GULF CONSORTIUM

PLANNING STATE EXPENDITURE PLAN FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Submitted to:

The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

Prepared by:

FAC
FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
All About Florida

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-Section 1-
Executive Summary

Introduction

This document constitutes the Planning State Expenditure Plan for the State of Florida, and has been prepared to meet or exceed the requirements for Planning State Expenditure Plans as set forth in the *Oil Spill Impact Component: State Expenditure Plan Guidelines prepared by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council* (December, 2014), as well as the *Announcement for Spill Impact Component Planning Grants*, Funding Opportunity #GCC-GRANT-SEP-15-001 (December, 2014). Pursuant to direction provided in these documents, the application process for planning grants is organized into two phases: 1) the submission of a Planning State Expenditure Plan by Florida's member of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council) which will be approved by the Chairperson of the Council; and 2) the administrative application process for the planning grants, which includes the submission of all administrative grant application materials by the eligible entities. This submittal addresses the requirements of the first phase.

Responsible Entity

The Gulf Consortium (Consortium) is the designated entity responsible for the development of the Florida State Expenditure Plan (FSEP), as recognized in the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act) and subsequent rulemaking. The Consortium is a public entity created in October 2012 through an Interlocal Agreement between Florida's 23 Gulf Coast counties - from Escambia County in the western panhandle of Florida to Monroe County on the southern tip of Florida - to meet the requirements of the RESTORE Act. *The Interlocal Agreement Relating to the Establishment of the Gulf Consortium* is attached as **Appendix 1**. The Consortium's Board of Directors consists of one representative from each county government. Since its inception, the Consortium has met every other month and has held numerous committee meetings to begin developing Florida's State Expenditure Plan. The points of contact for the Consortium are as follows:

Executive
Grover Robinson, IV, Chairman
Gulf Consortium
100 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
T: (850) 922-4300
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Email: cholley@fl-counties.com

To formalize the role of the Consortium, Florida Governor Rick Scott, who, pursuant to the RESTORE Act, is Florida's member on the Council, and the Consortium entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on June 12, 2013 to establish the Consortium's process of coordinating with the Governor's office on the Consortium's development of the Florida State Expenditure Plan. The MOU between the State of Florida and the Consortium is provided herein as **Appendix 2**.

The MOU recognizes that the RESTORE Act directs the Consortium to develop Florida's State Expenditure Plan. Furthermore, the MOU provides for the coordinated review and input by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Water Management Districts, other applicable state agencies, and the Governor during the development of the Florida State Expenditure Plan. In addition, the MOU requires the Consortium to conduct its activities with full transparency and adhere to all legal requirements including, but not limited to, those relating to open meetings, public records, contracting, audits, and accountability. Finally, the MOU requires the Consortium to meet the following minimum requirements in selecting and prioritizing projects, programs, and other activities for inclusion in the Florida State Expenditure Plan:

- A review for consistency with the applicable laws and rules;
- Prioritization based on criteria established by the Consortium;
- Consideration of public comments; and
- Approval by an affirmative vote of at least a majority of the Consortium Directors present at a duly noticed public meeting of the Consortium.

Upon final review and approval, the Governor is responsible for the formal transmittal of the Florida State Expenditure Plan to the Council.

In addition to the above minimum requirements set forth in the MOU, the RESTORE Act in 33 U.S.C. 1321(t)(3)(B)(i)(I)-(III) specifies that State Expenditure Plans must meet the following criteria:

- All projects, programs, and activities included in the State Expenditure plan are eligible activities;

- The projects, programs, and activities included in the State Expenditure Plan contribute to the overall ecological and economic recovery of the Gulf Coast; and

- The State Expenditure Plan takes into the consideration the Council's Comprehensive Plan and is consistent with the goals, objectives and commitments of the Comprehensive Plan.

-Section 2-
Planning State Expenditure Plan Narrative

This document constitutes the Planning State Expenditure Plan for the State of Florida, and has been prepared to meet or exceed the requirements for Planning State Expenditure Plans as set forth in the *Oil Spill Impact Component: State Expenditure Plan Guidelines prepared by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council* (December, 2014), as well as the *Announcement for Spill Impact Component Planning Grants, Funding Opportunity #GCC-GRANT-SEP-15-001* (December, 2014), and additional guidance provided in communications with Council staff. Accordingly, the required information is organized under the following headings:

- Selection of Consultant;
- Proposed Planning Approach;
- Planning Schedule;
- Estimated Planning Costs;
- Required Narrative Components A-D;
- Financial Management; and
- Conflicts of Interest.

Selection of Consultant

On March 26, 2014, the Consortium adopted a two-phased selection process to procure the services of a consultant to assist the Consortium in the development of the Florida State Expenditure Plan (FSEP). The decision to procure the services of a consultant was based on two considerations: 1) the Consortium lacked in-house staff resources with the specialized coastal master planning expertise and experience necessary to prepare the FSEP; and 2) it was deemed that an independent consultant could best and most fairly balance the various interests involved in the preparation of the FSEP.

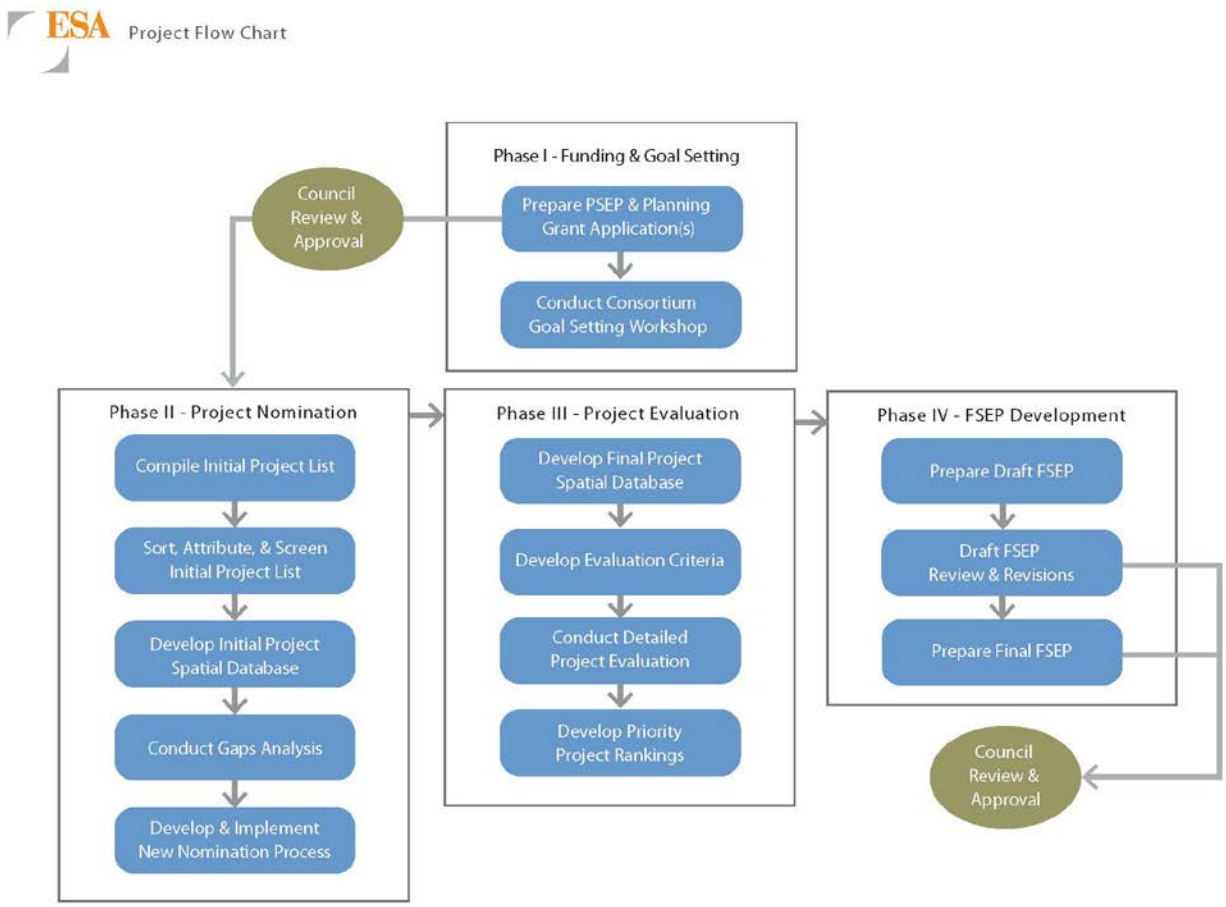
The first phase of the consultant selection process began with Leon County Purchasing issuing an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) on behalf of the Consortium, followed by the selection of an independent and balanced consultant Evaluation Team that included five highly qualified professionals with diverse experience and expertise, and geographic representation. The Evaluation Team reviewed, analyzed, and ranked the six consultants that submitted ITN responses, recommending four of them to move forward on a short list. The Consortium's Executive Committee met in a public meeting and approved the short list.

On August 21 and 22, 2014, the Evaluation Team interviewed each of the four shortlisted consulting firms. The purpose of the interviews was to elicit more information on each team's approach to the development of the FSEP including the project nomination process, the project evaluation process, the public involvement process, the team's cost proposals, and the additional services the team could provide to add value to the Consortium. Following the interviews the Executive Committee, also in a public meeting, approved a Request for Best and Final Offer (RBAFO). Leon County Purchasing released the RBAFO to each of the four short-listed firms, and each firm provided a timely response to the RBAFO.

On October 30, 2014, the five-person Evaluation Team met in Tallahassee, in an open, noticed meeting, and evaluated each firm's RBAFO response. Each Evaluation Team member independently filled out four Evaluation Criteria Score Sheets, giving each firm a raw score based on the criteria in the RBAFO. Leon County Purchasing then summed the raw scores and developed ordinal rankings. When the summary scoring results were presented to the Evaluation Team, the Team unanimously recommended the **Environmental Science Associates (ESA)** team because ESA was the highest ranked firm based on both total raw and ordinal scores. The full Consortium approved the consultant selection of the ESA team at its November 17, 2014 board meeting in Tampa.

Proposed Planning Approach

The ESA consultant team has developed a comprehensive planning approach to developing the FSEP in a manner that will exceed the minimum requirements set forth in the MOU, and will be consistent with the criteria specified in the RESTORE Act. This planning approach is summarized in the project flow diagram below.



Development of a RESTORE Act compliant FSEP will require an iterative and goal oriented process that integrates both technical analysis and production performed by the consultant team, as well as intensive public involvement and stakeholder coordination directed by the consultant team. The project flow diagram above shows both the sequence of the various project tasks and the interrelationships between them. The proposed planning effort is divided into four phases, and fourteen tasks. Public involvement and stakeholder coordination will be conducted throughout the entire project. The phases and associated tasks are summarized below.

Phase I – Funding and Goal Setting

In this phase the consultant team will prepare a Planning State Expenditure Plan (PSEP) to be submitted to the Council to secure approval of the planning approach, the use of planning funds, and other provisions including financial management and conflict of interest controls. Upon Council approval of the PSEP, the consultant team will prepare an administrative planning grant application, which will be reviewed by the Gulf Consortium Board and the Governor pursuant to the MOU process. Upon completion of these reviews, the consultant team, on behalf of the Consortium, shall submit the grant application to the Council for the purpose of securing funding for the development of the FSEP. Concurrent with Council review of the administrative planning grant application, the consultant team will begin work directly with the Consortium to define goals, objectives, guiding principles, and success measures for the FSEP that reflect Florida-specific priorities while still being consistent with the Council's Comprehensive Plan. This phase will include the following two tasks:

- Task 1 – Prepare PSEP and Planning Administrative Grant Application materials; and
- Task 2 – Conduct Consortium Goal Setting Workshop.

Phase II – Project Nomination

In this phase the consultant team will sort, screen, attribute, and map existing lists of projects compiled by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. In addition, the consultant team will conduct a gaps analysis and develop a new open project nomination process that involves a project-specific website and an online portal for new project submittals. The gaps analysis will include a review and evaluation of other planning efforts including the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Basin Management Action Plans and the Water Management's District's Surface Water Improvement & Management Plans. This phase will include the following five tasks:

- Task 3 – Compile Initial Project List;
- Task 4 – Sort, Attribute, & Screen Initial Project List;
- Task 5 – Develop Initial Project Spatial Database;
- Task 6 – Conduct Gaps Analysis; and
- Task 7 – Develop & Implement New Nomination Process.

Phase III - Project Evaluation

In this phase the consultant team will develop a final spatial database of all projects, programs, and activities submitted for consideration; and then will conduct a comprehensive, multi-level approach to project screening, evaluation, and ranking that includes eligibility, environmental

and economic attributes, and considers leveraging of various funding sources. This phase will include the following four tasks:

- Task 8 – Develop Final Project Spatial Database;
- Task 9 – Develop Evaluation Criteria;
- Task 10 – Conduct Detailed Project Evaluation; and
- Task 11 – Develop Priority Project Rankings.

Phase IV – FSEP Development

In this phase the consultant team will prepare a Draft FSEP document; coordinate document review, public comment, and revisions; and then prepare the Final FSEP document. This phase, per the MOU, will also include close coordination with the Governor and the Council to obtain document approval from both. This phase will include following three tasks:

- Task 12 - Prepare Draft Final FSEP;
- Task 13 - Review & Revisions; and
- Task 14 - Prepare Final FSEP.

Public Involvement and Stakeholder Coordination

A rigorous program of public involvement and stakeholder coordination will be conducted throughout all four phases of the development of the FSEP, and will be critical to the success of the planning effort. This program will include the establishment and direction of two adjunct advisory committees – the Technical Advisory Committee and the Economic Advisory Committee - as well as a broad based approach to public outreach involving social media and other communication tools.

Throughout the FSEP planning process, the consultant team will actively engage the Consortium for the review and approval of interim work products at key decision points during the FSEP development process, including the: setting of goals, objectives, guiding principles and FSEP success measures; selection of advisory committee members; initial project list; gaps analysis; new project nomination process; final project list; project evaluation criteria; draft and final priority project rankings; and draft and final FSEP documents.

Finally, the consultant team, through the Consortium, will regularly communicate with the Florida Governor, his designee on the Council, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Water Management Districts, and other applicable state agencies to promote consistency among the entities related Gulf of Mexico ecosystem restoration planning efforts.

Planning Schedule

To fully incorporate the RESTORE Act's criteria directing the development of projects, programs, and other activities to be included in the FSEP, as well as Council review and approval, a multi-year planning effort is anticipated**. From the date of grant award, it is estimated that 24 months will be required to complete the Florida State Expenditure Plan, pursuant to the planning approach summarized above.**

Planning Cost Estimate

The Consortium anticipates requesting a planning grant amount of **$4,851,525** to cover contractual services and office space. This amount includes pre-award costs incurred from August 22, 2014 to June 1, 2015, as well as anticipated post-award costs to be incurred over the two year planning horizon. The table below provides an itemized breakdown of this planning cost estimate.

Category		**Pre-Award 8/22/14–6/1/15**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Totals**
Contractual	Consultant services – planning and SEP development	$15,000	$1,108,675	$1,108,675	$2,232,350
	Consultant services - conceptual design and feasibility studies	$0	$0	$1,000,000	$1,000,000
	Planning development management services for SEP development	$106,875	$250,000	$250,000	$606,875
	Legal services	$142,700	$250,000	$250,000	$642,700
	Procurement of SEP consultant	$15,000	$0	$0	$15,000
	Leon County grant and financial management services (via Interlocal Agreement)	$0	$100,000	$100,000	$200,000
	Independent audit services	$0	$25,000	$25,000	$50,000
	A/V and meeting room rental	$4,500	$40,000	$40,000	$84,500
Other	Office space	$5,700	$7,200	$7,200	$20,100
	Totals	**$289,775**	**$1,780,875**	**$2,780,875**	**$4,851,525**

Upon approval of the Planning State Expenditure Plan by the Council Chairperson, a more detailed description of the planning work effort, project schedule, and resource budgets will be provided as part of the Consortium's administrative grant application. Should the demands of developing the FSEP justify additional planning funds, it is the understanding of the Consortium that its administrative grant application could be amended or supplemented to request such additional funds.

Required Narrative Components A-D

A. Exclusive Purpose of the Planning State Expenditure Plan

This Planning State Expenditure Plan deals exclusively with the development of the State Expenditure Plan for the State of Florida. The sole purpose of this submittal is to inform the Council of the Gulf Consortium's intent to develop the Florida State Expenditure Plan, and its proposed approach and methodologies for doing so. In addition, it is expected that this Planning State Expenditure Plan (Phase I) will provide the basis for a subsequent request for an administrative grant application (Phase II) to the Council. **The Consortium hereby certifies that the planning funds granted by the Council to the Consortium will be used solely to support the development of the Florida State Expenditure Plan (defined as an eligible activity in 33 U.S.C. § 1321(t)(1)(B)(i)(VIII)), and may include conceptual design and feasibility studies related to specific projects.**

B. Economic and Ecological Recovery

The RESTORE Act establishes the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's primary responsibility as restoration of the economy and ecology of the Gulf Coast Region. Therefore, the Consortium will adopt ecological and economy recovery as the overarching standard for all projects that will be included in the Florida State Expenditure Plan. In addition, the Florida State Expenditure Plan will be prepared in such a manner that it is fully consistent with the criteria set out in the RESTORE Act.

C. Consistency with the Comprehensive Plan

The Gulf Consortium and its planning consultant team are very knowledgeable of the various aspects of the RESTORE Act, especially the Spill Impact Component and related rulemaking. It is fully understood that the Florida State Expenditure Plan must be developed in a manner that is consistent with the criteria set out in the RESTORE Act, which includes consistency with the goals and objectives of the Council's Comprehensive Plan.

The Council adopted five overarching goals in its Comprehensive Plan. Furthermore, the Council adopted seven objectives in its Comprehensive Plan that provide greater detail with respect to the specific types of projects and intended outcomes that should be promoted in State Expenditure Plans. The Florida State Expenditure Plan will be fully compliant with these goals and objectives.

Beyond the five overarching goals and seven objectives, the Council has also defined five commitments to direct the development of projects, programs, and other activities under its purview, including both the Council's Final Comprehensive Plan as well as State Expenditure Plans. The Florida State Expenditure Plan will be fully compliant with those commitments.

D. Excluded Projects

As stated in Component A above, planning funds granted by the Council to the Consortium will be used solely to support the development of the Florida State Expenditure Plan (defined as an eligible activity in 33 U.S.C. § 1321(t)(1)(B)(i)(VIII)), and may include conceptual design and feasibility studies related to specific projects. **The Consortium hereby certifies that the planning funds granted by the Council to the Consortium to support the development of the Florida State Expenditure Plan will expressly <u>not</u> be used for infrastructure improvements or engineering and environmental studies related to specific projects.**

Financial Management

The Consortium is a public entity created in October 2012 through an Interlocal Agreement between Florida's 23 Gulf Coast counties. As a public entity, the Consortium must meet all local government transparency requirements in Florida, including open public records and meetings, ethics and state auditing obligations.

From its inception to present the Consortium has utilized the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) as its interim general administrative and fiscal management staff to support its activities to date. In addition the Consortium has used Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, P.A., to provide interim general counsel services to the Board. The Consortium intends to competitively procure planning development management services and legal services to develop the SEP on a permanent basis. In addition, a working relationship between the Consortium and Leon County currently exists. The Consortium entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the Leon County Board of County Commissioners in March 2014 to provide procurement services for the selection of a planning consultant to assist the Consortium in the development of the Florida State Expenditure Plan. The Interlocal Agreement was amended in December 2014 to provide for the procurement of all goods and services the Consortium may need, including procurement of the planning development management services and legal services. Copies of the Interlocal Agreements with Leon County are attached in **Appendix 3**.

The Consortium is in the process of expanding the Interlocal Agreement with Leon County and entering into a new Interlocal Agreement with the Leon County Clerk, to provide the financial management infrastructure for RESTORE Act grant funding to include the following services:

- Fiscal management functions;
- General ledger accounting;
- Budgeting; and
- Auditing.

The Consortium anticipates finalizing the Interlocal Agreements for grant and financial management services prior to the submission of the planning grant application to the Council. Leon County government has a long and extensive history of receiving and managing millions of dollars in federal grants each year. Currently it manages grants from all federal sources of approximately $9 million annually. It fully complies with the Uniform Guidance Section 200's provisions related to administration, cost principles and audit requirements.

Leon County's Governmental Fund audited financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collected within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting.

Conflicts of Interest

The Consortium members, directors, alternates, Governor appointees and consultants adhere to rigorous conflict of interest requirements. As a special district in Florida, the Consortium is governed by the State Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, Part III, Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, a copy of which is provided herein as **Appendix 4**. The Code provides standards of conduct for public officers and counsel, including full and complete disclosure of financial interests, prohibition on certain gifts and prohibition against doing business with one's agency, Additionally, the Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Florida and the Consortium (see Appendix 1) requires the Consortium to "adhere to all legal requirements

including, but not limited to, those relating to open meetings, public records, contracting, audits, and accountability."

In addition to general conflict of interest disclosures and controls, the Consortium has implemented controls to prevent any and all persons involved in the preparation, review and approval of the Florida State Expenditure Plan – and by extension their employers, associates, heirs, etc. – from inappropriately profiting or otherwise benefitting from the subsequent funding and implementation of the State Expenditure Plan. As discussed above, the Consortium utilized an independent Evaluation Team to review and make recommendations regarding the selection of a planning consultant to assist the Consortium in developing the Florida State Expenditure Plan. The members of the consultant Evaluation Team were required to execute a conflict of interest statement, a copy of which is included as **Appendix 5**.

Furthermore, the agreement between the Consortium and the selected ESA consultant team specifically prohibits members of the consultant team from participating in any projects, programs, and activities ultimately included in the Florida State Expenditure Plan, pursuant to the following contract provision:

> *The Consultant agrees to recuse itself from all participation in any projects, programs, and activities ultimately included in the State Expenditure Plan. Attached as composite Exhibit E is a copy of each of the Consultant's agreements with its named team partner firms and individuals regarding such firms recusal from all participation in any projects, programs, and activities ultimately included in the State Expenditure Plan.*

As part of their agreement with the Consortium, ESA and the other members of consultant team have each executed a Conflict of Interest Statement confirming their understanding of, and compliance with, this prohibition.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Interlocal Agreement Relating to the Establishment of the Gulf Consortium

Appendix 2

Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Florida and the Gulf Consortium

Appendix 3

Interlocal Agreements between Leon County, Florida and the Gulf Consortium

Appendix 4

The Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, Part III, Chapter 112, Florida Statutes

Appendix 5

Conflict of Interest Form executed by members of the Consortium's Evaluation Team for the selection of the State Expenditure Plan Consultant

APPENDIX 1

20130034028 RECORDED IN PUBLIC RECORDS LEON COUNTY FL BK: 4503 PG: 237,
03/29/2013 at 11:43 AM, BOB INZER, CLERK OF COURTS

EXECUTION COPY

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

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Dated as of September 19, 2012

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INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

THIS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT, dated as of September 19, 2012 (the "Interlocal Agreement"), is jointly entered into by the counties which are signatory hereto (collectively, the "Consortium Members"), each of which are political subdivisions or other government ageneies of the State of Florida and constitute a "public agency" as that term is defined by Part I of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes (the "Interlocal Act"), and such other public agencies as are added as additional Consortium Members as provided in Section 3.01 hereof.

