements of \underline{s} . $\underline{476.114(2)(c)}$ for initial licensure; and
- b. Has not been disciplined relating to the practice of barbering in the previous 5 years; and

The restricted license shall limit the licensee's practice to those specific areas in which the applicant has demonstrated competence pursuant to rules adopted by the board.

Section 44. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 627.192, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 627.192 Workers' compensation insurance; employee leasing arrangements.—
 - (2) For purposes of the Florida Insurance Code:
- (a) "Employee leasing" shall have the same meaning as set forth in s. 468.520(3) s. 468.520(4).

Section 45. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 723.061, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 48.184, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

48.184 Service of process for removal of unknown parties

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1551 in possession.—

(1) This section applies only to actions governed by s. 82.03, s. 83.21, s. 83.59, or s. 723.061 and only to the extent that such actions seek relief for the removal of an unknown party or parties in possession of real property. The provisions of this section are cumulative to other provisions of law or rules of court about service of process, and all other such provisions are cumulative to this section.

Section 46. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 723.061, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (5) of section 723.004, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

723.004 Legislative intent; preemption of subject matter.-

- (5) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent the enforcement of a right or duty under this section, s. 723.022, s. 723.023, s. 723.031, s. 723.032, s. 723.033, s. 723.035, s. 723.037, s. 723.038, s. 723.061, s. 723.0615, s. 723.062, s. 723.063, or s. 723.081 by civil action after the party has exhausted its administrative remedies, if any.
- Section 47. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 723.061, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (9) of section 723.031, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:
 - 723.031 Mobile home lot rental agreements. -
 - (9) No rental agreement shall provide for the eviction of

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a mobile home owner on a ground other than one contained in s. 723.061.

Section 48. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 723.061, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 723.032, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

723.032 Prohibited or unenforceable provisions in mobile home lot rental agreements.—

(1) A mobile home lot rental agreement may provide a specific duration with regard to the amount of rental payments and other conditions of the tenancy, but the rental agreement shall neither provide for, nor be construed to provide for, the termination of any tenancy except as provided in s. 723.061.

Section 49. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 723.061, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (2) of section 723.085, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

723.085 Rights of lienholder on mobile homes in rental mobile home parks.—

(2) Upon the foreclosure of the lien for unpaid purchase price and sale of the mobile home, the owner of the mobile home must qualify for tenancy in the mobile home park in accordance with the rules and regulations of the mobile home park. The park owner shall comply with the provisions of s. 723.061 in determining whether the homeowner may qualify as a tenant.

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Section 50. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 723.06115, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 320.08015, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

320.08015 License tax surcharge.-

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2), there is levied on each license tax imposed under s. 320.08(11) a surcharge in the amount of \$1, which shall be collected in the same manner as the license tax and shall be deposited in the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Trust Fund, as created in s. 723.06115. This surcharge may not be imposed during the next registration and renewal period if the balance in the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Trust Fund exceeds \$10 million on June 30. The surcharge shall be reinstated in the next registration and renewal period if the balance in the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Trust Fund is below \$6 million on June 30.

Section 51. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the sum of \$315,692 in recurring funds is appropriated from the Florida

Mobile Home Relocation Trust Fund to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation for the purpose of implementing this act.

Section 52. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

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