W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS, each of the initial Consortium Members are political subdivisions of the State of Florida and have all powers of self-government pursuant to their home rule powers and express grants of authority provided by general law, including, but not limited to, those powers granted under Chapter 125, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, all Consortium Members are public agencies of the State of Florida, within the meaning of Part 1 of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes (the "Interlocal Act"); and

WHEREAS, the Consortium Members, as public agencies under the Interlocal Act, may enter into interlocal agreements with each other to jointly exercise any power, privilege or authority which such Consortium Members share in common and which each might exercise separately. The joint exercise of this authority permits the Consortium Members to make the most efficient use of their powers by enabling them to cooperate on the basis of mutual benefit and, pursuant to this authority, to form a governmental entity that will best serve the needs of such Consortium Members and their citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Interlocal Act authorizes the Consortium Members to enter into an interlocal agreement for the purposes of creating a separate legal entity for the purpose of the joint exercise of the common powers of the Consortium Members; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress approved, and the President signed into law, the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (the "RESTORE Act"), which established potential funding sources for various purposes which will enhance and benefit the Gulf Coast area. Such funding sources are to be derived from administrative and civil penalties from responsible parties in connection with the explosion on and sinking of the mobile offshore drilling unit Deepwater Horizon; and

WHEREAS, the initial Consortium Members are counties which were impacted by the Deepwater Horizon event and the provisions of the RESTORE Act are applicable to it; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of the RESTORE Act, a Trust Fund (the "Trust Fund") is established through which funding is available for various projects, improvements, development and environmental mitigation within the Gulf Coast regions; and

WHEREAS, the Consortium Members have determined that it is in their best interests to create a legal entity to join together for the purposes of implementing the consortia of local political subdivisions contemplated by the RESTORE Act, for the purposes of the development of the plan for the expenditure of the oil spill restoration impact allocation and to jointly serve the interests of the Consortium Members; and

WHEREAS, the Consortium Members seek to jointly exercise their power to consider and promote proposals to be funded through the Trust Fund and to seek on behalf of the Consortium and its members the funding of eligible projects within their respective areas; and

WHEREAS, the Consortium Members seek to join together to arrive at mutually beneficial projects, programs and improvements which will enhance the ecosystems and economy of the Consortium Members and to collectively fulfill their responsibilities under the RESTORE Act to develop a plan for expenditure of certain funds within the Trust Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, it is mutually agreed by and among the Consortium Members that now or may hereafter execute this Interlocal Agreement, that the "Gulf Consortium," is a legal entity, public body and a unit of local government with all of the privileges, benefits, powers and

terms of the hereinafter defined Act and this Interlocal Agreement, and is hereby created for the purposes described herein.

ARTICLE I

DEFINITIONS

SECTION 1.01. DEFINITIONS. The following definitions shall govern the interpretation of this Interlocal Agreement:

"Act" shall mean, with respect to Consortium Members that are Affected Counties, the "Home Rule" powers and all provisions of general law granting powers and authority to each such Consortium Member, including, but not limited to, Chapter 125, Florida Statutes, the Interlocal Act, and other applicable provisions of law, and to other Consortium Members, all provisions of general law granting powers and authority to such Consortium Member, including the Interlocal Act.

"Affected County" shall mean any of the 23 Florida counties with frontage on the Gulf of Mexico.

"Consortium Members" shall mean the member or members of the Consortium, from time to time, as shall be provided for by this Interlocal Agreement.

"Board" shall mean the governing board of the Consortium, consisting of the Directors appointed hereunder.

"Consortium" shall mean the Gulf Consortium, a legal entity and public body, created pursuant to the provisions of the Interlocal Act and by this Interlocal Agreement.

"Director" shall mean that individual appointed by each Consortium Member in accordance with the provisions hereof to serve as part of the Board.

"Fiscal Year" shall mean the period commencing on October 1 of each year and continuing through the next succeeding September 30, or such other period as may be determined by the Board.

"Manager" shall mean the individual or entity selected and engaged by the Board to provide administrative functions of the Consortium.

"Interlocal Act" shall mean Part I of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes.

"Interlocal Agreement" shall mean this Interlocal Agreement, including any amendments or supplements hereto, executed and delivered in accordance with the terms hereof.

"Public Agencies" shall mean any "public agency", as that term is defined by the Interlocal Act.

"RESTORE Act" shall have the meaning set forth in the preambles hereof.

"State" shall mean the State of Florida.

Whenever any words are used in this Interlocal Agreement in the masculine gender, they shall be construed as though they were also used in the feminine or neuter gender in all situations where they would so apply, and whenever any words are used in this Interlocal Agreement in the singular form, they shall be construed as though they were also used in the plural form in all situations where they would so apply.

ARTICLE II

THE CONSORTIUM

SECTION 2.01. CREATION. The Consortium Members hereby jointly create and establish the "Gulf Consortium", a legal entity and public body and a unit of local government, with all of the privileges, benefits, powers and terms provided for herein and by the Act.

SECTION 2.02. PURPOSES.

(A) The purpose of this Interlocal Agreement is for the establishment of the Consortium, which will serve as the consortia or establish the consortia of local political subdivisions as contemplated by the RESTORE Act for those counties which are members of the Consortium. The Consortium is intended to assist in or be responsible for, as determined by the Board:

(1) the development of the plan for the expenditure of the Oil Spill Restoration Impact Allocation required by the RESTORE Act;

(2) the preparation and processing of applications or proposals for funding under the competitive program to be processed and administered by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council;

(3) acting as a resource for Consortium Members, to the extent requested by that Member, in the planning, administration and expenditure of that Member's share or portion thereof provided directly to the disproportionately and nondisproportionately impacted counties pursuant to the RESTORE Act upon such terms and conditions agreed to by that Consortium Member and at the sole expense of that Consortium Member; provided, that nothing contained herein is intended to impact the amount or timing of any such distribution provided directly to the disproportionately and nondisproportionately impacted counties;

(4) acting as a resource in the obtaining of additional funding for programs through other available revenue sources, including, but not limited to, those available for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA);

(5) acting as an advocate and representing the Consortium Members in the development of federal rules relating to the implementation of the RESTORE Act; and

(6) acting as an advocate for the Consortium Members with executive agencies, the Florida Legislature and the United States government.

(B) It is determined that the creation and organization of the Consortium and the fulfillment of its objectives serves a public purpose, and is in all respects for the benefit of the people of the State, Consortium Members, affected Public Agencies and their citizens.

(C) It is determined that the Consortium is performing an essential governmental function. All property of the Consortium is and shall in all respects be considered to be public property, and the title to such property, to the extent required, shall be held by the Consortium for the benefit of the public. The use of such property shall be considered to serve a public purpose, until disposed of upon such terms as the Consortium may deem appropriate.

SECTION 2.03. CONSORTIUM MEMBERS. The Consortium Members shall consist of those Public Agencies set forth below or joined as provided in Article III.

SECTION 2.04. DURATION OF CONSORTIUM. The Consortium shall be in perpetual existence until the earlier of the following occurs:

(A) all revenue within the Trust Fund created pursuant to the RESTORE Act is expended and the program established by the RESTORE Act is dissolved; or

(B) the Consortium is dissolved by the majority vote of its Board.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION

SECTION 3.01. MEMBERSHIP.

(A) Membership in the Consortium shall consist of Public Agencies that approve this Interlocal Agreement pursuant to Article III.

(B) The initial Consortium Members shall on the date hereof consist of those counties approving this Interlocal Agreement prior to October 19, 2012.

(C) To the extent permitted by the Interlocal Act and the RESTORE Act, the Consortium may admit any additional Public Agency to membership upon application of such Public Agency, the approval of this Interlocal Agreement by that Public Agency, and the affirmative vote of the majority of all Directors at a duly called meeting of the Board of the Consortium; provided, that any Affected County shall automatically be admitted to membership upon application thereof. This Interlocal Agreement need not be amended in order to admit any Public Agency as a Member of the Consortium; however, any new Consortium Member which is not an Affected County shall be required to evidence its approval of any conditions imposed on its membership by the existing Directors of the Consortium. Approval of the governing bodies of each existing Consortium Member shall not be required for the purpose of admitting a new Consortium Member.

(D) As a precondition to membership in the Consortium, each Consortium Member shall constitute a Florida municipality, county or such other Public Agency which is permitted by the Interlocal Act to be a member of the Consortium. Such new Consortium Member shall execute, deliver and record a duly authorized counterpart to this Interlocal Agreement, as it exists at the time of its approval.

SECTION 3.02. REPRESENTATION.

(A) Each Consortium Member shall appoint one Director to act as its representative on the Board. Each Director shall be an individual who shall be appointed specifically by name or by position. The Consortium Member shall notify the Manager and the Chairman in writing as to the individual designated as their Director.

(B) Directors may be an elected official, appointed official, employee or other designee of a Consortium Member.

SECTION 3.03. ACTION.

(A) The affairs, actions and duties of the Consortium shall be undertaken at a duly called meeting pursuant to Section 3.07 hereof.

(B) At any meeting of the Consortium at which any official action is to be taken, a majority of all Directors shall constitute a quorum. A majority vote of a quorum of the Directors present at a duly called meeting shall constitute an act of the Consortium, except as otherwise provided herein. Except as may be established by the Board with respect to any new Consortium Member which is not an Affected County, each Director is entitled to cast one vote.

(C) A certificate, resolution or instrument authorized by the Board and signed by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or such other person of the Consortium as may hereafter be designated and authorized by the Board, shall be evidence of the action of the Consortium and any such certificate, resolution or other instrument so signed shall conclusively be presumed to be authentic. Likewise, all facts and matters stated therein shall conclusively be presumed to be accurate and true.

SECTION 3.04. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Once a year, and at such other time as may be necessary to fill a vacancy, at a duly called meeting of the Board called for the purpose thereof, the Consortium through its Directors shall elect a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and a Secretary-Treasurer to conduct the meetings of the Board and to perform such other functions as herein provided. Said Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer shall each serve one (1) year terms unless they resign from the Consortium, are removed by the Member they represent, or such officer is otherwise replaced as a Director of the Board. Officers may, if elected by the Directors, serve longer than a one (1) year term.

SECTION 3.05. AUTHORITY OF OFFICERS.

(A) The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman shall take such actions and have such powers as provided by the Board. The Chairman shall sign all documents on behalf of the Consortium and take such action as may be in furtherance of the purposes of this Interlocal Agreement as may be approved by resolution or action of the Board adopted at a duly called meeting. The Vice-Chairman shall act in the absence or otherwise inability of the Chairman to act.

(B) The Secretary-Treasurer, or his designee, shall keep and maintain all minutes of all meetings of the Board, but such minutes need not be verbatim. Copies of all minutes of the meetings of the Board shall be sent by the Secretary-Treasurer or his designee to all Directors of the Consortium. The Secretary-Treasurer may also attest to the execution of documents. The Secretary-Treasurer shall have such other powers as may be approved by resolution or other action of the Board adopted at a duly called meeting.

SECTION 3.06. RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL OF DIRECTOR.

(A) Any Director may resign from all duties or responsibilities hereunder by giving at least thirty (30) days prior written notice to the Manager and Chairman. Such notice shall state the date said resignation shall take effect and such resignation shall take effect on that date.

(B) Each Consortium Member, in its sole discretion, may remove its designated Director at any time and may appoint a new Director to serve on the Board upon written notice being given to the Manager and Chairman. Each Consortium Member may also designate an alternate or designee to serve in a Director's place in the event the Director is unavailable.

(C) In the event the Director of a Consortium Member shall resign or be removed, such Consortium Member shall appoint a new Director within thirty (30) days.

(D) Any Director who resigns or is removed and who is an officer of the Consortium shall immediately turn over and deliver to the Manager any and all records, books, documents or other property in his possession or under his control which belong to the Authority.

SECTION 3.07. MEETINGS.

(A) The Board shall convene at a meeting duly called by either a majority of the Directors or the Chairman. The Directors may establish regular meeting times and places. Meetings shall be conducted at such locations as may be determined by the majority of the Directors or the Chairman. Notice of a special meeting, unless otherwise waived, shall be furnished to each Director by the Manager not less than seven (7) calendar days prior to the date of such meeting; provided the Chairman or, in his absence or unavailability, the Vice-Chairman, may call a meeting upon twenty-four (24) hours written notice, if such officer

determines an emergency exists. All meetings shall be noticed in accordance with Florida law.

(B) Within thirty (30) calendar days of the creation of the Consortium, the duly appointed Directors shall hold an organizational meeting to elect officers and perform such other duties as are provided for under this Interlocal Agreement.

(C) To the extent allowed, meetings may be held by means of media technology in conformity with the Interlocal Act.

SECTION 3.08. WITHDRAWAL OR DISMISSAL OF CONSORTIUM MEMBERS. Any Consortium Member may withdraw from the Consortium at any time, if the following conditions are satisfied:

(A) there shall be at least two (2) Consortium Members remaining in the Consortium subsequent to withdrawal; and

(B) a certified resolution from the Consortium Member's governing body setting forth its intent to withdraw is presented to the Consortium. Upon satisfaction of the foregoing conditions, such withdrawal shall be effective.

SECTION 3.09. EXPENSES. The Consortium may establish, from time to time, procedures for reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred by Directors and employees of the Consortium. The Consortium shall also establish a mechanism for assessing or apportioning Consortium expenses to the Consortium Members. The expenditure of all expenses and approval of travel shall be in conformity with the provisions of Florida law governing travel and reimbursement of expenses for public officials.

SECTION 3.10. LIABILITY. No Director, agent, officer, official or employee of the Consortium shall be liable for any action taken pursuant to this Interlocal Agreement in good faith or for any omission, except gross negligence, or for any act of omission or commission by any other Director, agent, officer, official or employee of the Consortium.

SECTION 3.11 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. An Executive Committee of the Board shall be established that shall consist of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Secretary-Treasurer and two other Directors designated by the foregoing three officers. The Executive Committee shall have the power to act on behalf of the Board in items of the activities set forth in Section 4.01(A)(2), (3),

(4), (6), (7), (11), (13), (15), (16), (17), (23) and (24) hereof, and such other powers as may be designated by the Board.

SECTION 3.12 PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS. The Consortium's principal place of business, within the meaning of Section 163.01 (11), Florida Statutes, shall initially be Leon County, Florida, subject to modification by action of the Board.

ARTICLE IV

POWERS AND DUTIES

SECTION 4.01. POWERS.

(A) The Consortium shall have all powers to carry out the purposes of this Interlocal Agreement, including the following powers which shall be in addition to and supplementing any other privileges, benefits and powers granted by the Act, or otherwise by the Interlocal Agreement:

(1) To enter into other interlocal agreements or join with any other special purpose or general purpose local governments, public agencies or authorities or create a separate entity as permitted by the Act in the exercise of common powers or to assist the Consortium in fulfilling its purpose under this Interlocal Agreement.

(2) To sue and be sued in the name of the Consortium.

(3) To adopt and use a seal and authorize the use of a facsimile thereof.

(4) To contract with any public or private entity or person upon such terms as the Board deems appropriate.

(5) To acquire, by purchase, gift, devise or otherwise, and to dispose of, real or personal property, or any estate therein, including the power to determine how property will be disposed of upon the dissolution of the Consortium.

(6) To make and execute contracts or other instruments necessary or convenient to the exercise of its powers.

(7) To maintain an office or offices at such place or places as the Board may designate from time to time, and to establish a custodian for the records of the Consortium.

(8) To lease, as lessor or lessee, to or from any person, firm, corporation, association or body, public or private, facilities or property of any nature to carry out any of the purposes authorized by this Interlocal Agreement.

(9) To apply for and accept grants, loans and subsidies from any governmental entity for the funding of projects, improvements or mitigation, and to comply with all requirements and conditions imposed in connection therewith.

(10) To the extent allowed by law and to the extent required to effectuate the purposes hereof, to exercise all privileges, immunities and exemptions accorded municipalities and counties of the State under the provisions of the constitution and laws of the State.

(11) To invest its moneys in such investments as directed by the Board in accordance with State law.

(12) To provide for the establishment of advisory committees or councils to the Board or other interlocal entities under the auspices of the Board.

(13) To fix the time and place or places at which its regular meetings shall be held, and to call and hold special meetings.

(14) To make and adopt rules and procedures, resolutions and take such other actions as are not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, the provisions of the Interlocal Act or this Interlocal Agreement that are necessary for the governance and management of the affairs of the Consortium, and further, the powers, obligations and responsibilities vested in the Consortium by this Interlocal Agreement.

(15) To select and engage a Manager, who shall administer the operations of the Consortium, manage the staff of the Consortium, as authorized by the Board, and perform all other administrative duties as directed by the Board.

(16) To employ or hire such attorneys or firm(s) of attorneys as it deems appropriate to provide legal advice and/or other legal services to the Consortium.

(17) To employ or hire engineers, consultants or other specialized professionals as it deems appropriate to further the purposes of the Consortium.

(18) To create any and all necessary offices in addition to Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer; to establish other committees; to establish the powers, duties and compensation of all employees; and to require and fix the

amount of all official bonds necessary for the protection of the funds and property of the Consortium.

(19) To take such action and employ such persons or entities as are necessary to prepare, develop and submit to the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council the plan for the Oil Spill Restoration Impact Allocation contemplated by the RESTORE Act setting forth those projects, programs and activities that will improve the ecosystems or economy of the State of Florida.

(20) To prepare, develop and submit applications for funding from the Trust Fund under the competitive program administered by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council on behalf of the Consortium or a Member.

(21) To advise, assist and aid Consortium Members, upon their request, in the planning, administration and expenditure of that Member's share or portion thereof of amounts provided directly to the disproportionately and nondisproportionately impacted Counties pursuant to the RESTORE Act, upon such terms and conditions agreed to by that Member and at the sole expense of that Consortium Member.

(22) To advise, assist and aid the Consortium in obtaining additional funding from other programs for projects, programs or mitigation on behalf of the Consortium or its Members.

(23) To hire or engage staff, attorneys and professionals to act as an advocate and represent the interests of Consortium Members in the Federal rulemaking process.

(24) To hire or engage staff, attorneys and professionals as an advocate and to represent the interests of the Consortium and its Members before Federal and State agencies and the Legislature.

(25) To do all acts and to exercise all of the powers necessary, convenient, incidental, implied or proper in connection with any of the powers, duties or purposes authorized by this Interlocal Agreement or the Act.

(B) In exercising the powers conferred by this Interlocal Agreement, the Board shall act by resolution or other action approved at duly noticed and publicly held meetings in conformance with applicable law.

(C) The provisions of Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, shall not apply to the Consortium.

(D) The Consortium shall be subject to the provisions of the Florida Sunshine Law under Chapter 286, Florida Statutes. All records of the Consortium shall be subject to the Public Records Law.

SECTION 4.02. ANNUAL BUDGET.

(A) Following the creation of the Consortium, the Board shall approve a budget which shall provide for revenues and expenditures during the remainder of the fiscal year in which it was formed. Such interim budget procedures shall be utilized solely for the initial year of creation of the Consortium, after which the budget shall be created pursuant to the remaining provisions of this section.

(B) Prior to October 1 of each year the Board will adopt an annual budget for the Consortium. Such budget shall be prepared within the time periods required for the adoption of a tentative and final budget for county governments under general law. The annual budget shall contain an estimate of receipts by source and an itemized estimation of expenditures anticipated to be incurred to meet the financial needs and obligations of the Consortium. The Manager shall prepare the annual budget.

(C) The adopted budget shall be the operating and fiscal guide for the Consortium for the ensuing Fiscal Year. The Board may from time to time amend the budget at any duly called regular or special meeting.

(D) The Consortium shall provide financial reports in such form and in such manner as prescribed pursuant to this Interlocal Agreement and Chapter 218, Florida Statutes.

SECTION 4.03. AD VALOREM TAXATION NOT AUTHORIZED. The Consortium shall not have the power to levy and assess an ad valorem tax on any property for any reason.

ARTICLE V

MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 5.01. DELEGATION OF DUTY. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to authorize the delegation of any of the constitutional or statutory duties of the State or the Consortium Members or any officers thereof.

SECTION 5.02. FILING. A copy of this Interlocal Agreement shall be filed for record with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Leon County, Florida, and with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of any other County subsequently determined to be the Consortium's principal place of business.

SECTION 5.03. IMMUNITY.

(A) All of the privileges and immunities from liability and exemptions from laws, ordinances and rules which apply to the activity of officials, officers, agents or employees of the Consortium Members shall apply to the officials, officers, agents or employees of the Consortium when performing their respective functions and duties under the provisions of this Interlocal Agreement.

(B) The Consortium and each Consortium Member shall be entitled to all protections granted to them under Sections 768.28 and 163.01(9)(c), Florida Statutes, other Florida Statutes and the common law governing sovereign immunity. Pursuant to Section 163.01(5)(o), Florida Statutes, Consortium Members may not be held jointly liable for the torts of the officers or employees of the Consortium, or any other tort attributable to the Consortium, and that the Consortium alone shall be liable for any torts attributable to it or for torts of is officers, employees or agents, and then only to the extent of the waiver of sovereign immunity or limitation of liability as specified in Section 768.28, Florida Statutes. Nothing in this Interlocal Agreement shall be deemed to constitute a waiver of sovereign immunity.

(C) The Consortium Members intend that the Consortium shall have all of the privileges and immunities from liability and exemptions from laws, ordinances, rules and common law which apply to the municipalities and counties of the State. Nothing in this Interlocal Agreement is intended to inure to the benefit of any third-party for the purpose of allowing any claim which would otherwise be barred under the doctrine of sovereign immunity or by operation of law.

SECTION 5.04. LIMITED LIABILITY. No Consortium Member shall in any manner be obligated to pay any debts, obligations or liabilities arising as a result of any actions of the Consortium, the Directors or any other agents, employees, officers or officials of the Consortium, except to the extent otherwise mutually agreed upon by that Member, and neither the Consortium, the Directors or any other agents, employees, officers or officials of the Consortium have any authority or power to otherwise obligate any individual Consortium Member in any manner.

SECTION 5.05. AMENDMENTS. This Interlocal Agreement may be amended in writing at any time by the concurrence of all of the Directors present at a duly called meeting of the Consortium and subsequent ratification by the governing body of each Consortium Member. However, this Interlocal Agreement may not be amended so as to (A) permit any profits of the Consortium to inure to the benefit of any private person, or (B) permit the diversion or application of any of the moneys or other assets of the Consortium for any purposes other than those specified herein.

SECTION 5.06. SEVERABILITY. In the event that any provision of this Interlocal Agreement shall, for any reason, be determined invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect by a court of competent jurisdiction, the other provisions of this Interlocal Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5.07. CONTROLLING LAW. This Interlocal Agreement shall be construed and governed by Florida law.

SECTION 5.08. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Interlocal Agreement shall become effective on the later of (A) the dated date hereof, or (B) the date the last initial Consortium Member executes this Interlocal Agreement and the filing requirements of Section 5.02 hereof are satisfied.

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

Bay **COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

_____
Clerk of Circuit Court, ex officio
Clerk of Board of County
Commissioners

CIRCUIT COURT BAY COUNTY, FLORIDA

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SEAL BAY COUNTY, FLORIDA

SIGNATURE PAGE
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Christopher G. Constance, Chairman

ATTEST:
Barbara T. Scott, Clerk of Circuit Court and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

By: _____
Deputy Clerk
AGR 2012-051
9-25-12

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

By: _____
Janette S. Knowlton, County Attorney
LR 2012-2086

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

COLLIER **COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
GEORGIA A. HILLER, ESQ., CHAIRWOMAN
Board of County Commissioners
as approved on January 8, 2013

ATTEST:

_____
Clerk of Circuit Court, ex officio
Clerk of Board of County
Commissioners

Attest as to Chairman's signature only

Approved as to form
and legal sufficiency:

_____
Jeffrey A. Klatzkow
County Attorney

State of Florida
County of COLLIER

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT this is a true and correct copy of a document on file in Board Minutes and Records of Collier County
WITNESS my hand and official seal this 6th day of March, 2013

DWIGHT E. BROCK, CLERK OF COURTS

_____ D.C.

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

CITRUS **COUNTY, FLORIDA**

ATTEST:

By: Winn Webb
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Tijani L White DC
for Clerk of Circuit Court, ex officio
Clerk of Board of County
Commissioners

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

CIRCUIT COURT SUUM CUIQUE DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Clerk of Circuit Court ex officio
Clerk of Board of County
Commissioners

By: Ronnie Edmonds
Ronnie Edmonds, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Wilson B. Robertson

Wilson B. Robertson, Chairman

ATTEST: Ernie Lee Magaha
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Doris Harris
Deputy Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ★ ESCAMBIA CO., FL ★
SEAL

This document approved as to form
and legal sufficiency
By
Title County Attorney
Date 10-10-12

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

GULF **COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

_____
Clerk of Circuit Court, ex officio
Clerk of Board of County
Commissioners

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

FRANKLIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

By: _____
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Marcia M Johnson
Clerk of Circuit Court, ex officio
Clerk of Board of County
Commissioners

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OE THE GULF CONSORTIUM

HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Wayne Dukes, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA
SEAL
ATTEST:

_____
for Karen Nicolai, Clerk of Circuit Court,
ex officio Clerk of Board of County
Commissioners

Reviewed for Legal Form
and Sufficiency:

_____
Garth C. Coller
County Attorney

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

By: Ken Hagan
Chairman, Ken Hagan
Board of County Commissioners

Mildred K. Dixon
Clerk of Circuit Court, ex officio
Clerk of Board of County
Commissioners - Mildred K. Dixon, Deputy Clerk

Approval Date: October 3, 2012

APPROVED BY COUNTY ATTORNEY
As To Form And Legal Sufficiency

BY: Assistant County Attorney

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY FLORIDA
DOCUMENT NO. 12-1025

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

Jefferson **COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Clerk of Circuit Court, ex officio
Clerk of Board of County
Commissioners

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

Clerk of Circuit Court, ex officio
Clerk of Board of County
Commissioners

By:
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM
OFFICE OF COUNTY ATTORNEY

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

LEVY **COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
Chairman Danny Stevens
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

_____
Clerk of Circuit Court, ex officio
Clerk of Board of County
Commissioners

Approved as to form and
legal sufficiency:

_____
Anne Bast Brown, County Attorney

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SEAL MANATEE CO., FLA.

BY: _____
Chairman (executed 10/4/12)

ATTEST: R. B. Shore
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA

(SEAL)

ATTEST: Danny L. Kolhage, CLERK

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Mayor

MONROE COUNTY ATTORNEY
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
ROBERT B. SHILLINGER, JR.
CHIEF ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
Date: 7-30-12

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

OKALOOSA **COUNTY, FLORIDA**

ATTEST:

By: _____
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Approved on October 2, 2012

_____
Clerk of Circuit Court, ex officio
Clerk of Board of County
Commissioners

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ORGANIZED JUNE 2nd 1887 PASCO COUNTY FLORIDA

PAULA S. O'NEIL, Ph.D.
CLERK & COMPTROLLER

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANN HILDEBRAND, CHAIRMAN

APPROVED
IN SESSION
SEP 25 2012
PASCO COUNTY
BCC

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: John Morroni
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Ken Burke,
by: Nancy D. Fox, Deputy Clerk
Clerk of Circuit Court, ex officio
Clerk of Board of County
Commissioners

SEAL

APPROVED AS TO FORM
OFFICE OF COUNTY ATTORNEY
By _____
Attorney

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Jim Williamson, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

CIRCUIT COURT SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FL

BCC Approved 10-11-12

Clerk of the Circuit Court, ex officio Clerk
To the Board of County Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

County Attorney

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

SARASOTA **COUNTY, FLORIDA**

ATTEST:

By: _____
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Clerk of Circuit Court, ex officio
Clerk of Board of County
Commissioners, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS

COUNTY ATTORNEY

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

By: _____
Patricia Patterson
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

_____
Annie Mae Murphy
Clerk of Circuit Court, ex officio
Clerk of Board of County
Commissioners

Approved as to Form

_____
County Attorney

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

Wakulla **COUNTY, FLORIDA**

ATTEST:

By: _____
E. Alan Brock, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

_____
Brent X. Thurmond
Clerk of Circuit Court, ex officio
Clerk of Board of County
Commissioners

SIGNATURE PAGE TO
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GULF CONSORTIUM

Walton **COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: Scott A. Brown
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Clerk of Circuit Court, ex officio
Clerk of Board of County
Commissioners
Martha Ingle,
Clerk of Court

STATE OF FLORIDA, COUNTY OF LEON

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of an instrument recorded in the official records of Leon County, Florida.
WITNESS my hand and seal of office this 29th day of March 2013

BOB INZER
Clerk of County Court
By A. Glenn D.C.

APPENDIX 2

Memorandum of Understanding Between the State of Florida & Gulf Consortium

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into between the Governor of the State of Florida ("Governor") and the Gulf Consortium ("Consortium"), which is established pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement Relating to Establishment of the Gulf Consortium ("Interlocal Agreement"). The purpose of this MOU is to work together in the spirit of cooperation for the benefit of the Gulf of Mexico and the State of Florida. This MOU establishes the process of coordinating with the Governor's office on projects in a Oil Spill Restoration Impact Allocation plan ("State Expenditure Plan") for Florida, which will then be certified, if appropriate, by the Governor to the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council ("Council") for its approval. Collectively, the Governor and the Consortium will be referred to as the "Parties."

Recitals

WHEREAS, in response to the explosion of, and resulting oil spill from, the Deepwater Horizon offshore drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico, on April 20, 2010 ("Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill"), Congress, on June 29, 2012, passed and, on July 6, 2012, the President signed into law the United States Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 ("RESTORE Act") (title I, subtitle F of Public Law 112-141) as part of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act.

WHEREAS, the RESTORE Act, establishes a mechanism for providing funding to the Gulf Coast region to restore ecosystems and rebuild local economies damaged by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

WHEREAS, the RESTORE Act establishes the Council, an independent entity consisting of certain federal officials, the Governor of Florida, and the governors of the other Gulf Coast States of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas.

WHEREAS, the RESTORE Act charges the Council with developing a comprehensive plan for ecosystem restoration in the Gulf Coast region ("Council Comprehensive Plan") that identifies projects and programs aimed at restoring and protecting the natural resources and ecosystems of the Gulf Coast region, to be funded from a portion of the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund ("Trust Fund").

WHEREAS, for Florida, the RESTORE Act, under 33 U.S.C. §1321(t)(3) (2012), requires a consortia of local political subdivisions to develop a State Expenditure Plan, for which the RESTORE Act provides for Trust Fund expenditures that would fund projects, programs, and activities that will improve the ecosystems or economy of the Gulf Coast region that meet criteria specified in the RESTORE Act.

WHEREAS, the Consortium is a public entity created on October 19, 2012, pursuant to section 163.01, Florida Statutes, by the Interlocal Agreement among the 23 Florida Gulf Coast affected counties, as defined in the RESTORE Act, and as specifically named in the Interlocal Agreement.

WHEREAS, a State Expenditure Plan must take into consideration the Council Comprehensive Plan and be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Council Comprehensive Plan.

WHEREAS, the RETORE Act directs that, in the State of Florida, a consortia of local political subdivisions, in this instance the Consortium, develop the State Expenditure Plan.

WHEREAS, the RESTORE ACT requires that the State of Florida submit a State Expenditure Plan to the Council to approve.

WHEREAS, the Florida Governor will certify, if appropriate, that a State Expenditure Plan satisfies all applicable requirements of the RESTORE Act, and that, when joined by the affirmative vote of the Federal Chairperson of the Council ("Council Chair"), shall be considered to satisfy the requirements for the Council's affirmative vote for approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing facts and circumstances and desires of the Parties as expressed herein, the Parties hereby mutually agree as follows:

Section 1. General.

A. The Recitals set forth above are hereby incorporated by reference into this MOU and made a part hereof.

B. Capitalized words and terms used in this MOU shall have the meaning provided herein.

C. Words used in the singular shall include the plural forms as well.

Section 2. Governor Appointees to the Consortium. The Governor shall appoint six individuals (the "Appointees") to provide input and guidance to the Consortium on policies and criteria used to determine projects, activities, and programs for consideration for inclusion in a State Expenditure Plan. The Appointees shall not be Directors, as defined in the Interlocal Agreement, but shall be accorded full participation in Consortium affairs, although the Appointees may not vote or otherwise take actions which are authorized to a Director.

Section 3. Accountability and Transparency. The Consortium, at the direction of its Directors and with guidance from the Appointees, shall implement its activities with full

transparency and adhere to all legal requirements including, but not limited to, those relating to open meetings, public records, contracting, audits, and accountability.

Section 4. Consortium Project Submittal and Consideration Process.

A. The Consortium, in consultation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection ("FDEP"), shall develop a standardized format for submittal of projects, activities, and programs to the Consortium for consideration for inclusion in a State Expenditure Plan. With exceptions for the different types of projects, activities, and programs that may be eligible for funding under a State Expenditure Plan, the Consortium's standardized format shall be consistent with the project submittal format designated as the Florida Gulf of Mexico Project Submittal Form, published by the FDEP and available on its website.

B. The Consortium shall utilize the following process for selecting projects, activities, and programs for inclusion in any tentative plan to be submitted to FDEP, as described in Section S of this MOU, for evaluation and comment. The Consortium's selection process shall include, at a minimum:

1. A review for consistency with the applicable laws and rules;

2. Prioritization based on criteria established by the Consortium;

3. Consideration of public comments; and

4. Approval by an affirmative vote of at least a majority of the Directors present at a duly noticed public meeting of the Consortium.

Once approved for inclusion in a tentative plan, the Consortium shall forward the project, activity, or program to FDEP to coordinate review and comment, as provided herein.

Section S. FDEP Coordinated Review. FDEP and other appropriate state agencies will review and provide input during the development of a State Expenditure Plan. FDEP will coordinate the review and comment of a State Expenditure Plan with the other agencies, who may include, but are not limited to, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of Economic Opportunity, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and a Water Management District with regulatory jurisdiction over a project, activity, or program. Prior to final adoption by the Consortium, FDEP and other appropriate state agencies shall review and comment on drafts of a State Expenditure Plan.

Section 6. Consortium Plan Adoption. After review and comment by FDEP and other appropriate state agencies, the Consortium shall adopt a State Expenditure Plan for submittal by the Governor to the Council. The adoption process shall include:

A. Opportunity for public comment; and

B. Adoption of a State Expenditure Plan by a majority of the Directors at a duly noticed public meeting of the Consortium Directors called for that purpose.

Section 7. Submittal of Consortium Plan to the Council. After the Consortium has adopted an appropriate State Expenditure Plan and 90 days prior to the State Expenditure Plan being submitted to the Council, the Consortium shall send the State Expenditure Plan to the Governor for review. Within 30 days, the Governor shall submit comments, if any, back to the Consortium. The Consortium shall have 30 days from the date of receipt of the Governor's comments to revise the State Expenditure Plan in accordance with the Governor's comments. The Consortium shall then transmit the State Expenditure Plan back to the Governor for submittal to the Council for approval.

Section 8. Consultation and Cooperation. The Parties shall coordinate with one another to advance their common goals, eliminate duplication, and maximize consistency among their efforts regarding implementation of the RESTORE Act. The Parties agree to focus on maximizing Florida's attainment of expenditures from the Trust Fund from all sections of the RESTORE Act in order to restore the Gulf Coast resources and energize the economic recovery in the region for the best interest of Florida citizens and communities.

Section 9. Revision of Memorandum of Understanding. This MOU is conditioned upon the implementing rules currently being developed by the United States Department of the Treasury, pursuant to the RESTORE Act. Accordingly, the Parties acknowledge that this MOU may need to be revised to address any inconsistencies herein with such rules. Any revision of this MOU shall be in writing and shall be executed by each of the Parties.

Section 10. Termination. The Governor or the Consortium shall have the right to terminate this MOU, after consultation with each other and with 30 days written notice.

Section 11. Authority. The Governor and the Consortium represent that they have the authority to execute this MOU.

Section 12. Effective Date. This MOU shall take effect on the later date it is executed by the Governor or the Consortium.

Section 13. Term of MOU. This MOU will expire once all the money allocated to the State of Florida under 33 U.S.C. §1321(t)(3) (2012) has been accounted for in a Council approved State Expenditure Plan and all the money has been distributed to implement a Council approved State Expenditure Plan.

Section 14. Execution in Counterparts. This MOU may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which taken together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

Signature Page to Memorandum of Understanding Between the State of Florida & Gulf Consortium

STATE OF FLORIDA

Dated: 6/12/13

Rick Scott,
Governor

Attest:

Secretary of State

Signature Page to Memorandum of Understanding Between the State of Florida & Gulf Consortium

GULF CONSORTIUM

Dated: 4/5/13

Grover C. Robinson, IV
Chairman

Attest:

Warren Yeager,
Secretary-Treasurer

APPENDIX 3

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA AND GULF CONSORTIUM REGARDING PROCUREMENT SERVICES

THIS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is made and entered into by and among the LEON COUNTY, Florida, a charter county and political subdivision of the State of Florida (the "County"); and GULF CONSORTIUM, a legal entity and public body and a unit of local government (the "Consortium").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the County is authorized to enter into said Interlocal Agreement by the powers and authority granted to it under the Constitutional and the laws of the State of Florida; and,

WHEREAS, the Consortium is authorized to enter into this Interlocal Agreement by virtue of the Interlocal Agreement Relating to the Establishment of the Gulf Consortium entered into on or about the 19th day of September, 2012, which was created to serve as a consortia of local political subdivisions as contemplated by the RESTORE ACT for the 23 Florida counties which are members of the Consortium; and,

WHEREAS, the RESTORE ACT ("United States Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economics of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012") was passed by Congress on June 29, 2012, and the President signed into law on July 6, 2012 and said Act establishes a mechanism for providing funding to the Gulf Coast region to restore ecosystems and rebuild local economies damaged by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill; and,

WHEREAS, the Consortium is required to develop a State Expenditure Plan for the expenditure of the Spill Impact Component required by the RESTORE ACT; and,

WHEREAS, the County and the Consortium wish to enter into an agreement that authorizes the County to provide and assist with procurement services for the Consortium in order for it to properly and effectively engage the services of one or more firms to assist in the development of the State Expenditure Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the following mutual promises, covenants and representations set forth herein, the sufficiency of which being acknowledged, the County and the Consortium do hereby agree as follows:

SECTION 1. <u>DEFINITIONS AND CONSTRUCTION</u>

In construing this Interlocal Agreement, the singular includes the plural and vice versa. Unless otherwise defined herein, the following words and phrases shall have the following meaning:

A. "County" means Leon County, Florida, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, a charter county.

B. "Consortium" means Gulf Consortium that was created by Interlocal Agreement between 23 Florida counties, namely, Bay, Charlotte, Collier, Citrus, Dixie, Escambia, Gulf, Franklin, Hernando, Hillsborough, Jefferson, Lee, Levy, Manatee, Monroe, Okaloosa, Pasco, Pinellas, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Taylor, Wakulla and Walton, on September 19, 2012, which is recorded in the Official Records of Leon County in Book 4432 at page 105.

C. "RESTORE ACT" means United States Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economics of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012.

D. "Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill" means the Deepwater Horizon offshore drilling rig's explosion, and resulting oil spill, on April 20, 2010.

SECTION 2. PROCUREMENT SERVICES

The County shall provide all necessary personnel and take all required steps to perform procurement services for the Consortium, as follows: Provide advice and assistance regarding the development of a competitive procurement policy for the Consortium, and

B. Provide technical and strategic support in the Consortium's competitive solicitation of a firm in the development and submission of the State Expenditure Plan, including, but not limited to, preparing solicitation documents, advertising and disseminating solicitation documents, and advising and assisting the Consortium's Interim Manager, the procurement evaluation team and the Consortium Board of Directors in the selection of the most qualified firm.

SECTION 3. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Funding.

The procurement related services to be provided to the Consortium would require utilization of limited staff resources by the County, which may be reimbursed to the County by the Consortium under possible federal rules yet to be finalized with regard to the RESTORE ACT. However, the County shall be entitled to seek, and the Consortium shall reimburse the County for all of its direct expenses.

B. Compliance with Applicable Law.

In providing services and otherwise carrying out its obligations under this Agreement, the parties shall comply with applicable law. Such compliance shall include obtaining any and all federal, state or local permits or licenses required to perform its obligations under this Agreement.

C. Choice of Law, Venue and Severability.

This Agreement shall be construed and interested in accordance with Florida Law. Venue for any action brought in relation to this Agreement shall be placed in a court of competent jurisdiction in Leon County, Florida. If any provision of this Agreement is subsequently held invalid, the remaining provisions shall continue in effect.

D. Amendments.

The Parties hereby acknowledge that the terms hereof constitute the entire understanding and agreement of the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof. No modification hereof shall be effective unless in writing, executed with the same formalities as this Agreement, in accordance with general law.

E. Assignment.

The Parties agree not to assign any of the services specified by this Agreement to a third-party without the prior written consent of the other Parties.

F. Conflict Resolution.

1. The Parties shall attempt to resolve all disputes that arise under this Agreement in good faith and in accordance with this section. The provision of the "Florida Governmental Conflict Resolution Act" shall not apply to disputes under this Agreement, as an alternative dispute resolution process is hereby set forth in this section. The aggrieved Party shall give written notice to the other Parties in writing, setting forth the name of the Party or Parties involved in the dispute, the nature of the dispute, date of occurrence (if known), and proposed resolution, hereinafter referred to as the "Dispute Notice."

2. Should the Parties be unable to reconcile any dispute, the appropriate County and Consortium representative shall meet at the earliest opportunity, but in any event within ten (10) days from the date that the Dispute Notice is received, to discuss and resolve the dispute. If the dispute is resolved to the mutual satisfaction of the Parties, they shall report their decision, in writing, to the Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Directors of the Consortium. If the Parties are unable to reconcile their dispute, they shall report their impasse to such Boards who shall then convene a meeting at their earliest opportunity, but in any event within twenty (20) days following receipt of a Dispute Notice, to attempt to reconcile the dispute.

G. Recordation.

The County shall record this Agreement with the Leon County Clerk of the Court upon execution of the Parties. Upon return of the recorded Agreement, the County shall deliver a recorded copy of this Agreement to the Consortium. The recordation of this Agreement complies with all government transparency requirements.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Agreement shall be effective ("Effective Date") upon execution by all Parties.

SECTION 4. TERM; COMMENCEMENT DATE; RENEWAL

The term of this Agreement shall be for a period of three (3) years commencing on the Effective Date.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties cause this Interlocal Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized representatives this 26th day of March, 2014.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Kristin Dozier, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Attest:
Bob Inzer, Clerk of the Court

By: _____

Approved as to form:
County Attorney's Office

By: _____
Herbert W.A. Thiele, Esq.
County Attorney

SIGNATURE PAGE TO INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO PROCUREMENT SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY LEON COUNTY

THE GULF CONSORTIUM

By:_____
Chairman
Board of Directors

ATTEST:

_____
Secretary-Treasurer
Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Sarah M Bleakley
Sarah M. Bleakley, Esq.
Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, P.A.
Interim General Counsel

AMENDED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA AND GULF CONSORTIUM REGARDING PROCUREMENT SERVICES

THIS AMENDED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is made and entered into by and among the LEON COUNTY, Florida, a charter county and political subdivision of the State of Florida (the "County"); and GULF CONSORTIUM, a legal entity and public body and a unit of local government (the "Consortium").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the parties entered into a Interlocal Agreement on March 26, 2014, which authorized the County to provide and assist the Consortium with procurement services in order for it to properly and effectively develop the State Expenditure Plan pursuant to the RESTORE ACT;

WHEREAS, the parties to the Interlocal Agreement desire to amend certain provisions to allow for the procurement of additional services, as needed, for the Consortium.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the following mutual promises, covenants and representations set forth herein, the sufficiency of which being acknowledged, the County and the Consortium do hereby agree to amend the Interlocal Agreement as follows:

SECTION 2. PROCUREMENT SERVICES

A. The County shall provide all necessary personnel and take all required steps to perform procurement services for the Consortium, as follows: Provide advice and assistance regarding the development of a competitive procurement policy for the Consortium;

B. Provide technical and strategic support in the Consortium's competitive solicitation of a firm in the development and submission of the State Expenditure Plan, including, but not limited to, preparing solicitation documents, advertising and disseminating solicitation documents, and advising and assisting the Consortium's Interim Manager, the procurement evaluation team and the Consortium Board of Directors in the selection of the most qualified firm; and,

C. Provide other procurement services as needed by the Consortium, including, but not limited to, other consultants and professional services as well as goods and materials.

All other provisions of the Interlocal Agreement entered into by and between the parties on March 26, 2014 and recorded in Official Records of Leon County in Book 4650 at Page 340, not inconsistent with the provisions herein shall remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties cause this Amended Interlocal Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized representatives this 28th day of October, 2014.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Mary Ann Lindley
Mary Ann Lindley, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Attest:
Bob Inzer, Clerk of the Court

By: John Stott, Deputy Clerk

Approved as to form:
County Attorney's Office

By:
Herbert W.A. Thiele, Esq.
County Attorney

THE GULF CONSORTIUM

By:
Chairman
Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Secretary-Treasurer
Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Sarah M Bleakley
Sarah M. Bleakley, Esq.
Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, P.A.
Interim General Counsel

APPENDIX 4

PART III
CODE OF ETHICS FOR
PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

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112.312 Definitions.
112.3125 Dual public employment.
112.313 Standards of conduct for public officers, employees of agencies, and local government attorneys.
112.3135 Restriction on employment of relatives.
112.3136 Standards of conduct for officers and employees of entities serving as chief administrative officer of political subdivisions.
112.3142 Ethics training for specified constitutional officers and elected municipal officers.
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112.326 Additional requirements by political subdivisions and agencies not prohibited.
112.3261 Lobbying before water management districts; registration and reporting.

112.311 Legislative intent and declaration of policy.—

(1) It is essential to the proper conduct and operation of government that public officials be independent and impartial and that public office not be used for private gain other than the remuneration provided by law. The public interest, therefore, requires that the law protect against any conflict of interest and establish standards for the conduct of elected officials and government employees in situations where conflicts may exist.

(2) It is also essential that government attract those citizens best qualified to serve. Thus, the law against conflict of interest must be so designed as not to impede unreasonably or unnecessarily the recruitment and retention by government of those best qualified to serve. Public officials should not be denied the opportunity, available to all other citizens, to acquire and retain private economic interests except when conflicts with the responsibility of such officials to the public cannot be avoided.

(3) It is likewise essential that the people be free to seek redress of their grievances and express their opinions to all government officials on current issues and past or pending legislative and executive actions at every level of government. In order to preserve and maintain the integrity of the governmental process, it is necessary that the identity, expenditures, and activities of those persons who regularly engage in efforts to persuade public officials to take specific actions, either by direct communication with such officials or by solicitation of others to engage in such efforts, be regularly disclosed to the people.

(4) It is the intent of this act to implement these objectives of protecting the integrity of government and of facilitating the recruitment and retention of qualified personnel by prescribing restrictions against conflicts of interest without creating unnecessary barriers to public service.

(5) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state that no officer or employee of a state agency or of a county, city, or other political subdivision of the state, and no member of the Legislature or legislative employee, shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect; engage in any business transaction or professional activity; or incur any obligation of any nature which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his or her duties in the public interest. To implement this policy and strengthen the faith and confidence of the people of the state in their government, there is enacted a code of ethics setting forth standards of conduct required of state, county, and city officers and employees, and of officers and employees of other political subdivisions of the state, in the performance of their official duties. It is the intent of the Legislature that this code shall serve not only as a guide for the official conduct of public servants in this state, but also as a basis for discipline of those who violate the provisions of this part.

(6) It is declared to be the policy of the state that public officers and employees, state and local, are agents of the people and hold their positions for the benefit of the public. They are bound to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the State Constitution and to perform efficiently and faithfully their duties under the laws of the federal, state, and local governments. Such officers and employees are bound to observe, in their official acts, the highest standards of ethics consistent with this code and the advisory opinions rendered with respect

hereto regardless of personal considerations, recognizing that promoting the public interest and maintaining the respect of the people in their government must be of foremost concern.

History.—s. 1, ch. 67-469; s. 1, ch. 69-335; s. 1, ch. 74-177; s. 2, ch. 75-208; s. 698, ch. 95-147.

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:

(1) "Advisory body" means any board, commission, committee, council, or authority, however selected, whose total budget, appropriations, or authorized expenditures constitute less than 1 percent of the budget of each agency it serves or $100,000, whichever is less, and whose powers, jurisdiction, and authority are solely advisory and do not include the final determination or adjudication of any personal or property rights, duties, or obligations, other than those relating to its internal operations.

(2) "Agency" means any state, regional, county, local, or municipal government entity of this state, whether executive, judicial, or legislative; any department, division, bureau, commission, authority, or political subdivision of this state therein; any public school, community college, or state university; or any special district as defined in s. 189.012.

(3) "Breach of the public trust" means a violation of a provision of the State Constitution or this part which establishes a standard of ethical conduct, a disclosure requirement, or a prohibition applicable to public officers or employees in order to avoid conflicts between public duties and private interests, including, without limitation, a violation of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or of this part.

(4) "Business associate" means any person or entity engaged in or carrying on a business enterprise with a public officer, public employee, or candidate as a partner, joint venturer, corporate shareholder where the shares of such corporation are not listed on any national or regional stock exchange, or coowner of property.

(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.

(6) "Candidate" means any person who has filed a statement of financial interest and qualification papers, has subscribed to the candidate's oath as required by s. 99.021, and seeks by election to become a public officer. This definition expressly excludes a committeeman or committeewoman regulated by chapter 103 and persons seeking any other office or position in a political party.

(7) "Commission" means the Commission on Ethics created by s. 112.320 or any successor to which its duties are transferred.

(8) "Conflict" or "conflict of interest" means a situation in which regard for a private interest tends to lead to disregard of a public duty or interest.

(9) "Corruptly" means done with a wrongful intent and for the purpose of obtaining, or compensating or receiving compensation for, any benefit resulting from some act or omission of a public servant which is inconsistent with the proper performance of his or her public duties.

(10) "Disclosure period" means the taxable year for the person or business entity, whether based on a calendar or fiscal year, immediately preceding the date on which, or the last day of the period during which, the financial disclosure statement required by this part is required to be filed.

(11) "Facts materially related to the complaint at issue" means facts which tend to show a violation of this part or s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution by the alleged violator other than those alleged in the complaint and consisting of separate instances of the same or similar conduct as alleged in the complaint, or which tend to show an additional violation of this part or s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution by the alleged violator which arises out of or in connection with the allegations of the complaint.

(12)(a) "Gift," for purposes of ethics in government and financial disclosure required by law, means that which is accepted by a donee or by another on the donee's behalf, or that which is paid or given to another for or

on behalf of a donee, directly, indirectly, or in trust for the donee's benefit or by any other means, for which equal or greater consideration is not given within 90 days, including:

1. Real property.
2. The use of real property.
3. Tangible or intangible personal property.
4. The use of tangible or intangible personal property.
5. A preferential rate or terms on a debt, loan, goods, or services, which rate is below the customary rate and is not either a government rate available to all other similarly situated government employees or officials or a rate which is available to similarly situated members of the public by virtue of occupation, affiliation, age, religion, sex, or national origin.
6. Forgiveness of an indebtedness.
7. Transportation, other than that provided to a public officer or employee by an agency in relation to officially approved governmental business, lodging, or parking.
8. Food or beverage.
9. Membership dues.
10. Entrance fees, admission fees, or tickets to events, performances, or facilities.
11. Plants, flowers, or floral arrangements.
12. Services provided by persons pursuant to a professional license or certificate.
13. Other personal services for which a fee is normally charged by the person providing the services.
14. Any other similar service or thing having an attributable value not already provided for in this section.

(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.

(c) For the purposes of paragraph (a), "intangible personal property" means property as defined in s. 192.001(11)(b).

(d) For the purposes of paragraph (a), the term "consideration" does not include a promise to pay or otherwise provide something of value unless the promise is in writing and enforceable through the courts.

(13) "Indirect" or "indirect interest" means an interest in which legal title is held by another as trustee or

other representative capacity, but the equitable or beneficial interest is held by the person required to file under this part.

(14) "Liability" means any monetary debt or obligation owed by the reporting person to another person, entity, or governmental entity, except for credit card and retail installment accounts, taxes owed unless reduced to a judgment, indebtedness on a life insurance policy owed to the company of issuance, contingent liabilities, or accrued income taxes on net unrealized appreciation. Each liability which is required to be disclosed by s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution shall identify the name and address of the creditor.

(15) "Material interest" means direct or indirect ownership of more than 5 percent of the total assets or capital stock of any business entity. For the purposes of this act, indirect ownership does not include ownership by a spouse or minor child.

(16) "Materially affected" means involving an interest in real property located within the jurisdiction of the official's agency or involving an investment in a business entity, a source of income or a position of employment, office, or management in any business entity located within the jurisdiction or doing business within the jurisdiction of the official's agency which is or will be affected in a substantially different manner or degree than the manner or degree in which the public in general will be affected or, if the matter affects only a special class of persons, then affected in a substantially different manner or degree than the manner or degree in which such class will be affected.

(17) "Ministerial matter" means action that a person takes in a prescribed manner in obedience to the mandate of legal authority, without the exercise of the person's own judgment or discretion as to the propriety of the action taken.

(18) "Parties materially related to the complaint at issue" means any other public officer or employee within the same agency as the alleged violator who has engaged in the same conduct as that alleged in the complaint, or any other public officer or employee who has participated with the alleged violator in the alleged violation as a coconspirator or as an aider and abettor.

(19) "Person or business entities provided a grant or privilege to operate" includes state and federally chartered banks, state and federal savings and loan associations, cemetery companies, insurance companies, mortgage companies, credit unions, small loan companies, alcoholic beverage licensees, pari-mutuel wagering companies, utility companies, and entities controlled by the Public Service Commission or granted a franchise to operate by either a city or county government.

(20) "Purchasing agent" means a public officer or employee having the authority to commit the expenditure of public funds through a contract for, or the purchase of, any goods, services, or interest in real property for an agency, as opposed to the authority to request or requisition a contract or purchase by another person.

(21) "Relative," unless otherwise specified in this part, means an individual who is related to a public officer or employee as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, grandparent, great grandparent, grandchild, great grandchild, step grandparent, step great grandparent, step grandchild, step great grandchild, person who is engaged to be married to the public officer or employee or who otherwise holds himself or herself out as or is generally known as the person whom the public officer or employee intends to marry or with whom the public officer or employee intends to form a household, or any other natural person having the same legal residence as the public officer or employee.

(22) "Represent" or "representation" means actual physical attendance on behalf of a client in an agency proceeding, the writing of letters or filing of documents on behalf of a client, and personal communications made with the officers or employees of any agency on behalf of a client.

(23) "Source" means the name, address, and description of the principal business activity of a person or

business entity.

(24) "Value of real property" means the most recently assessed value in lieu of a more current appraisal.

History.—s. 2, ch. 67-469; ss. 11, 12, ch. 68-35; s. 8, ch. 69-353; s. 2, ch. 74-177; s. 1, ch. 75-196; s. 1, ch. 75-199; s. 3, ch. 75-208; s. 4, ch. 76-18; s. 1, ch. 77-174; s. 2, ch. 82-98; s. 1, ch. 83-282; s. 2, ch. 90-502; s. 2, ch. 91-85; s. 3, ch. 91-292; s. 699, ch. 95-147; s. 1, ch. 96-328; s. 1, ch. 2000-243; ss. 28, 30, ch. 2011-6; s. 75, ch. 2011-40; HJR 7105, 2011 Regular Session; s. 1, ch. 2013-36; s. 3, ch. 2014-22.

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) 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;

(b) The position was publicly advertised;

(c) The public officer was subject to the same application and hiring process as other candidates for the position; and

(d) 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.

History.—s. 2, ch. 2013-36.

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

(1) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, the term "public officer" includes any person elected or appointed to hold office in any agency, including any person serving on an advisory body.

(2) SOLICITATION OR ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.—No public officer, employee of an agency, local government attorney, or candidate for nomination or election shall solicit or accept anything of value to the recipient, including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, based upon any understanding that the vote, official action, or judgment of the public officer, employee, local government attorney, or candidate would be influenced thereby.

(3) DOING BUSINESS WITH ONE'S AGENCY.—No employee of an agency acting in his or her official capacity as a purchasing agent, or public officer acting in his or her official capacity, shall either directly or indirectly purchase, rent, or lease any realty, goods, or services for his or her own agency from any business entity of which the officer or employee or the officer's or employee's spouse or child is an officer, partner, director, or proprietor or in which such officer or employee or the officer's or employee's spouse or child, or any combination of them, has a material interest. Nor shall a public officer or employee, acting in a private capacity, rent, lease, or sell any realty, goods, or services to the officer's or employee's own agency, if he or she is a state officer or

employee, or to any political subdivision or any agency thereof, if he or she is serving as an officer or employee of that political subdivision. The foregoing shall not apply to district offices maintained by legislators when such offices are located in the legislator's place of business or when such offices are on property wholly or partially owned by the legislator. This subsection shall not affect or be construed to prohibit contracts entered into prior to:

(a) October 1, 1975.

(b) Qualification for elective office.

(c) Appointment to public office.

(d) Beginning public employment.

(4) UNAUTHORIZED COMPENSATION.—No public officer, employee of an agency, or local government attorney or his or her spouse or minor child shall, at any time, accept any compensation, payment, or thing of value when such public officer, employee, or local government attorney knows, or, with the exercise of reasonable care, should know, that it was given to influence a vote or other action in which the officer, employee, or local government attorney was expected to participate in his or her official capacity.

(5) SALARY AND EXPENSES.—No public officer shall be prohibited from voting on a matter affecting his or her salary, expenses, or other compensation as a public officer, as provided by law. No local government attorney shall be prevented from considering any matter affecting his or her salary, expenses, or other compensation as the local government attorney, as provided by law.

(6) MISUSE OF PUBLIC POSITION.—No public officer, employee of an agency, or local government attorney shall corruptly use or attempt to use his or her official position or any property or resource which may be within his or her trust, or perform his or her official duties, to secure a special privilege, benefit, or exemption for himself, herself, or others. This section shall not be construed to conflict with s. 104.31.

(7) CONFLICTING EMPLOYMENT OR CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP.—

(a) No public officer or employee of an agency shall have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business entity or any agency which is subject to the regulation of, or is doing business with, an agency of which he or she is an officer or employee, excluding those organizations and their officers who, when acting in their official capacity, enter into or negotiate a collective bargaining contract with the state or any municipality, county, or other political subdivision of the state; nor shall an officer or employee of an agency have or hold any employment or contractual relationship that will create a continuing or frequently recurring conflict between his or her private interests and the performance of his or her public duties or that would impede the full and faithful discharge of his or her public duties.

1. When the agency referred to is that certain kind of special tax district created by general or special law and is limited specifically to constructing, maintaining, managing, and financing improvements in the land area over which the agency has jurisdiction, or when the agency has been organized pursuant to chapter 298, then employment with, or entering into a contractual relationship with, such business entity by a public officer or employee of such agency shall not be prohibited by this subsection or be deemed a conflict per se. However, conduct by such officer or employee that is prohibited by, or otherwise frustrates the intent of, this section shall be deemed a conflict of interest in violation of the standards of conduct set forth by this section.

2. When the agency referred to is a legislative body and the regulatory power over the business entity resides in another agency, or when the regulatory power which the legislative body exercises over the business entity or agency is strictly through the enactment of laws or ordinances, then employment or a contractual relationship with such business entity by a public officer or employee of a legislative body shall not be prohibited by this subsection or be deemed a conflict.

(b) This subsection shall not prohibit a public officer or employee from practicing in a particular profession or occupation when such practice by persons holding such public office or employment is required or permitted by

law or ordinance.

(8) DISCLOSURE OR USE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—A current or former public officer, employee of an agency, or local government attorney may not disclose or use information not available to members of the general public and gained by reason of his or her official position, except for information relating exclusively to governmental practices, for his or her personal gain or benefit or for the personal gain or benefit of any other person or business entity.

(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 sub-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.

(b) In addition to the provisions of this part which are applicable to legislators and legislative employees by virtue of their being public officers or employees, the conduct of members of the Legislature and legislative employees shall be governed by the ethical standards provided in the respective rules of the Senate or House of Representatives which are not in conflict herewith.

(10) EMPLOYEES HOLDING OFFICE.—

(a) No employee of a state agency or of a county, municipality, special taxing district, or other political subdivision of the state shall hold office as a member of the governing board, council, commission, or authority, by whatever name known, which is his or her employer while, at the same time, continuing as an employee of such employer.

(b) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any person holding office in violation of such provisions on the effective date of this act. However, such a person shall surrender his or her conflicting employment prior to seeking reelection or accepting reappointment to office.

(11) PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARD MEMBERS.—No officer, director, or administrator of a Florida state, county, or regional professional or occupational organization or association, while holding such position, shall be eligible to serve as a member of a state examining or licensing board for the profession or occupation.

(12) EXEMPTION.—The requirements of subsections (3) and (7) as they pertain to persons serving on advisory boards may be waived in a particular instance by the body which appointed the person to the advisory board, upon a full disclosure of the transaction or relationship to the appointing body prior to the waiver and an affirmative vote in favor of waiver by two-thirds vote of that body. In instances in which appointment to the advisory board is made by an individual, waiver may be effected, after public hearing, by a determination by the appointing person and full disclosure of the transaction or relationship by the appointee to the appointing person. In addition, no person shall be held in violation of subsection (3) or subsection (7) if:

(a) Within a city or county the business is transacted under a rotation system whereby the business transactions are rotated among all qualified suppliers of the goods or services within the city or county.

(b) The business is awarded under a system of sealed, competitive bidding to the lowest or best bidder and:

1. The official or the official's spouse or child has in no way participated in the determination of the bid

specifications or the determination of the lowest or best bidder;

2. The official or the official's spouse or child has in no way used or attempted to use the official's influence to persuade the agency or any personnel thereof to enter such a contract other than by the mere submission of the bid; and

3. The official, prior to or at the time of the submission of the bid, has filed a statement with the Commission on Ethics, if the official is a state officer or employee, or with the supervisor of elections of the county in which the agency has its principal office, if the official is an officer or employee of a political subdivision, disclosing the official's interest, or the interest of the official's spouse or child, and the nature of the intended business.

(c) The purchase or sale is for legal advertising in a newspaper, for any utilities service, or for passage on a common carrier.

(d) An emergency purchase or contract which would otherwise violate a provision of subsection (3) or subsection (7) must be made in order to protect the health, safety, or welfare of the citizens of the state or any political subdivision thereof.

(e) The business entity involved is the only source of supply within the political subdivision of the officer or employee and there is full disclosure by the officer or employee of his or her interest in the business entity to the governing body of the political subdivision prior to the purchase, rental, sale, leasing, or other business being transacted.

(f) The total amount of the transactions in the aggregate between the business entity and the agency does not exceed $500 per calendar year.

(g) The fact that a county or municipal officer or member of a public board or body, including a district school officer or an officer of any district within a county, is a stockholder, officer, or director of a bank will not bar such bank from qualifying as a depository of funds coming under the jurisdiction of any such public board or body, provided it appears in the records of the agency that the governing body of the agency has determined that such officer or member of a public board or body has not favored such bank over other qualified banks.

(h) The transaction is made pursuant to s. 1004.22 or s. 1004.23 and is specifically approved by the president and the chair of the university board of trustees. The chair of the university board of trustees shall submit to the Governor and the Legislature by March 1 of each year a report of the transactions approved pursuant to this paragraph during the preceding year.

(i) The public officer or employee purchases in a private capacity goods or services, at a price and upon terms available to similarly situated members of the general public, from a business entity which is doing business with his or her agency.

(j) The public officer or employee in a private capacity purchases goods or services from a business entity which is subject to the regulation of his or her agency and:

1. The price and terms of the transaction are available to similarly situated members of the general public; and

2. The officer or employee makes full disclosure of the relationship to the agency head or governing body prior to the transaction.

(13) COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES AND SPECIAL DISTRICT AND SCHOOL DISTRICT RESOLUTIONS REGULATING FORMER OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES.—The governing body of any county or municipality may adopt an ordinance and the governing body of any special district or school district may adopt a resolution providing that an appointed county, municipal, special district, or school district officer or a county, municipal, special district, or school district employee may not personally represent another person or entity for compensation before the government body or agency of which the individual was an officer or employee for a period of 2 years following vacation of office or termination of employment, except for the purposes of collective bargaining. Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit such ordinance or resolution.

(14) LOBBYING BY FORMER LOCAL OFFICERS; PROHIBITION.—A person who has been elected to any county, municipal, special district, or school district office may not personally represent another person or entity for compensation before the government body or agency of which the person was an officer for a period of 2 years after vacating that office. For purposes of this subsection:

(a) The "government body or agency" of a member of a board of county commissioners consists of the commission, the chief administrative officer or employee of the county, and their immediate support staff.

(b) The "government body or agency" of any other county elected officer is the office or department headed by that officer, including all subordinate employees.

(c) The "government body or agency" of an elected municipal officer consists of the governing body of the municipality, the chief administrative officer or employee of the municipality, and their immediate support staff.

(d) The "government body or agency" of an elected special district officer is the special district.

(e) The "government body or agency" of an elected school district officer is the school district.

(15) ADDITIONAL EXEMPTION.—No elected public officer shall be held in violation of subsection (7) if the officer maintains an employment relationship with an entity which is currently a tax-exempt organization under s. 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and which contracts with or otherwise enters into a business relationship with the officer's agency and:

(a) The officer's employment is not directly or indirectly compensated as a result of such contract or business relationship;

(b) The officer has in no way participated in the agency's decision to contract or to enter into the business relationship with his or her employer, whether by participating in discussion at the meeting, by communicating with officers or employees of the agency, or otherwise; and

(c) The officer abstains from voting on any matter which may come before the agency involving the officer's employer, publicly states to the assembly the nature of the officer's interest in the matter from which he or she is abstaining, and files a written memorandum as provided in s. 112.3143.

(16) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ATTORNEYS.—

(a) For the purposes of this section, "local government attorney" means any individual who routinely serves as the attorney for a unit of local government. The term shall not include any person who renders legal services to a unit of local government pursuant to contract limited to a specific issue or subject, to specific litigation, or to a specific administrative proceeding. For the purposes of this section, "unit of local government" includes, but is not limited to, municipalities, counties, and special districts.

(b) It shall not constitute a violation of subsection (3) or subsection (7) for a unit of local government to contract with a law firm, operating as either a partnership or a professional association, or in any combination thereof, or with a local government attorney who is a member of or is otherwise associated with the law firm, to provide any or all legal services to the unit of local government, so long as the local government attorney is not a full-time employee or member of the governing body of the unit of local government. However, the standards of conduct as provided in subsections (2), (4), (5), (6), and (8) shall apply to any person who serves as a local government attorney.

(c) No local government attorney or law firm in which the local government attorney is a member, partner, or employee shall represent a private individual or entity before the unit of local government to which the local government attorney provides legal services. A local government attorney whose contract with the unit of local government does not include provisions that authorize or mandate the use of the law firm of the local government attorney to complete legal services for the unit of local government shall not recommend or otherwise refer legal work to that attorney's law firm to be completed for the unit of local government.

(17) BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND BOARDS OF TRUSTEES.—No citizen member of the Board of Governors of the State University System, nor any citizen member of a board of trustees of a local constituent university, shall

have or hold any employment or contractual relationship as a legislative lobbyist requiring annual registration and reporting pursuant to s. 11.045.

History.—s. 3, ch. 67-469; s. 2, ch. 69-335; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 3, ch. 74-177; ss. 4, 11, ch. 75-208; s. 1, ch. 77-174; s. 1, ch. 77-349; s. 4, ch. 82-98; s. 2, ch. 83-26; s. 6, ch. 83-282; s. 14, ch. 85-80; s. 12, ch. 86-145; s. 1, ch. 88-358; s. 1, ch. 88-408; s. 3, ch. 90-502; s. 3, ch. 91-85; s. 4, ch. 91-292; s. 1, ch. 92-35; s. 1, ch. 94-277; s. 1406, ch. 95-147; s. 3, ch. 96-311; s. 34, ch. 96-318; s. 41, ch. 99-2; s. 29, ch. 2001-266; s. 20, ch. 2002-1; s. 894, ch. 2002-387; s. 2, ch. 2005-285; s. 2, ch. 2006-275; s. 10, ch. 2007-217; s. 16, ch. 2011-34; s. 3, ch. 2013-36.

112.3135 Restriction on employment of relatives.—

(1) In this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Agency" means:

1. A state agency, except an institution under the jurisdiction of the Board of Governors of the State University System;

2. An office, agency, or other establishment in the legislative branch;

3. An office, agency, or other establishment in the judicial branch;

4. A county;

5. A city; and

6. Any other political subdivision of the state, except a district school board or community college district.

(b) "Collegial body" means a governmental entity marked by power or authority vested equally in each of a number of colleagues.

(c) "Public official" means an officer, including a member of the Legislature, the Governor, and a member of the Cabinet, or an employee of an agency in whom is vested the authority by law, rule, or regulation, or to whom the authority has been delegated, to appoint, employ, promote, or advance individuals or to recommend individuals for appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement in connection with employment in an agency, including the authority as a member of a collegial body to vote on the appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement of individuals.

(d) "Relative," for purposes of this section only, with respect to a public official, means an individual who is related to the public official as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, or half sister.

(2)(a) A public official may not appoint, employ, promote, or advance, or advocate for appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement, in or to a position in the agency in which the official is serving or over which the official exercises jurisdiction or control any individual who is a relative of the public official. An individual may not be appointed, employed, promoted, or advanced in or to a position in an agency if such appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement has been advocated by a public official, serving in or exercising jurisdiction or control over the agency, who is a relative of the individual or if such appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement is made by a collegial body of which a relative of the individual is a member. However, this subsection shall not apply to appointments to boards other than those with land-planning or zoning responsibilities in those municipalities with less than 35,000 population. This subsection does not apply to persons serving in a volunteer capacity who provide emergency medical, firefighting, or police services. Such persons may receive, without losing their volunteer status, reimbursements for the costs of any training they get relating to the provision of volunteer emergency medical, firefighting, or police services and payment for any incidental expenses relating to those services that they provide.

(b) Mere approval of budgets shall not be sufficient to constitute "jurisdiction or control" for the purposes of this section.

(3) An agency may prescribe regulations authorizing the temporary employment, in the event of an emergency as defined in s. 252.34, of individuals whose employment would be otherwise prohibited by this

section.

(4) Legislators' relatives may be employed as pages or messengers during legislative sessions.

History.—ss. 1, 2, 3, ch. 69-341; ss. 15, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 70, ch. 72-221; s. 3, ch. 83-334; s. 1, ch. 89-67; s. 4, ch. 90-502; s. 2, ch. 94-277; s. 1407, ch. 95-147; s. 1, ch. 98-160; s. 42, ch. 99-2; s. 11, ch. 2007-217; s. 47, ch. 2011-142.

Note.—Former s. 116.111.

112.3136 Standards of conduct for officers and employees of entities serving as chief administrative officer of political subdivisions.—The officers, directors, and chief executive officer of a corporation, partnership, or other business entity that is serving as the chief administrative or executive officer or employee of a political subdivision, and any business entity employee who is acting as the chief administrative or executive officer or employee of the political subdivision, for the purposes of the following sections, are public officers and employees who are subject to the following standards of conduct of this part:

(1) Section 112.313, and their "agency" is the political subdivision that they serve; however, the contract under which the business entity serves as chief executive or administrative officer of the political subdivision is not deemed to violate s. 112.313(3) or (7).

(2) Section 112.3145, as a "local officer."

(3) Sections 112.3148 and 112.3149, as a "reporting individual."

History.—s. 1, ch. 2009-126.

112.3142 Ethics training for specified constitutional officers and elected municipal 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 each calendar year which 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) Beginning January 1, 2015, all elected municipal officers must complete 4 hours of ethics training each calendar year which 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.

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

(d) The Legislature intends that a constitutional officer or elected municipal officer who is required to complete ethics training pursuant to this section receive the required training as close as possible to the date that he or she assumes office. A constitutional officer or elected municipal officer assuming a new office or new term of office on or before March 31 must complete the annual training on or before December 31 of the year in which the term of office began. A constitutional officer or elected municipal officer assuming a new office or new term of office after March 31 is not required to complete ethics training for the calendar year in which the term of office began.

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

History.—s. 4, ch. 2013-36; s. 2, ch. 2014-183.

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 acknowledgment 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 s. 112.3144 or s. 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.

History.—s. 5, ch. 2013-36.

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

(c) "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 state public officer may not vote on any matter that the officer knows would inure to his or her special private gain or loss. Any state public officer who abstains from voting in an official capacity upon any measure that 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 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 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.

(3)(a) No county, municipal, or other local public officer shall vote in an official capacity upon any measure which would inure to his or her special private gain or loss; which 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(2); or which he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of a relative or business associate of the public officer. Such public officer shall, prior to the vote being taken, publicly state to the assembly the nature of the officer's 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.

(b) However, a commissioner of a community redevelopment agency created or designated pursuant to s. 163.356 or s. 163.357, or an officer of an independent special tax district elected on a one-acre, one-vote basis, is not prohibited from voting, when voting in said capacity.

(4) No appointed public officer shall participate in any matter which would inure to the officer's special private gain or loss; which the officer 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; or which he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of a relative or business associate of the public officer, without first disclosing the nature of his or her interest in the matter.

(a) Such disclosure, indicating the nature of the conflict, shall be made in a written memorandum filed with

the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, prior to the meeting in which consideration of the matter will take place, and shall be incorporated into the minutes. Any such memorandum shall become a public record upon filing, shall immediately be provided to the other members of the agency, and shall be read publicly at the next meeting held subsequent to the filing of this written memorandum.

(b) In the event that disclosure has not been made prior to the meeting or that any conflict is unknown prior to the meeting, the disclosure shall be made orally at the meeting when it becomes known that a conflict exists. A written memorandum disclosing the nature of the conflict shall then be filed within 15 days after the oral disclosure with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting and shall be incorporated into the minutes of the meeting at which the oral disclosure was made. Any such memorandum shall become a public record upon filing, shall immediately be provided to the other members of the agency, and shall be read publicly at the next meeting held subsequent to the filing of this written memorandum.

(c) For purposes of this subsection, the term "participate" means any attempt to influence the decision by oral or written communication, whether made by the officer or at the officer's direction.

(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.

(6) Whenever a public officer or former public officer is being considered for appointment or reappointment to public office, the appointing body shall consider the number and nature of the memoranda of conflict previously filed under this section by said officer.

History.—s. 6, ch. 75-208; s. 2, ch. 84-318; s. 1, ch. 84-357; s. 2, ch. 86-148; s. 5, ch. 91-85; s. 3, ch. 94-277; s. 1408, ch. 95-147; s. 43, ch. 99-2; s. 6, ch. 2013-36.

112.3144 Full and public disclosure of financial interests.—

(1) An officer who is required by s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution to file a full and public disclosure of his or her financial interests for any calendar or fiscal year shall file that disclosure with the Florida Commission on Ethics. Additionally, beginning January 1, 2015, an officer who is required to complete annual ethics training pursuant to s. 112.3142 must certify on his or her full and public disclosure of financial interests that he or she has completed the required training.

(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. If an incumbent in an elective office has filed the full and public disclosure of financial interests to qualify for election to the same office or if a candidate for office holds another office subject to the annual filing requirement, 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 of financial interests has been filed pursuant to this section shall file a copy of his or her disclosure with the officer before whom he or she qualifies.

(3) For purposes of full and public disclosure under s. 8(a), Art. II of the State Constitution, the following items, if not held for investment purposes and if valued at over $1,000 in the aggregate, may be reported in a lump sum and identified as "household goods and personal effects":

(a) Jewelry;

(b) Collections of stamps, guns, and numismatic properties;

(c) Art objects;

(d) Household equipment and furnishings;

(e) Clothing;

(f) Other household items; and

(g) Vehicles for personal use.

(4)(a) With respect to reporting, on forms prescribed under this section, assets valued in excess of $1,000 which the reporting individual holds jointly with another person, the amount reported shall be based on the reporting individual's legal percentage of ownership in the property. However, assets that are held jointly, with right of survivorship, must be reported at 100 percent of the value of the asset. For purposes of this subsection, a reporting individual is deemed to own a percentage of a partnership which is equal to the reporting individual's interest in the capital or equity of the partnership.

(b)1. With respect to reporting liabilities valued in excess of $1,000 on forms prescribed under this section for which the reporting individual is jointly and severally liable, the amount reported shall be based on the reporting individual's percentage of liability rather than the total amount of the liability. However, liability for a debt that is secured by property owned by the reporting individual but that is held jointly, with right of survivorship, must be reported at 100 percent of the total amount owed.

2. A separate section of the form shall be created to provide for the reporting of the amounts of joint and several liability of the reporting individual not otherwise reported in subparagraph 1.

(5) Forms for compliance with the full and public disclosure requirements of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution shall be created by the Commission on Ethics. The commission shall give notice of disclosure deadlines and delinquencies and distribute forms in the following manner:

(a) Not later than May 1 of each year, the commission shall prepare a current list of the names and addresses of and the offices held by every person required to file full and public disclosure annually by s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, or other state law. In compiling the list, the commission shall be assisted by each unit of government in providing at the request of the commission the name, address, and name of the office held by each public official within the respective unit of government.

(b) Not later than 30 days before July 1 of each year, the commission shall mail a copy of the form prescribed for compliance with full and public disclosure and a notice of the filing deadline to each person on the mailing list.

(c) Not later than 30 days after July 1 of each year, the commission shall determine which persons on the mailing list have failed to file full and public disclosure and shall send delinquency notices by certified mail to such persons. Each notice shall state that a grace period is in effect until September 1 of the current year.

(d) Statements must be filed not later than 5 p.m. of the due date. However, any statement that is postmarked by the United States Postal Service by midnight of the due date is deemed to have been filed in a timely manner, and a certificate of mailing obtained from and dated by the United States Postal Service at the time of the mailing, or a receipt from an established courier company which bears a date on or before the due date, constitutes proof of mailing in a timely manner.

(e) Any person who is required to file full and public disclosure of financial interests and whose name is on the commission's mailing list but who fails to timely file is assessed a fine of $25 per day for each day late up to a maximum of $1,500; however this $1,500 limitation on automatic fines does not limit the civil penalty that may be imposed if the statement is filed more than 60 days after the deadline and a complaint is filed, as provided in s. 112.324. The commission must provide by rule the grounds for waiving the fine and the procedures by which each person whose name is on the mailing list and who is determined to have not filed in a timely manner will be notified of assessed fines and may appeal. The rule must provide for and make specific the following:

1. The amount of the fine due is based upon the earliest of the following:

a. When a statement is actually received by the office.

b. When the statement is postmarked.

c. When the certificate of mailing is dated.

d. When the receipt from an established courier company is dated.

2. Upon receipt of the disclosure statement or upon accrual of the maximum penalty, whichever occurs first, the commission shall determine the amount of the fine which is due and shall notify the delinquent person. The notice must include an explanation of the appeal procedure under subparagraph 3. Such fine must be paid within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted, unless appeal is made to the commission pursuant to subparagraph 3. The moneys shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

3. Any reporting person may appeal or dispute a fine, based upon unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on the designated due date, and may request and is entitled to a hearing before the commission, which may waive the fine in whole or in part for good cause shown. Any such request must be made within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted. In such a case, the reporting person must, within the 30-day period, notify the person designated to review the timeliness of reports in writing of his or her intention to bring the matter before the commission.

(f) Any person subject to the annual filing of full and public disclosure under s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, or other state law, whose name is not on the commission's mailing list of persons required to file full and public disclosure is not subject to the fines or penalties provided in this part for failure to file full and public disclosure in any year in which the omission occurred, but nevertheless is required to file the disclosure statement.

(g) The notification requirements and fines of this subsection do not apply to candidates or to the first filing required of any person appointed to elective constitutional office or other position required to file full and public disclosure, unless the person's name is on the commission's notification list and the person received notification from the commission. The appointing official shall notify such newly appointed person of the obligation to file full and public disclosure by July 1. The notification requirements and fines of this subsection do not apply to the final filing provided for in subsection (7).

(h) Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 120, any fine imposed under this subsection which is not waived by final order of the commission and which remains unpaid more than 60 days after the notice of payment due or more than 60 days after the commission renders a final order on the appeal must be submitted to the Department of Financial Services as a claim, debt, or other obligation owed to the state, and the department shall assign the collection of such fine to a collection agent as provided in s. 17.20.

(6) If a person holding public office or public employment fails or refuses to file a full and public disclosure of financial interests for any year in which the person received notice from the commission regarding the failure to file and has accrued the maximum automatic fine authorized under this section, regardless of whether the fine imposed was paid or collected, the commission shall initiate an investigation and conduct a public hearing without receipt of a complaint to determine whether the person's failure to file is willful. Such investigation and hearing must be conducted in accordance with s. 112.324. Except as provided in s. 112.324(4), if the commission determines that the person willfully failed to file a full and public disclosure of financial interests, the commission shall enter an order recommending that the officer or employee be removed from his or her public office or public employment.

(7) Each person required to file full and public disclosure of financial interests shall file a final disclosure statement within 60 days after leaving his or her public position for the period between January 1 of the year in which the person leaves and the last day of office or employment, unless within the 60-day period the person takes another public position requiring financial disclosure under s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, or is otherwise required to file full and public disclosure for the final disclosure period. The head of the agency of each person required to file full and public disclosure for the final disclosure period shall notify such persons of their

obligation to file the final disclosure and may designate a person to be responsible for the notification requirements of this subsection.

(8)(a) The commission shall treat an amended full and public disclosure of financial interests which is filed before September 1 of the year in which the disclosure is due as the original filing, regardless of whether a complaint has been filed. If a complaint alleges only 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. However, failure to certify completion of annual ethics training required under s. 112.3142 does not constitute an immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis error or omission.

(9)(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.

(10) The commission shall adopt rules and forms specifying how a person who is required to file full and public disclosure of financial interests may amend his or her disclosure statement to report information that was not included on the form as originally filed. If the amendment is the subject of a complaint filed under this part, the commission and the proper disciplinary official or body shall consider as a mitigating factor when considering appropriate disciplinary action the fact that the amendment was filed before any complaint or other inquiry or proceeding, while recognizing that the public was deprived of access to information to which it was entitled.

History.—s. 1, ch. 82-98; s. 3, ch. 88-358; s. 19, ch. 91-45; s. 4, ch. 94-277; s. 1409, ch. 95-147; s. 2, ch. 2000-243; s. 30, ch. 2000-258; s. 127, ch. 2003-261; s. 3, ch. 2006-275; s. 7, ch. 2013-36; s. 3, ch. 2014-183.

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.

History.—s. 8, ch. 2013-36.

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. A community college or junior college district board of trustees;

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

d. 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. 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. 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.

(c) "State officer" means:

1. Any elected public officer, excluding those elected to the United States Senate and House of Representatives, not covered elsewhere in this part and any person who is appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term in such an elective office.

2. An appointed member of each board, commission, authority, or council having statewide jurisdiction, excluding a member of an advisory body.

3. A member of the Board of Governors of the State University System or a state university board of trustees, the Chancellor and Vice Chancellors of the State University System, and the president of a state university.

4. A member of the judicial nominating commission for any district court of appeal or any judicial circuit.

(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.

(b) Each state or local officer and each specified state employee shall file a statement of financial interests no later than July 1 of each year. Each state officer, local officer, and specified state employee shall file a final statement of financial interests within 60 days after leaving his or her public position for the period between January 1 of the year in which the person leaves and the last day of office or employment, unless within the 60-day period the person takes another public position requiring financial disclosure under this section or s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or otherwise is required to file full and public disclosure or a statement of financial interests for the final disclosure period. Each state or local officer who is appointed and each specified state employee who is employed shall file a statement of financial interests within 30 days from the date of appointment or, in the case of a specified state employee, from the date on which the employment begins, except that any person whose appointment is subject to confirmation by the Senate shall file prior to confirmation hearings or within 30 days from the date of appointment, whichever comes first.

(c) State officers and specified state employees shall file their statements of financial interests with the Commission on Ethics. Local officers shall file their statements of financial interests with the supervisor of elections of the county in which they permanently reside. Local officers who do not permanently reside in any county in the state shall file their statements of financial interests with the supervisor of elections of the county in which their agency maintains its headquarters. Persons seeking to qualify as candidates for local public office shall file their statements of financial interests with the officer before whom they qualify.

(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).

(4) Beginning January 1, 2015, an officer who is required to complete annual ethics training pursuant to s. 112.3142 must certify on his or her statement of financial interests that he or she has completed the required training.

(5) Each elected constitutional officer, state officer, local officer, and specified state employee shall file a quarterly report of the names of clients represented for a fee or commission, except for appearances in ministerial matters, before agencies at his or her level of government. For the purposes of this part, agencies of government shall be classified as state-level agencies or agencies below state level. Each local officer shall file such report with the supervisor of elections of the county in which the officer is principally employed or is a resident. Each state officer, elected constitutional officer, and specified state employee shall file such report with the commission. The report shall be filed only when a reportable representation is made during the calendar quarter and shall be filed no later than the last day of each calendar quarter, for the previous calendar quarter. Representation before any agency shall be deemed to include representation by such officer or specified state employee or by any partner or associate of the professional firm of which he or she is a member and of which he or she has actual knowledge. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "representation before any agency" does not include appearances before any court or the Deputy Chief Judge of Compensation Claims or judges of compensation claims or representations on behalf of one's agency in one's official capacity. Such term does not include the preparation and filing of forms and applications merely for the purpose of obtaining or transferring a license based on a quota or a franchise of such agency or a license or operation permit to engage in a profession, business, or occupation, so long as the issuance or granting of such license, permit, or transfer does not require substantial discretion, a variance, a special consideration, or a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

(6) Each elected constitutional officer and each candidate for such office, any other public officer required pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution to file a full and public disclosure of his or her financial interests, and each state officer, local officer, specified state employee, and candidate for elective public office who is or was during the disclosure period an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or agent, other than a resident agent solely for service of process, of, or owns or owned during the disclosure period a material interest in, any business entity which is granted a privilege to operate in this state shall disclose such facts as a part of the disclosure form filed pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or this section, as applicable. The statement shall give the name, address, and principal business activity of the business entity and shall state the position held with such business entity or the fact that a material interest is owned and the nature of that interest.

(7) Forms for compliance with the disclosure requirements of this section and a current list of persons subject to disclosure shall be created by the commission and provided to each supervisor of elections. The commission and each supervisor of elections shall give notice of disclosure deadlines and delinquencies and distribute forms in the following manner:

(a)1. Not later than May 1 of each year, the commission shall prepare a current list of the names and

addresses of, and the offices or positions held by, every state officer, local officer, and specified employee. In compiling the list, the commission shall be assisted by each unit of government in providing, at the request of the commission, the name, address, and name of agency of, and the office or position held by, each state officer, local officer, or specified state employee within the respective unit of government.

2. Not later than May 15 of each year, the commission shall provide each supervisor of elections with a current mailing list of all local officers required to file with such supervisor of elections.

(b) Not later than 30 days before July 1 of each year, the commission and each supervisor of elections, as appropriate, shall mail a copy of the form prescribed for compliance with subsection (3) and a notice of all applicable disclosure forms and filing deadlines to each person required to file a statement of financial interests.

(c) Not later than 30 days after July 1 of each year, the commission and each supervisor of elections shall determine which persons required to file a statement of financial interests in their respective offices have failed to do so and shall send delinquency notices by certified mail, return receipt requested, to these persons. Each notice shall state that a grace period is in effect until September 1 of the current year; that no investigative or disciplinary action based upon the delinquency will be taken by the agency head or commission if the statement is filed by September 1 of the current year; that, if the statement is not filed by September 1 of the current year, a fine of $25 for each day late will be imposed, up to a maximum penalty of $1,500; for notices sent by a supervisor of elections, that he or she is required by law to notify the commission of the delinquency; and that, if upon the filing of a sworn complaint the commission finds that the person has failed to timely file the statement within 60 days after September 1 of the current year, such person will also be subject to the penalties provided in s. 112.317.

(d) No later than November 15 of each year, the supervisor of elections in each county shall certify to the commission a list of the names and addresses of, and the offices or positions held by, all persons who have failed to timely file the required statements of financial interests. The certification must include the earliest of the dates described in subparagraph (f)1. The certification shall be on a form prescribed by the commission and shall indicate whether the supervisor of elections has provided the disclosure forms and notice as required by this subsection to all persons named on the delinquency list.

(e) Statements must be filed not later than 5 p.m. of the due date. However, any statement that is postmarked by the United States Postal Service by midnight of the due date is deemed to have been filed in a timely manner, and a certificate of mailing obtained from and dated by the United States Postal Service at the time of the mailing, or a receipt from an established courier company which bears a date on or before the due date, constitutes proof of mailing in a timely manner.

(f) Any person who is required to file a statement of financial interests and whose name is on the commission's mailing list but who fails to timely file is assessed a fine of $25 per day for each day late up to a maximum of $1,500; however, this $1,500 limitation on automatic fines does not limit the civil penalty that may be imposed if the statement is filed more than 60 days after the deadline and a complaint is filed, as provided in s. 112.324. The commission must provide by rule the grounds for waiving the fine and procedures by which each person whose name is on the mailing list and who is determined to have not filed in a timely manner will be notified of assessed fines and may appeal. The rule must provide for and make specific the following:

1. The amount of the fine due is based upon the earliest of the following:

a. When a statement is actually received by the office.

b. When the statement is postmarked.

c. When the certificate of mailing is dated.

d. When the receipt from an established courier company is dated.

2. For a specified state employee or a state officer, upon receipt of the disclosure statement by the commission or upon accrual of the maximum penalty, whichever occurs first, and for a local officer upon receipt

by the commission of the certification from the local officer's supervisor of elections pursuant to paragraph (d), the commission shall determine the amount of the fine which is due and shall notify the delinquent person. The notice must include an explanation of the appeal procedure under subparagraph 3. The fine must be paid within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted, unless appeal is made to the commission pursuant to subparagraph 3. The moneys are to be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

3. Any reporting person may appeal or dispute a fine, based upon unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on the designated due date, and may request and is entitled to a hearing before the commission, which may waive the fine in whole or in part for good cause shown. Any such request must be made within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted. In such a case, the reporting person must, within the 30-day period, notify the person designated to review the timeliness of reports in writing of his or her intention to bring the matter before the commission.

(g) Any state officer, local officer, or specified employee whose name is not on the mailing list of persons required to file an annual statement of financial interests is not subject to the penalties provided in s. 112.317 or the fine provided in this section for failure to timely file a statement of financial interests in any year in which the omission occurred, but nevertheless is required to file the disclosure statement.

(h) The notification requirements and fines of this subsection do not apply to candidates or to the first or final filing required of any state officer, specified employee, or local officer as provided in paragraph (2)(b).

(i) Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 120, any fine imposed under this subsection which is not waived by final order of the commission and which remains unpaid more than 60 days after the notice of payment due or more than 60 days after the commission renders a final order on the appeal must be submitted to the Department of Financial Services as a claim, debt, or other obligation owed to the state, and the department shall assign the collection of such a fine to a collection agent as provided in s. 17.20.

(8)(a) The appointing official or body shall notify each newly appointed local officer, state officer, or specified state employee, not later than the date of appointment, of the officer's or employee's duty to comply with the disclosure requirements of this section. The agency head of each employing agency shall notify each newly employed local officer or specified state employee, not later than the day of employment, of the officer's or employee's duty to comply with the disclosure requirements of this section. The appointing official or body or employing agency head may designate a person to be responsible for the notification requirements of this paragraph.

(b) The agency head of the agency of each local officer, state officer, or specified state employee who is required to file a statement of financial interests for the final disclosure period shall notify such persons of their obligation to file the final disclosure and may designate a person to be responsible for the notification requirements of this paragraph.

(c) If a person holding public office or public employment fails or refuses to file an annual statement of financial interests for any year in which the person received notice from the commission regarding the failure to file and has accrued the maximum automatic fine authorized under this section, regardless of whether the fine imposed was paid or collected, the commission shall initiate an investigation and conduct a public hearing without receipt of a complaint to determine whether the person's failure to file is willful. Such investigation and hearing must be conducted in accordance with s. 112.324. Except as provided in s. 112.324(4), if the commission determines that the person willfully failed to file a statement of financial interests, the commission shall enter an order recommending that the officer or employee be removed from his or her public office or public employment.

(9) A public officer who has filed a disclosure for any calendar or fiscal year shall not be required to file a second disclosure for the same year or any part thereof, notwithstanding any requirement of this act, except that any public officer who qualifies as a candidate for public office shall file a copy of the disclosure with the officer before whom he or she qualifies as a candidate at the time of qualification.

(10)(a) The commission shall treat an amended annual statement of financial interests which is filed before September 1 of the year in which the statement is due as the original filing, regardless of whether a complaint has been filed. If a complaint alleges only 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. However, failure to certify completion of annual ethics training required under s. 112.3142 does not constitute an immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis error or omission.

(11)(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.

(12) The commission shall adopt rules and forms specifying how a state officer, local officer, or specified state employee may amend his or her statement of financial interests to report information that was not included on the form as originally filed. If the amendment is the subject of a complaint filed under this part, the commission and the proper disciplinary official or body shall consider as a mitigating factor when considering appropriate disciplinary action the fact that the amendment was filed before any complaint or other inquiry or proceeding, while recognizing that the public was deprived of access to information to which it was entitled.

History.—s. 5, ch. 74-177; ss. 2, 6, ch. 75-196; s. 2, ch. 76-18; s. 1, ch. 77-174; s. 63, ch. 77-175; s. 54, ch. 79-40; s. 3, ch. 82-98; s. 2, ch. 83-128; ss. 2, 5, ch. 83-282; s. 3, ch. 84-318; s. 1, ch. 88-316; s. 1, ch. 90-169; s. 5, ch. 90-502; s. 27, ch. 91-46; s. 6, ch. 91-85; s. 6, ch. 91-292; ss. 5, 13, ch. 94-277; s. 3, ch. 94-340; s. 1410, ch. 95-147; s. 14, ch. 96-410; s. 31, ch. 97-286; s. 17, ch. 99-399; s. 2, ch. 2000-161; s. 3, ch. 2000-243; s. 31, ch. 2000-258; s. 23, ch. 2000-372; s. 3, ch. 2001-91; s. 2, ch. 2001-282; s. 128, ch. 2003-261; s. 4, ch. 2006-275; s. 12, ch. 2007-217; s. 7, ch. 2008-6; s. 9, ch. 2013-36; s. 4, ch. 2014-183.

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 [1]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 [1]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.

History.—s. 10, ch. 2013-36.

[1]**Note.**—Redesignated as s. 112.3145(7) by s. 4, ch. 2014-183.

112.3146 Public records.—The statements required by ss. 112.313, 112.3145, 112.3148, and 112.3149 shall be public records within the meaning of s. 119.01.

History.—s. 6, ch. 74-177; s. 6, ch. 90-502; s. 7, ch. 91-85.

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.

History.—s. 7, ch. 74-177; s. 3, ch. 76-18; s. 7, ch. 90-502; s. 8, ch. 91-85; s. 12, ch. 2000-243; s. 5, ch. 2006-275; s. 11, ch. 2013-36.

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

(1) The provisions of this section do not apply to gifts solicited or accepted by a reporting individual or procurement employee from a relative.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) "Immediate family" means any parent, spouse, child, or sibling.

(b)1. "Lobbyist" means any natural person who, for compensation, seeks, or sought during the preceding 12 months, to influence the governmental decisionmaking of a reporting individual or procurement employee or his or her agency or seeks, or sought during the preceding 12 months, to encourage the passage, defeat, or modification of any proposal or recommendation by the reporting individual or procurement employee or his or her agency.

2. With respect to an agency that has established by rule, ordinance, or law a registration process for persons seeking to influence decisionmaking or to encourage the passage, defeat, or modification of any proposal or recommendation by such agency or an employee or official of the agency, the term "lobbyist" includes only a person who is required to be registered as a lobbyist in accordance with such rule, ordinance, or law or who was during the preceding 12 months required to be registered as a lobbyist in accordance with such rule, ordinance, or law. At a minimum, such a registration system must require the registration of, or must designate, persons as "lobbyists" who engage in the same activities as require registration to lobby the Legislature pursuant to s. 11.045.

(c) "Person" includes individuals, firms, associations, joint ventures, partnerships, estates, trusts, business trusts, syndicates, fiduciaries, corporations, and all other groups or combinations.

(d) "Reporting individual" means any individual, including a candidate upon qualifying, who is required by law, pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3145, to file full or limited public disclosure of his or her financial interests or any individual who has been elected to, but has yet to officially assume the responsibilities of, public office. For purposes of implementing this section, the "agency" of a reporting individual who is not an officer or employee in public service is the agency to which the candidate seeks election, or in the case of an individual elected to but yet to formally take office, the agency in which the individual has been elected to serve.

(e) "Procurement employee" means any employee of an officer, department, board, commission, council, or agency of the executive branch or judicial branch of state government who has participated in the preceding 12 months 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 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 as defined in s. 106.011, or 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 as defined in s. 106.011, or 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 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.

(6)(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (5), an entity of the legislative or judicial branch, a department or commission of the executive branch, a water management district created pursuant to s. 373.069, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, a county, a municipality, an airport authority, or a school board may give, either directly or indirectly, a gift having a value in excess of $100 to any reporting individual or procurement employee if a public purpose can be shown for the gift; and a direct-support organization specifically authorized by law to support a governmental entity may give such a gift to a reporting individual or procurement employee who is an officer or employee of such governmental entity.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (4), a reporting individual or procurement employee may accept a gift having a value in excess of $100 from an entity of the legislative or judicial branch, a department or commission of the executive branch, a water management district created pursuant to s. 373.069, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, a county, a municipality, an airport authority, or a school board if a public purpose can be shown for the gift; and a reporting individual or procurement employee who is an officer or employee of a governmental entity supported by a direct-support organization specifically authorized by law to support such governmental entity may accept such a gift from such direct-support organization.

(c) No later than March 1 of each year, each governmental entity or direct-support organization specifically authorized by law to support a governmental entity which has given a gift to a reporting individual or procurement employee under paragraph (a) shall provide the reporting individual or procurement employee with a statement of each gift having a value in excess of $100 given to such reporting individual or procurement employee by the governmental entity or direct-support organization during the preceding calendar year. Such report shall contain a description of each gift, the date on which the gift was given, and the value of the total gifts given by the governmental entity or direct-support organization to the reporting individual or procurement employee during the calendar year for which the report is made. A governmental entity may provide a single report to the reporting individual or procurement employee of gifts provided by the governmental entity and any direct-support organization specifically authorized by law to support such governmental entity.

(d) No later than July 1 of each year, each reporting individual or procurement employee shall file a statement listing each gift having a value in excess of $100 received by the reporting individual or procurement employee, either directly or indirectly, from a governmental entity or a direct-support organization specifically authorized by law to support a governmental entity. The statement shall list the name of the person providing the gift, a description of the gift, the date or dates on which the gift was given, and the value of the total gifts given

during the calendar year for which the report is made. The reporting individual or procurement employee shall attach to the statement any report received by him or her in accordance with paragraph (c), which report shall become a public record when filed with the statement of the reporting individual or procurement employee. The reporting individual or procurement employee may explain any differences between the report of the reporting individual or procurement employee and the attached reports. The annual report filed by a reporting individual shall be filed with the financial disclosure statement required by either s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3145, as applicable to the reporting individual. The annual report filed by a procurement employee shall be filed with the Commission on Ethics. The report filed by a reporting individual or procurement employee who left office or employment during the calendar year covered by the report shall be filed by July 1 of the year after leaving office or employment at the same location as his or her final financial disclosure statement or, in the case of a former procurement employee, with the Commission on Ethics.

(7)(a) The value of a gift provided to a reporting individual or procurement employee shall be determined using actual cost to the donor, less taxes and gratuities, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, and, with respect to personal services provided by the donor, the reasonable and customary charge regularly charged for such service in the community in which the service is provided shall be used. If additional expenses are required as a condition precedent to eligibility of the donor to purchase or provide a gift and such expenses are primarily for the benefit of the donor or are of a charitable nature, such expenses shall not be included in determining the value of the gift.

(b) Compensation provided by the donee to the donor, if provided within 90 days after receipt of the gift, shall be deducted from the value of the gift in determining the value of the gift.

(c) If the actual gift value attributable to individual participants at an event cannot be determined, the total costs shall be prorated among all invited persons, whether or not they are reporting individuals or procurement employees.

(d) Transportation shall be valued on a round-trip basis unless only one-way transportation is provided. Round-trip transportation expenses shall be considered a single gift. Transportation provided in a private conveyance shall be given the same value as transportation provided in a comparable commercial conveyance.

(e) Lodging provided on consecutive days shall be considered a single gift. Lodging in a private residence shall be valued at the per diem rate provided in s. 112.061(6)(a)1. less the meal allowance rate provided in s. 112.061(6)(b).

(f) Food and beverages which are not consumed at a single sitting or meal and which are provided on the same calendar day shall be considered a single gift, and the total value of all food and beverages provided on that date shall be considered the value of the gift. Food and beverage consumed at a single sitting or meal shall be considered a single gift, and the value of the food and beverage provided at that sitting or meal shall be considered the value of the gift.

(g) Membership dues paid to the same organization during any 12-month period shall be considered a single gift.

(h) Entrance fees, admission fees, or tickets shall be valued on the face value of the ticket or fee, or on a daily or per event basis, whichever is greater.

(i) Except as otherwise specified in this section, a gift shall be valued on a per occurrence basis.

(j) The value of a gift provided to several individuals may be attributed on a pro rata basis among all of the individuals. If the gift is food, beverage, entertainment, or similar items, provided at a function for more than 10 people, the value of the gift to each individual shall be the total value of the items provided divided by the number of persons invited to the function, unless the items are purchased on a per person basis, in which case the value of the gift to each person is the per person cost.

(k) The value of a gift of an admission ticket shall not include that portion of the cost which represents a

charitable contribution, if the gift is provided by the charitable organization.

(8)(a) Each reporting individual or procurement employee shall file a statement with the Commission on Ethics not later than the last day of each calendar quarter, for the previous calendar quarter, containing a list of gifts which he or she believes to be in excess of $100 in value, if any, accepted by him or her, for which compensation was not provided by the donee to the donor within 90 days of receipt of the gift to reduce the value to $100 or less, except the following:

1. Gifts from relatives.
2. Gifts prohibited by subsection (4) or s. 112.313(4).
3. Gifts otherwise required to be disclosed by this section.

(b) The statement shall include:

1. A description of the gift, the monetary value of the gift, the name and address of the person making the gift, and the dates thereof. If any of these facts, other than the gift description, are unknown or not applicable, the report shall so state.

2. A copy of any receipt for such gift provided to the reporting individual or procurement employee by the donor.

(c) The statement may include an explanation of any differences between the reporting individual's or procurement employee's statement and the receipt provided by the donor.

(d) The reporting individual's or procurement employee's statement shall be sworn to by such person as being a true, accurate, and total listing of all such gifts.

(e) Statements must be filed not later than 5 p.m. of the due date. However, any statement that is postmarked by the United States Postal Service by midnight of the due date is deemed to have been filed in a timely manner, and a certificate of mailing obtained from and dated by the United States Postal Service at the time of the mailing, or a receipt from an established courier company, which bears a date on or before the due date constitutes proof of mailing in a timely manner.

(f) If a reporting individual or procurement employee has not received any gifts described in paragraph (a) during a calendar quarter, he or she is not required to file a statement under this subsection for that calendar quarter.

(9) A person, other than a lobbyist regulated under s. 11.045, who violates the provisions of subsection (5) commits a noncriminal infraction, punishable by a fine of not more than $5,000 and by a prohibition on lobbying, or employing a lobbyist to lobby, before the agency of the reporting individual or procurement employee to which the gift was given in violation of subsection (5), for a period of not more than 24 months. The state attorney, or an agency, if otherwise authorized, may initiate an action to impose or recover a fine authorized under this section or to impose or enforce a limitation on lobbying provided in this section.

(10) A member of the Legislature may request an advisory opinion from the general counsel of the house of which he or she is a member as to the application of this section to a specific situation. The general counsel shall issue the opinion within 10 days after receiving the request. The member of the Legislature may reasonably rely on such opinion.

History.—s. 2, ch. 89-380; s. 8, ch. 90-502; s. 9, ch. 91-85; s. 7, ch. 91-292; s. 6, ch. 94-277; s. 1411, ch. 95-147; s. 2, ch. 96-328; s. 8, ch. 98-136; s. 4, ch. 2000-243; s. 32, ch. 2000-258; s. 8, ch. 2003-159; s. 6, ch. 2006-275; s. 4, ch. 2012-51; s. 12, ch. 2013-36; s. 29, ch. 2013-37; s. 3, ch. 2013-235.

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.

History.—s. 13, ch. 2013-36.

112.3149 Solicitation and disclosure of honoraria.—

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Honorarium" means a payment of money or anything of value, directly or indirectly, to a reporting individual or procurement employee, or to any other person on his or her behalf, as consideration for:

1. A speech, address, oration, or other oral presentation by the reporting individual or procurement employee, regardless of whether presented in person, recorded, or broadcast over the media.

2. A writing by the reporting individual or procurement employee, other than a book, which has been or is intended to be published.

The term "honorarium" does not include the payment for services related to employment held outside the reporting individual's or procurement employee's public position which resulted in the person becoming a reporting individual or procurement employee, any ordinary payment or salary received in consideration for services related to the reporting individual's or procurement employee's public duties, a campaign contribution reported pursuant to chapter 106, or the payment or provision of actual and reasonable transportation, lodging, and food and beverage expenses related to the honorarium event, including any event or meeting registration fee, for a reporting individual or procurement employee and spouse.

(b) "Person" includes individuals, firms, associations, joint ventures, partnerships, estates, trusts, business trusts, syndicates, fiduciaries, corporations, and all other groups or combinations.

(c) "Reporting individual" means any individual who is required by law, pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3145, to file a full or limited public disclosure of his or her financial interests.

(d)1. "Lobbyist" means any natural person who, for compensation, seeks, or sought during the preceding 12 months, to influence the governmental decisionmaking of a reporting individual or procurement employee or his or her agency or seeks, or sought during the preceding 12 months, to encourage the passage, defeat, or modification of any proposal or recommendation by the reporting individual or procurement employee or his or her agency.

2. With respect to an agency that has established by rule, ordinance, or law a registration process for persons seeking to influence decisionmaking or to encourage the passage, defeat, or modification of any proposal or recommendation by such agency or an employee or official of the agency, the term "lobbyist" includes only a person who is required to be registered as a lobbyist in accordance with such rule, ordinance, or law or who was during the preceding 12 months required to be registered as a lobbyist in accordance with such rule, ordinance, or law. At a minimum, such a registration system must require the registration of, or must designate, persons as "lobbyists" who engage in the same activities as require registration to lobby the Legislature pursuant to s. 11.045.

(e) "Procurement employee" means any employee of an officer, department, board, commission, council, or agency of the executive branch or judicial branch of state government who has participated in the preceding 12

months 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 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.

(2) A reporting individual or procurement employee is prohibited from soliciting an honorarium which is related to the reporting individual's or procurement employee's public office or duties.

(3) A reporting individual or procurement employee is prohibited from knowingly accepting an honorarium from a political committee, 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, 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.

(5) A person who is prohibited by subsection (4) from paying an honorarium to a reporting individual or procurement employee, but who provides a reporting individual or procurement employee, or a reporting individual or procurement employee and his or her spouse, with expenses related to an honorarium event, shall provide to the reporting individual or procurement employee, no later than 60 days after the honorarium event, a statement listing the name and address of the person providing the expenses, a description of the expenses provided each day, and the total value of the expenses provided for the honorarium event.

(6) A reporting individual or procurement employee who receives payment or provision of expenses related to any honorarium event from a person who is prohibited by subsection (4) from paying an honorarium to a reporting individual or procurement employee shall publicly disclose on an annual statement the name, address, and affiliation of the person paying or providing the expenses; the amount of the honorarium expenses; the date of the honorarium event; a description of the expenses paid or provided on each day of the honorarium event; and the total value of the expenses provided to the reporting individual or procurement employee in connection with the honorarium event. The annual statement of honorarium expenses shall be filed by July 1 of each year for those expenses received during the previous calendar year. The reporting individual or procurement employee shall attach to the annual statement a copy of each statement received by him or her in accordance with subsection (5) regarding honorarium expenses paid or provided during the calendar year for which the annual statement is filed. The attached statement shall become a public record upon the filing of the annual report. The annual statement of a reporting individual shall be filed with the financial disclosure statement required by either s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3145, as applicable to the reporting individual. The annual statement of a procurement employee shall be filed with the Commission on Ethics. The statement filed by a reporting individual or procurement employee who left office or employment during the calendar year covered by the statement shall be filed by July 1 of the year after leaving office or employment at the same location as his or her final financial disclosure statement or, in the case of a former procurement employee, with the Commission on Ethics.

(7) A person, other than a lobbyist regulated under s. 11.045, who violates the provisions of subsection (4) commits a noncriminal infraction, punishable by a fine of not more than $5,000 and by a prohibition on lobbying, or employing a lobbyist to lobby, before the agency of the reporting individual or procurement employee to whom the honorarium was paid in violation of subsection (4), for a period of not more than 24 months. The state attorney, or an agency, if otherwise authorized, may initiate an action to impose or recover a fine authorized

under this section or to impose or enforce a limitation on lobbying provided in this section.

(8) A member of the Legislature may request an advisory opinion from the general counsel of the house of which he or she is a member as to the application of this section to a specific situation. The general counsel shall issue the opinion within 10 days after receiving the request. The member of the Legislature may reasonably rely on such opinion.

History.—s. 9, ch. 90-502; s. 7, ch. 94-277; s. 1412, ch. 95-147; s. 5, ch. 2000-243; s. 33, ch. 2000-258; s. 7, ch. 2006-275; s. 14, ch. 2013-36; s. 30, ch. 2013-37.

112.3151 Extensions of time for filing disclosure.—The Commission on Ethics may grant, for good cause, on an individual basis, an extension of time for filing of any disclosure required under the provisions of this part or s. 8(a), Art. II of the State Constitution. However, no extension may extend the filing deadline to a date within 20 days before a primary election. The commission may delegate to its chair the authority to grant any extension of time which the commission itself may grant under this section; however, no extension of time granted by the chair may exceed 45 days. Extensions of time granted under this section shall be exempt from the provisions of chapter 120.

History.—s. 4, ch. 83-282; s. 700, ch. 95-147.

112.316 Construction.—It is not the intent of this part, nor shall it be construed, to prevent any officer or employee of a state agency or county, city, or other political subdivision of the state or any legislator or legislative employee from accepting other employment or following any pursuit which does not interfere with the full and faithful discharge by such officer, employee, legislator, or legislative employee of his or her duties to the state or the county, city, or other political subdivision of the state involved.

History.—s. 6, ch. 67-469; s. 2, ch. 69-335; s. 701, ch. 95-147.

112.317 Penalties.—

(1) Any violation of this part, including, but not limited to, failure to file disclosures required by this part or violation of any standard of conduct imposed by this part, or any violation of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, in addition to any criminal penalty or other civil penalty involved, under applicable constitutional and statutory procedures, constitutes 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 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 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 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 this part or 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 fees incurred in the defense of the person complained against, including the costs and reasonable attorney 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.

History.—s. 7, ch. 67-469; s. 1, ch. 70-144; s. 2, ch. 74-176; s. 8, ch. 74-177; s. 2, ch. 75-199; s. 7, ch. 75-208; s. 5, ch. 82-98; s. 10, ch. 90-502; s. 10, ch. 91-85; s. 8, ch. 94-277; s. 1413, ch. 95-147; s. 1, ch. 95-354; s. 13, ch. 2000-151; s. 8, ch. 2006-275; s. 2, ch. 2009-126; s. 15, ch. 2013-36.

112.3173 Felonies involving breach of public trust and other specified offenses by public officers and employees; forfeiture of retirement benefits.—

(1) INTENT.—It is the intent of the Legislature to implement the provisions of s. 8(d), Art. II of the State Constitution.

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

(a) "Conviction" and "convicted" mean an adjudication of guilt by a court of competent jurisdiction; a plea of guilty or of nolo contendere; a jury verdict of guilty when adjudication of guilt is withheld and the accused is placed on probation; or a conviction by the Senate of an impeachable offense.

(b) "Court" means any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction which is exercising its jurisdiction to consider a proceeding involving the alleged commission of a specified offense.

(c) "Public officer or employee" means an officer or employee of any public body, political subdivision, or public instrumentality within the state.

(d) "Public retirement system" means any retirement system or plan to which the provisions of part VII of this chapter apply.

(e) "Specified offense" means:

1. The committing, aiding, or abetting of an embezzlement of public funds;
2. The committing, aiding, or abetting of any theft by a public officer or employee from his or her employer;
3. Bribery in connection with the employment of a public officer or employee;
4. Any felony specified in chapter 838, except ss. 838.15 and 838.16;
5. The committing of an impeachable offense;
6. The committing of any felony by a public officer or employee who, willfully and with intent to defraud the public or the public agency for which the public officer or employee acts or in which he or she is employed of the right to receive the faithful performance of his or her duty as a public officer or employee, realizes or obtains, or attempts to realize or obtain, a profit, gain, or advantage for himself or herself or for some other person through the use or attempted use of the power, rights, privileges, duties, or position of his or her public office or employment position; or
7. The committing on or after October 1, 2008, of any felony defined in s. 800.04 against a victim younger than 16 years of age, or any felony defined in chapter 794 against a victim younger than 18 years of age, by a public officer or employee through the use or attempted use of power, rights, privileges, duties, or position of his or her public office or employment position.

(3) FORFEITURE.—Any public officer or employee who is convicted of a specified offense committed prior to retirement, or whose office or employment is terminated by reason of his or her admitted commission, aid, or

abetment of a specified offense, shall forfeit all rights and benefits under any public retirement system of which he or she is a member, except for the return of his or her accumulated contributions as of the date of termination.

(4) NOTICE.—

(a) The clerk of a court in which a proceeding involving a specified offense is being conducted against a public officer or employee shall furnish notice of the proceeding to the Commission on Ethics after the state attorney advises the clerk that the defendant is a public officer or employee and that the defendant is alleged to have committed a specified offense. Such notice is sufficient if it is in the form of a copy of the indictment, information, or other document containing the charges. In addition, if a verdict of guilty is returned by a jury or by the court trying the case without a jury, or a plea of guilty or of nolo contendere is entered in the court by the public officer or employee, the clerk shall furnish a copy thereof to the Commission on Ethics.

(b) The Secretary of the Senate shall furnish to the Commission on Ethics notice of any proceeding of impeachment being conducted by the Senate. In addition, if such trial results in conviction, the Secretary of the Senate shall furnish notice of the conviction to the commission.

(c) The employer of any member whose office or employment is terminated by reason of his or her admitted commission, aid, or abetment of a specified offense shall forward notice thereof to the commission.

(d) The Commission on Ethics shall forward any notice and any other document received by it pursuant to this subsection to the governing body of the public retirement system of which the public officer or employee is a member or from which the public officer or employee may be entitled to receive a benefit. When called on by the Commission on Ethics, the Department of Management Services shall assist the commission in identifying the appropriate public retirement system.

(5) FORFEITURE DETERMINATION.—

(a) Whenever the official or board responsible for paying benefits under a public retirement system receives notice pursuant to subsection (4), or otherwise has reason to believe that the rights and privileges of any person under such system are required to be forfeited under this section, such official or board shall give notice and hold a hearing in accordance with chapter 120 for the purpose of determining whether such rights and privileges are required to be forfeited. If the official or board determines that such rights and privileges are required to be forfeited, the official or board shall order such rights and privileges forfeited.

(b) Any order of forfeiture of retirement system rights and privileges is appealable to the district court of appeal.

(c) The payment of retirement benefits ordered forfeited, except payments drawn from nonemployer contributions to the retiree's account, shall be stayed pending an appeal as to a felony conviction. If such conviction is reversed, no retirement benefits shall be forfeited. If such conviction is affirmed, retirement benefits shall be forfeited as ordered in this section.

(d) If any person's rights and privileges under a public retirement system are forfeited pursuant to this section and that person has received benefits from the system in excess of his or her accumulated contributions, such person shall pay back to the system the amount of the benefits received in excess of his or her accumulated contributions. If he or she fails to pay back such amount, the official or board responsible for paying benefits pursuant to the retirement system or pension plan may bring an action in circuit court to recover such amount, plus court costs.

(6) FORFEITURE NONEXCLUSIVE.—

(a) The forfeiture of retirement rights and privileges pursuant to this section is supplemental to any other forfeiture requirements provided by law.

(b) This section does not preclude or otherwise limit the Commission on Ethics in conducting under authority of other law an independent investigation of a complaint which it may receive against a public officer or

employee involving a specified offense.

History.—s. 14, ch. 84-266; s. 4, ch. 90-301; s. 44, ch. 92-279; s. 55, ch. 92-326; s. 22, ch. 94-249; s. 1414, ch. 95-147; s. 13, ch. 99-255; s. 3, ch. 2008-108; s. 14, ch. 2012-100.

112.3175 Remedies; contracts voidable.—

(1) Any contract that has been executed in violation of this part is voidable:

(a) By any party to the contract.

(b) In any circuit court, by any appropriate action, by:

1. The commission.

2. The Attorney General.

3. Any citizen materially affected by the contract and residing in the jurisdiction represented by the officer or agency entering into such contract.

(2) Any contract that has been executed in violation of this part is presumed void with respect to any former employee or former public official of a state agency and is voidable with respect to any private sector third party who employs or retains in any capacity such former agency employee or former public official.

History.—s. 8, ch. 75-208; s. 2, ch. 2001-266.

112.3185 Additional standards for state agency employees.—

(1) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Contractual services" shall be defined as set forth in chapter 287.

(b) "Agency" means any state officer, department, board, commission, or council of the executive or judicial branch of state government and includes the Public Service Commission.

(2) An agency employee who 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 may not become or be, while an agency employee, the employee of a person contracting with the agency by whom the employee is employed.

(3) An agency employee may not, after retirement or termination, have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business entity other than an agency in connection with any contract in which the agency employee participated personally and substantially through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, rendering of advice, or investigation while an officer or employee. When the agency employee's position is eliminated and his or her duties are performed by the business entity, this subsection does not prohibit him or her from employment or contractual relationship with the business entity if the employee's participation in the contract was limited to recommendation, rendering of advice, or investigation and if the agency head determines that the best interests of the state will be served thereby and provides prior written approval for the particular employee.

(4) An agency employee may not, within 2 years after retirement or termination, have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business entity other than an agency in connection with any contract for contractual services which was within his or her responsibility while an employee. If the agency employee's position is eliminated and his or her duties are performed by the business entity, this subsection may be waived by the agency head through prior written approval for a particular employee if the agency head determines that the best interests of the state will be served thereby.

(5) The sum of money paid to a former agency employee during the first year after the cessation of his or her responsibilities, by the agency with whom he or she was employed, for contractual services provided to the agency, shall not exceed the annual salary received on the date of cessation of his or her responsibilities. This subsection may be waived by the agency head for a particular contract if the agency head determines that such waiver will result in significant time or cost savings for the state.

(6) An agency employee acting in an official capacity may not directly or indirectly procure contractual services for his or her own agency from any business entity of which a relative is an officer, partner, director, or proprietor or in which the officer or employee or his or her spouse or child, or any combination of them, has a material interest.

(7) A violation of any provision of this section is punishable in accordance with s. 112.317.

(8) This section is not applicable to any employee of the Public Service Commission who was so employed on or before December 31, 1994.

History.—s. 6, ch. 82-196; s. 32, ch. 83-217; s. 2, ch. 90-268; s. 11, ch. 90-502; s. 9, ch. 94-277; s. 1415, ch. 95-147; s. 9, ch. 2006-275.

112.3187 Adverse action against employee for disclosing information of specified nature prohibited; employee remedy and relief.—

(1) SHORT TITLE.—Sections 112.3187-112.31895 may be cited as the "Whistle-blower's Act."

(2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—It is the intent of the Legislature to prevent agencies or independent contractors from taking retaliatory action against an employee who reports to an appropriate agency violations of law on the part of a public employer or independent contractor that create a substantial and specific danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare. It is further the intent of the Legislature to prevent agencies or independent contractors from taking retaliatory action against any person who discloses information to an appropriate agency alleging improper use of governmental office, gross waste of funds, or any other abuse or gross neglect of duty on the part of an agency, public officer, or employee.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this act, unless otherwise specified, the following words or terms shall have the meanings indicated:

(a) "Agency" means any state, regional, county, local, or municipal government entity, whether executive, judicial, or legislative; any official, officer, department, division, bureau, commission, authority, or political subdivision therein; or any public school, community college, or state university.

(b) "Employee" means a person who performs services for, and under the control and direction of, or contracts with, an agency or independent contractor for wages or other remuneration.

(c) "Adverse personnel action" means the discharge, suspension, transfer, or demotion of any employee or the withholding of bonuses, the reduction in salary or benefits, or any other adverse action taken against an employee within the terms and conditions of employment by an agency or independent contractor.

(d) "Independent contractor" means a person, other than an agency, engaged in any business and who enters into a contract, including a provider agreement, with an agency.

(e) "Gross mismanagement" means a continuous pattern of managerial abuses, wrongful or arbitrary and capricious actions, or fraudulent or criminal conduct which may have a substantial adverse economic impact.

(4) ACTIONS PROHIBITED.—

(a) An agency or independent contractor shall not dismiss, discipline, or take any other adverse personnel action against an employee for disclosing information pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(b) An agency or independent contractor shall not take any adverse action that affects the rights or interests of a person in retaliation for the person's disclosure of information under this section.

(c) The provisions of this subsection shall not be applicable when an employee or person discloses information known by the employee or person to be false.

(5) NATURE OF INFORMATION DISCLOSED.—The information disclosed under this section must include:

(a) Any violation or suspected violation of any federal, state, or local law, rule, or regulation committed by an employee or agent of an agency or independent contractor which creates and presents a substantial and specific danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare.

(b) Any act or suspected act of gross mismanagement, malfeasance, misfeasance, gross waste of public funds,

suspected or actual Medicaid fraud or abuse, or gross neglect of duty committed by an employee or agent of an agency or independent contractor.

(6) TO WHOM INFORMATION DISCLOSED.—The information disclosed under this section must be disclosed to any agency or federal government entity having the authority to investigate, police, manage, or otherwise remedy the violation or act, including, but not limited to, the Office of the Chief Inspector General, an agency inspector general or the employee designated as agency inspector general under s. 112.3189(1) or inspectors general under s. 20.055, the Florida Commission on Human Relations, and the whistle-blower's hotline created under s. 112.3189. However, for disclosures concerning a local governmental entity, including any regional, county, or municipal entity, special district, community college district, or school district or any political subdivision of any of the foregoing, the information must be disclosed to a chief executive officer as defined in s. 447.203(9) or other appropriate local official.

(7) EMPLOYEES AND PERSONS PROTECTED.—This section protects employees and persons who disclose information on their own initiative in a written and signed complaint; who are requested to participate in an investigation, hearing, or other inquiry conducted by any agency or federal government entity; who refuse to participate in any adverse action prohibited by this section; or who initiate a complaint through the whistle-blower's hotline or the hotline of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Department of Legal Affairs; or employees who file any written complaint to their supervisory officials or employees who submit a complaint to the Chief Inspector General in the Executive Office of the Governor, to the employee designated as agency inspector general under s. 112.3189(1), or to the Florida Commission on Human Relations. The provisions of this section may not be used by a person while he or she is under the care, custody, or control of the state correctional system or, after release from the care, custody, or control of the state correctional system, with respect to circumstances that occurred during any period of incarceration. No remedy or other protection under ss. 112.3187-112.31895 applies to any person who has committed or intentionally participated in committing the violation or suspected violation for which protection under ss. 112.3187-112.31895 is being sought.

(8) REMEDIES.—

(a) Any employee of or applicant for employment with any state agency, as the term "state agency" is defined in s. 216.011, who is discharged, disciplined, or subjected to other adverse personnel action, or denied employment, because he or she engaged in an activity protected by this section may file a complaint, which complaint must be made in accordance with s. 112.31895. Upon receipt of notice from the Florida Commission on Human Relations of termination of the investigation, the complainant may elect to pursue the administrative remedy available under s. 112.31895 or bring a civil action within 180 days after receipt of the notice.

(b) Within 60 days after the action prohibited by this section, any local public employee protected by this section may file a complaint with the appropriate local governmental authority, if that authority has established by ordinance an administrative procedure for handling such complaints or has contracted with the Division of Administrative Hearings under s. 120.65 to conduct hearings under this section. The administrative procedure created by ordinance must provide for the complaint to be heard by a panel of impartial persons appointed by the appropriate local governmental authority. Upon hearing the complaint, the panel must make findings of fact and conclusions of law for a final decision by the local governmental authority. Within 180 days after entry of a final decision by the local governmental authority, the public employee who filed the complaint may bring a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction. If the local governmental authority has not established an administrative procedure by ordinance or contract, a local public employee may, within 180 days after the action prohibited by this section, bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction. For the purpose of this paragraph, the term "local governmental authority" includes any regional, county, or municipal entity, special district, community college district, or school district or any political subdivision of any of the foregoing.

(c) Any other person protected by this section may, after exhausting all available contractual or

administrative remedies, bring a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction within 180 days after the action prohibited by this section.

(9) RELIEF.—In any action brought under this section, the relief must include the following:

(a) Reinstatement of the employee to the same position held before the adverse action was commenced, or to an equivalent position or reasonable front pay as alternative relief.

(b) Reinstatement of the employee's full fringe benefits and seniority rights, as appropriate.

(c) Compensation, if appropriate, for lost wages, benefits, or other lost remuneration caused by the adverse action.

(d) Payment of reasonable costs, including attorney's fees, to a substantially prevailing employee, or to the prevailing employer if the employee filed a frivolous action in bad faith.

(e) Issuance of an injunction, if appropriate, by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(f) Temporary reinstatement to the employee's former position or to an equivalent position, pending the final outcome on the complaint, if an employee complains of being discharged in retaliation for a protected disclosure and if a court of competent jurisdiction or the Florida Commission on Human Relations, as applicable under s. 112.31895, determines that the disclosure was not made in bad faith or for a wrongful purpose or occurred after an agency's initiation of a personnel action against the employee which includes documentation of the employee's violation of a disciplinary standard or performance deficiency. This paragraph does not apply to an employee of a municipality.

(10) DEFENSES.—It shall be an affirmative defense to any action brought pursuant to this section that the adverse action was predicated upon grounds other than, and would have been taken absent, the employee's or person's exercise of rights protected by this section.

(11) EXISTING RIGHTS.—Sections 112.3187-112.31895 do not diminish the rights, privileges, or remedies of an employee under any other law or rule or under any collective bargaining agreement or employment contract; however, the election of remedies in s. 447.401 also applies to whistle-blower actions.

History.—ss. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, ch. 86-233; s. 1, ch. 91-285; s. 12, ch. 92-316; s. 1, ch. 93-57; s. 702, ch. 95-147; s. 1, ch. 95-153; s. 15, ch. 96-410; s. 20, ch. 99-333; s. 2, ch. 2002-400.

[1]112.3188 Confidentiality of information given to the Chief Inspector General, internal auditors, inspectors general, local chief executive officers, or other appropriate local officials.—

(1) The name or identity of any individual who discloses in good faith to the Chief Inspector General or an agency inspector general, a local chief executive officer, or other appropriate local official information that alleges that an employee or agent of an agency or independent contractor:

(a) Has violated or is suspected of having violated any federal, state, or local law, rule, or regulation, thereby creating and presenting a substantial and specific danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare; or

(b) Has committed an act of gross mismanagement, malfeasance, misfeasance, gross waste of public funds, or gross neglect of duty

may not be disclosed to anyone other than a member of the Chief Inspector General's, agency inspector general's, internal auditor's, local chief executive officer's, or other appropriate local official's staff without the written consent of the individual, unless the Chief Inspector General, internal auditor, agency inspector general, local chief executive officer, or other appropriate local official determines that: the disclosure of the individual's identity is necessary to prevent a substantial and specific danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare or to prevent the imminent commission of a crime; or the disclosure is unavoidable and absolutely necessary during the course of the audit, evaluation, or investigation.

(2)(a) Except as specifically authorized by s. 112.3189, all information received by the Chief Inspector General or an agency inspector general or information produced or derived from fact-finding or other

investigations conducted by the Florida Commission on Human Relations or the Department of Law Enforcement is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) if the information is being received or derived from allegations as set forth in paragraph (1)(a) or paragraph (1)(b), and an investigation is active.

(b) All information received by a local chief executive officer or appropriate local official or information produced or derived from fact-finding or investigations conducted pursuant to the administrative procedure established by ordinance by a local government as authorized by s. 112.3187(8)(b) is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, if the information is being received or derived from allegations as set forth in paragraph (1)(a) or paragraph (1)(b) and an investigation is active.

(c) Information deemed confidential under this section may be disclosed by the Chief Inspector General, agency inspector general, local chief executive officer, or other appropriate local official receiving the information if the recipient determines that the disclosure of the information is absolutely necessary to prevent a substantial and specific danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare or to prevent the imminent commission of a crime. Information disclosed under this subsection may be disclosed only to persons who are in a position to prevent the danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare or to prevent the imminent commission of a crime based on the disclosed information.

1. An investigation is active under this section if:

a. It is an ongoing investigation or inquiry or collection of information and evidence and is continuing with a reasonable, good faith anticipation of resolution in the foreseeable future; or

b. All or a portion of the matters under investigation or inquiry are active criminal intelligence information or active criminal investigative information as defined in s. 119.011.

2. Notwithstanding sub-subparagraph 1.a., an investigation ceases to be active when:

a. The written report required under s. 112.3189(9) has been sent by the Chief Inspector General to the recipients named in s. 112.3189(9);

b. It is determined that an investigation is not necessary under s. 112.3189(5); or

c. A final decision has been rendered by the local government or by the Division of Administrative Hearings pursuant to s. 112.3187(8)(b).

3. Notwithstanding paragraphs (a), (b), and this paragraph, information or records received or produced under this section which are otherwise confidential under law or exempt from disclosure under chapter 119 retain their confidentiality or exemption.

4. Any person who willfully and knowingly discloses information or records made confidential under this subsection commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

History.—s. 6, ch. 90-247; s. 1, ch. 91-150; s. 3, ch. 91-285; s. 2, ch. 93-57; s. 1, ch. 95-136; s. 2, ch. 95-153; s. 1, ch. 95-166; ss. 36, 37, ch. 96-406; s. 21, ch. 99-333.

[1] **Note.**—As amended by s. 1, ch. 95-166, s. 2, ch. 95-153, and s. 36, ch. 96-406; this version of paragraph (2)(a) was also amended by s. 21, ch. 99-333. For a description of multiple acts in the same session affecting a statutory provision, seepreface to the *Florido Stotutes*, "Statutory Construction." This section was also amended by s. 1, ch. 95-136, and s. 37, ch. 96-406, and that version reads:

112.3188 Confidentiality of information given to the Chief Inspector General and agency inspectors general.—

(1) The identity of any individual who discloses in good faith to the Chief Inspector General or an agency inspector general information that alleges that an employee or agent of an agency or independent contractor has violated or is suspected of having violated any federal, state, or local law, rule, or regulation, thereby creating and presenting a substantial and specific danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare or has committed or is suspected of having committed an act of gross mismanagement, malfeasance, misfeasance, gross waste of public funds, or gross neglect of duty is exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the 5tate Constitution and shall not be disclosed to anyone other than a member of the Chief Inspector General's or agency inspector general's staff without the written consent of the individual, unless the Chief Inspector General or agency inspector general determines that:

(a) The disclosure of the individual's identity is necessary to prevent a substantial and specific danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare or to prevent the imminent commission of a crime, provided that such information is disclosed only to persons who are in a position to prevent the danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare or to prevent the imminent commission of a crime;

(b) The disclosure of the individual's identity is unavoidable and absolutely necessary during the course of the inquiry or investigation; or

(c) The disclosure of the individual's identity is authorized as a result of the individual consenting in writing to attach general comments signed by such individual to the final report required pursuant to s. 112.3189(6)(b).

(2)(a) Except as specifically authorized by s. 112.3189 and except as provided in subsection (1), all information received by the Chief Inspector General or an agency inspector general or information produced or derived from fact-finding or other investigations conducted by the Department of Legal Affairs, the Office of the Public Counsel, or the Department of Law Enforcement is confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution for an initial period of not more than 30 days during which time a determination is made whether an investigation is required pursuant to s. 112.3189(5)(a) and, if an investigation is determined to be required, until the investigation is closed or ceases to be active. For the purposes of this subsection, an investigation is active while such investigation is being conducted with a reasonable good faith belief that it may lead to the filing of administrative, civil, or criminal charges. An investigation does not cease to be active so long as the Chief Inspector General or the agency inspector general is proceeding with reasonable dispatch and there is a good faith belief that action may be initiated by the Chief Inspector General or agency inspector general or other administrative or law enforcement agency. Except for active criminal intelligence or criminal investigative information as defined in s. 119.011, and except as otherwise provided in this section, all information obtained pursuant to this subsection shall become available to the public when the investigation is closed or ceases to be active. An investigation is closed or ceases to be active when the final report required pursuant to s. 112.3189(9) has been sent by the Chief Inspector General to the recipients specified in s. 112.3189(9)(c).

(b) Information deemed confidential under this subsection may be disclosed by the Chief Inspector General or agency inspector general receiving the information if the Chief Inspector General or agency inspector general determines that the disclosure of the information is absolutely necessary to prevent a substantial and specific danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare or to prevent the imminent commission of a crime, and such information may be disclosed only to persons who are in a position to prevent the danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare or to prevent the imminent commission of a crime based on the disclosed information.

(3) Information or records obtained under this section which are otherwise confidential under law or exempt from disclosure shall retain their confidentiality or exemption.

(4) Any person who willfully and knowingly discloses information or records made confidential under this section commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

112.3189 Investigative procedures upon receipt of whistle-blower information from certain state employees.—

(1) This section only applies to the disclosure of information as described in s. 112.3187(5) by an employee or former employee of, or an applicant for employment with, a state agency, as the term "state agency" is defined in s. 216.011, to the Office of the Chief Inspector General of the Executive Office of the Governor or to the agency inspector general. If an agency does not have an inspector general, the head of the state agency, as defined in s. 216.011, shall designate an employee to receive information described in s. 112.3187(5). For purposes of this section and s. 112.3188 only, the employee designated by the head of the state agency shall be deemed an agency inspector general.

(2) To facilitate the receipt of information described in subsection (1), the Chief Inspector General shall maintain an in-state toll-free whistle-blower's hotline and shall circulate among the various state agencies an advisory for all employees which indicates the existence of the toll-free number and its purpose and provides an address to which written whistle-blower information may be forwarded.

(3) When a person alleges information described in s. 112.3187(5), the Chief Inspector General or agency inspector general actually receiving such information shall within 20 days of receiving such information determine:

(a) Whether the information disclosed is the type of information described in s. 112.3187(5).

(b) Whether the source of the information is a person who is an employee or former employee of, or an applicant for employment with, a state agency, as defined in s. 216.011.

(c) Whether the information actually disclosed demonstrates reasonable cause to suspect that an employee or agent of an agency or independent contractor has violated any federal, state, or local law, rule, or regulation, thereby creating and presenting a substantial and specific danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare, or has committed an act of gross mismanagement, malfeasance, misfeasance, gross waste of public funds, or gross neglect of duty.

(4) If the Chief Inspector General or agency inspector general under subsection (3) determines that the

information disclosed is not the type of information described in s. 112.3187(5), or that the source of the information is not a person who is an employee or former employee of, or an applicant for employment with, a state agency, as defined in s. 216.011, or that the information disclosed does not demonstrate reasonable cause to suspect that an employee or agent of an agency or independent contractor has violated any federal, state, or local law, rule, or regulation, thereby creating and presenting a substantial and specific danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare, or has committed an act of gross mismanagement, malfeasance, misfeasance, gross waste of public funds, or gross neglect of duty, the Chief Inspector General or agency inspector general shall notify the complainant of such fact and copy and return, upon request of the complainant, any documents and other materials that were provided by the complainant.

(5)(a) If the Chief Inspector General or agency inspector general under subsection (3) determines that the information disclosed is the type of information described in s. 112.3187(5), that the source of the information is from a person who is an employee or former employee of, or an applicant for employment with, a state agency, as defined in s. 216.011, and that the information disclosed demonstrates reasonable cause to suspect that an employee or agent of an agency or independent contractor has violated any federal, state, or local law, rule, or regulation, thereby creating a substantial and specific danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare, or has committed an act of gross mismanagement, malfeasance, misfeasance, gross waste of public funds, or gross neglect of duty, the Chief Inspector General or agency inspector general making such determination shall then conduct an investigation, unless the Chief Inspector General or the agency inspector general determines, within 30 days after receiving the allegations from the complainant, that such investigation is unnecessary. For purposes of this subsection, the Chief Inspector General or the agency inspector general shall consider the following factors, but is not limited to only the following factors, when deciding whether the investigation is not necessary:

1. The gravity of the disclosed information compared to the time and expense of an investigation.

2. The potential for an investigation to yield recommendations that will make state government more efficient and effective.

3. The benefit to state government to have a final report on the disclosed information.

4. Whether the alleged whistle-blower information primarily concerns personnel practices that may be investigated under chapter 110.

5. Whether another agency may be conducting an investigation and whether any investigation under this section could be duplicative.

6. The time that has elapsed between the alleged event and the disclosure of the information.

(b) If the Chief Inspector General or agency inspector general determines under paragraph (a) that an investigation is not necessary, the Chief Inspector General or agency inspector general making such determination shall:

1. Copy and return, upon request of the complainant, any documents and other materials provided by the individual who made the disclosure.

2. Inform in writing the head of the state agency for the agency inspector general making the determination that the investigation is not necessary and the individual who made the disclosure of the specific reasons why an investigation is not necessary and why the disclosure will not be further acted on under this section.

(6) The agency inspector general may conduct an investigation pursuant to paragraph (5)(a) only if the person transmitting information to the agency inspector general is an employee or former employee of, or an applicant for employment with, the agency inspector general's agency. The agency inspector general shall:

(a) Conduct an investigation with respect to the information and any related matters.

(b) Submit to the complainant and the Chief Inspector General, within 60 days after the date on which a determination to conduct an investigation is made under paragraph (5)(a), a final written report that sets forth the agency inspector general's findings, conclusions, and recommendations, except as provided under subsection

(11). The complainant shall be advised in writing by the agency head that the complainant may submit to the Chief Inspector General and agency inspector general comments on the final report within 20 days of the date of the report and that such comments will be attached to the final report.

(7) If the Chief Inspector General decides an investigation should be conducted pursuant to paragraph (5)(a), the Chief Inspector General shall either:

(a) Promptly transmit to the appropriate head of the state agency the information with respect to which the determination to conduct an investigation was made, and such agency head shall conduct an investigation and submit to the Chief Inspector General a final written report that sets forth the agency head's findings, conclusions, and recommendations; or

(b)1. Conduct an investigation with respect to the information and any related matters; and

2. Submit to the complainant within 60 days after the date on which a determination to conduct an investigation is made under paragraph (5)(a), a final written report that sets forth the Chief Inspector General's findings, conclusions, and recommendations, except as provided under subsection (11). The complainant shall be advised in writing by the Chief Inspector General that the complainant may submit to the Chief Inspector General comments on the final report within 20 days of the date of the report and that such comments will be attached to the final report.

(c) The Chief Inspector General may require an agency head to conduct an investigation under paragraph (a) only if the information was transmitted to the Chief Inspector General by:

1. An employee or former employee of, or an applicant for employment with, the agency that the information concerns; or

2. An employee who obtained the information in connection with the performance of the employee's duties and responsibilities.

(8) Final reports required under this section must be reviewed and signed by the person responsible for conducting the investigation (agency inspector general, agency head, or Chief Inspector General) and must include:

(a) A summary of the information with respect to which the investigation was initiated.

(b) A description of the conduct of the investigation.

(c) A summary of any evidence obtained from the investigation.

(d) A listing of any violation or apparent violation of any law, rule, or regulation.

(e) A description of any action taken or planned as a result of the investigation, such as:

1. A change in an agency rule, regulation, or practice.

2. The restoration of an aggrieved employee.

3. A disciplinary action against an employee.

4. The referral to the Department of Law Enforcement of any evidence of a criminal violation.

(9)(a) A report required of the agency head under paragraph (7)(a) shall be submitted to the Chief Inspector General and the complainant within 60 days after the agency head receives the complaint from the Chief Inspector General, except as provided under subsection (11). The complainant shall be advised in writing by the agency head that the complainant may submit to the Chief Inspector General comments on the report within 20 days of the date of the report and that such comments will be attached to the final report.

(b) Upon receiving a final report required under this section, the Chief Inspector General shall review the report and determine whether the report contains the information required by subsection (8). If the report does not contain the information required by subsection (8), the Chief Inspector General shall determine why and note the reasons on an addendum to the final report.

(c) The Chief Inspector General shall transmit any final report under this section, any comments provided by the complainant, and any appropriate comments or recommendations by the Chief Inspector General to the

Governor, the Legislative Auditing Committee, the investigating agency, and the Chief Financial Officer.

(d) If the Chief Inspector General does not receive the report of the agency head within the time prescribed in paragraph (a), the Chief Inspector General may conduct the investigation in accordance with paragraph (7)(b) or request that another agency inspector general conduct the investigation in accordance with subsection (6) and shall report the complaint to the Governor, to the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee, and to the investigating agency, together with a statement noting the failure of the agency head to file the required report.

(10) For any time period set forth in subsections (3), (6), (7), and (9), such time period may be extended in writing by the Chief Inspector General for good cause shown.

(11) If an investigation under this section produces evidence of a criminal violation, the report shall not be transmitted to the complainant, and the agency head or agency inspector general shall notify the Chief Inspector General and the Department of Law Enforcement.

History.—s. 13, ch. 92-316; s. 3, ch. 93-57; s. 129, ch. 2003-261; s. 17, ch. 2011-34.

112.31895 Investigative procedures in response to prohibited personnel actions.—

(1)(a) If a disclosure under s. 112.3187 includes or results in alleged retaliation by an employer, the employee or former employee of, or applicant for employment with, a state agency, as defined in s. 216.011, that is so affected may file a complaint alleging a prohibited personnel action, which complaint must be made by filing a written complaint with the Office of the Chief Inspector General in the Executive Office of the Governor or the Florida Commission on Human Relations, no later than 60 days after the prohibited personnel action.

(b) Within three working days after receiving a complaint under this section, the office or officer receiving the complaint shall acknowledge receipt of the complaint and provide copies of the complaint and any other preliminary information available concerning the disclosure of information under s. 112.3187 to each of the other parties named in paragraph (a), which parties shall each acknowledge receipt of such copies to the complainant.

(2) FACT FINDING.—The Florida Commission on Human Relations shall:

(a) Receive any allegation of a personnel action prohibited by s. 112.3187, including a proposed or potential action, and conduct informal fact finding regarding any allegation under this section, to the extent necessary to determine whether there are reasonable grounds to believe that a prohibited personnel action under s. 112.3187 has occurred, is occurring, or is to be taken.

(b) Notify the complainant, within 15 days after receiving a complaint, that the complaint has been received by the department.

(c) Within 90 days after receiving the complaint, provide the agency head and the complainant with a fact-finding report that may include recommendations to the parties or proposed resolution of the complaint. The fact-finding report shall be presumed admissible in any subsequent or related administrative or judicial review.

(3) CORRECTIVE ACTION AND TERMINATION OF INVESTIGATION.—

(a) The Florida Commission on Human Relations, in accordance with this act and for the sole purpose of this act, is empowered to:

1. Receive and investigate complaints from employees alleging retaliation by state agencies, as the term "state agency" is defined in s. 216.011.

2. Protect employees and applicants for employment with such agencies from prohibited personnel practices under s. 112.3187.

3. Petition for stays and petition for corrective actions, including, but not limited to, temporary reinstatement.

4. Recommend disciplinary proceedings pursuant to investigation and appropriate agency rules and procedures.

5. Coordinate with the Chief Inspector General in the Executive Office of the Governor and the Florida Commission on Human Relations to receive, review, and forward to appropriate agencies, legislative entities, or

the Department of Law Enforcement disclosures of a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or disclosures of gross mismanagement, malfeasance, misfeasance, nonfeasance, neglect of duty, or gross waste of public funds.

6. Review rules pertaining to personnel matters issued or proposed by the Department of Management Services, the Public Employees Relations Commission, and other agencies, and, if the Florida Commission on Human Relations finds that any rule or proposed rule, on its face or as implemented, requires the commission of a prohibited personnel practice, provide a written comment to the appropriate agency.

7. Investigate, request assistance from other governmental entities, and, if appropriate, bring actions concerning, allegations of retaliation by state agencies under subparagraph 1.

8. Administer oaths, examine witnesses, take statements, issue subpoenas, order the taking of depositions, order responses to written interrogatories, and make appropriate motions to limit discovery, pursuant to investigations under subparagraph 1.

9. Intervene or otherwise participate, as a matter of right, in any appeal or other proceeding arising under this section before the Public Employees Relations Commission or any other appropriate agency, except that the Florida Commission on Human Relations must comply with the rules of the commission or other agency and may not seek corrective action or intervene in an appeal or other proceeding without the consent of the person protected under ss. 112.3187-112.31895.

10. Conduct an investigation, in the absence of an allegation, to determine whether reasonable grounds exist to believe that a prohibited action or a pattern of prohibited action has occurred, is occurring, or is to be taken.

(b) Within 15 days after receiving a complaint that a person has been discharged from employment allegedly for disclosing protected information under s. 112.3187, the Florida Commission on Human Relations shall review the information and determine whether temporary reinstatement is appropriate under s. 112.3187(9)(f). If the Florida Commission on Human Relations so determines, it shall apply for an expedited order from the appropriate agency or circuit court for the immediate reinstatement of the employee who has been discharged subsequent to the disclosure made under s. 112.3187, pending the issuance of the final order on the complaint.

(c) The Florida Commission on Human Relations shall notify a complainant of the status of the investigation and any action taken at such times as the commission considers appropriate.

(d) If the Florida Commission on Human Relations is unable to conciliate a complaint within 60 days after receipt of the fact-finding report, the Florida Commission on Human Relations shall terminate the investigation. Upon termination of any investigation, the Florida Commission on Human Relations shall notify the complainant and the agency head of the termination of the investigation, providing a summary of relevant facts found during the investigation and the reasons for terminating the investigation. A written statement under this paragraph is presumed admissible as evidence in any judicial or administrative proceeding but is not admissible without the consent of the complainant.

(e)1. The Florida Commission on Human Relations may request an agency or circuit court to order a stay, on such terms as the court requires, of any personnel action for 45 days if the Florida Commission on Human Relations determines that reasonable grounds exist to believe that a prohibited personnel action has occurred, is occurring, or is to be taken. The Florida Commission on Human Relations may request that such stay be extended for appropriate periods of time.

2. If, in connection with any investigation, the Florida Commission on Human Relations determines that reasonable grounds exist to believe that a prohibited action has occurred, is occurring, or is to be taken which requires corrective action, the Florida Commission on Human Relations shall report the determination together with any findings or recommendations to the agency head and may report that determination and those findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Chief Financial Officer. The Florida Commission on Human Relations may include in the report recommendations for corrective action to be taken.

3. If, after 20 days, the agency does not implement the recommended action, the Florida Commission on

Human Relations shall terminate the investigation and notify the complainant of the right to appeal under subsection (4), or may petition the agency for corrective action under this subsection.

4. If the Florida Commission on Human Relations finds, in consultation with the individual subject to the prohibited action, that the agency has implemented the corrective action, the commission shall file such finding with the agency head, together with any written comments that the individual provides, and terminate the investigation.

(f) If the Florida Commission on Human Relations finds that there are no reasonable grounds to believe that a prohibited personnel action has occurred, is occurring, or is to be taken, the commission shall terminate the investigation.

(g)1. If, in connection with any investigation under this section, it is determined that reasonable grounds exist to believe that a criminal violation has occurred which has not been previously reported, the Florida Commission on Human Relations shall report this determination to the Department of Law Enforcement and to the state attorney having jurisdiction over the matter.

2. If an alleged criminal violation has been reported, the Florida Commission on Human Relations shall confer with the Department of Law Enforcement and the state attorney before proceeding with the investigation of the prohibited personnel action and may defer the investigation pending completion of the criminal investigation and proceedings. The Florida Commission on Human Relations shall inform the complainant of the decision to defer the investigation and, if appropriate, of the confidentiality of the investigation.

(h) If, in connection with any investigation under this section, the Florida Commission on Human Relations determines that reasonable grounds exist to believe that a violation of a law, rule, or regulation has occurred, other than a criminal violation or a prohibited action under this section, the commission may report such violation to the head of the agency involved. Within 30 days after the agency receives the report, the agency head shall provide to the commission a certification that states that the head of the agency has personally reviewed the report and indicates what action has been or is to be taken and when the action will be completed.

(i) During any investigation under this section, disciplinary action may not be taken against any employee of a state agency, as the term "state agency" is defined in s. 216.011, for reporting an alleged prohibited personnel action that is under investigation, or for reporting any related activity, or against any employee for participating in an investigation without notifying the Florida Commission on Human Relations.

(j) The Florida Commission on Human Relations may also petition for an award of reasonable attorney's fees and expenses from a state agency, as the term "state agency" is defined in s. 216.011, pursuant to s. 112.3187(9).

(4) RIGHT TO APPEAL.—

(a) Not more than 60 days after receipt of a notice of termination of the investigation from the Florida Commission on Human Relations, the complainant may file, with the Public Employees Relations Commission, a complaint against the employer-agency regarding the alleged prohibited personnel action. The Public Employees Relations Commission shall have jurisdiction over such complaints under ss. 112.3187 and 447.503(4) and (5).

(b) Judicial review of any final order of the commission shall be as provided in s. 120.68.

History.—s. 14, ch. 92-316; s. 4, ch. 93-57; s. 703, ch. 95-147; s. 22, ch. 99-333; s. 130, ch. 2003-261.

112.31901 Investigatory records.—

(1) If certified pursuant to subsection (2), an investigatory record of the Chief Inspector General within the Executive Office of the Governor or of the employee designated by an agency head as the agency inspector general under s. 112.3189 is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution until the investigation ceases to be active, or a report detailing the investigation is provided to the Governor or the agency head, or 60 days from the inception of the investigation for which the record was made or received, whichever first occurs. Investigatory records are those records that are related to the investigation of an alleged, specific

act or omission or other wrongdoing, with respect to an identifiable person or group of persons, based on information compiled by the Chief Inspector General or by an agency inspector general, as named under the provisions of s. 112.3189, in the course of an investigation. An investigation is active if it is continuing with a reasonable, good faith anticipation of resolution and with reasonable dispatch.

(2) The Governor, in the case of the Chief Inspector General, or agency head, in the case of an employee designated as the agency inspector general under s. 112.3189, may certify that such investigatory records require an exemption to protect the integrity of the investigation or avoid unwarranted damage to an individual's good name or reputation. The certification must specify the nature and purpose of the investigation and shall be kept with the exempt records and made public when the records are made public.

(3) This section does not apply to whistle-blower investigations conducted pursuant to ss. 112.3187, 112.3188, 112.3189, and 112.31895.

History.—s. 4, ch. 93-405; s. 35, ch. 95-398; s. 38, ch. 2005-251; s. 13, ch. 2006-1.

Note.—Former s. 119.07(6)(w).

112.3191 Short title.—This act shall be known and cited as "The John J. Savage Memorial Act of 1974."

History.—s. 1, ch. 74-176.

112.320 Commission on Ethics; purpose.—There is created a Commission on Ethics, the purpose of which is to serve as guardian of the standards of conduct for the officers and employees of the state, and of a county, city, or other political subdivision of the state, as defined in this part, and to serve as the independent commission provided for in s. 8(f), Art. II of the State Constitution.

History.—s. 2, ch. 74-176; s. 11, ch. 91-85.

112.321 Membership, terms; travel expenses; staff.—

(1) The commission shall be composed of nine members. Five of these members shall be appointed by the Governor, no more than three of whom shall be from the same political party, subject to confirmation by the Senate. One member appointed by the Governor shall be a former city or county official and may be a former member of a local planning or zoning board which has only advisory duties. Two members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and two members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate. Neither the Speaker of the House of Representatives nor the President of the Senate shall appoint more than one member from the same political party. Of the nine members of the Commission, no more than five members shall be from the same political party at any one time. No member may hold any public employment. An individual who qualifies as a lobbyist pursuant to s. 11.045 or s. 112.3215 or pursuant to any local government charter or ordinance may not serve as a member of the commission, except that this prohibition does not apply to an individual who is a member of the commission on July 1, 2006, until the expiration of his or her current term. A member of the commission may not lobby any state or local governmental entity as provided in s. 11.045 or s. 112.3215 or as provided by any local government charter or ordinance, except that this prohibition does not apply to an individual who is a member of the commission on July 1, 2006, until the expiration of his or her current term. All members shall serve 2-year terms. A member may not serve more than two full terms in succession. Any member of the commission may be removed for cause by majority vote of the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

(2) The members of the commission shall elect a chair from their number, who shall serve for a 1-year term and may not succeed himself or herself as chair.

(3) Members of the commission shall receive no salary but shall receive travel and per diem as provided in s. 112.061.

(4) In accordance with the uniform personnel, job classification, and pay plan adopted with the approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and administered by the Office of

Legislative Services, the commission shall employ an executive director and shall provide the executive director with necessary office space, assistants, and secretaries. Within the above uniform plan, decisions relating to hiring, promotion, demotion, and termination of commission employees shall be made by the commission or, if so delegated by the commission, by its executive director.

History.—s. 2, ch. 74-176; s. 3, ch. 75-199; s. 6, ch. 82-98; s. 1, ch. 86-148; s. 3, ch. 88-29; s. 2, ch. 91-49; s. 704, ch. 95-147; s. 24, ch. 98-136; s. 6, ch. 2000-243; s. 10, ch. 2006-275.

112.3213 Legislative intent and purpose.—The Legislature finds that the operation of open and responsible government requires the fullest opportunity to be afforded to the people to petition their government for the redress of grievances and to express freely their opinions on executive branch action. Further, the Legislature finds that preservation of the integrity of the governmental decisionmaking process is essential to the continued functioning of an open government. Therefore, in order to preserve and maintain the integrity of the process and to better inform citizens of the efforts to influence executive branch action, the Legislature finds it necessary to require the public disclosure of the identity, expenditures, and activities of certain persons who attempt to influence actions of the executive branch in the areas of policy and procurement.

History.—s. 5, ch. 93-121.

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

(1) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Agency" means the Governor, Governor and Cabinet, or any department, division, bureau, board, commission, or authority of the executive branch. In addition, "agency" shall mean the Constitution Revision Commission as provided by s. 2, Art. XI of the State Constitution.

(b) "Agency official" or "employee" means any individual who is required by law to file full or limited public disclosure of his or her financial interests.

(c) "Compensation" means a payment, distribution, loan, advance, reimbursement, deposit, salary, fee, retainer, or anything of value provided or owed to a lobbying firm, directly or indirectly, by a principal for any lobbying activity.

(d) "Expenditure" means a payment, distribution, loan, advance, reimbursement, deposit, or anything of value made by a lobbyist or principal for the purpose of lobbying. The term "expenditure" does not include contributions or expenditures reported pursuant to chapter 106 or contributions or expenditures reported pursuant to federal election law, campaign-related personal services provided without compensation by individuals volunteering their time, any other contribution or expenditure made by or to a political party or an affiliated party committee, or any other contribution or expenditure made by an organization that is exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C. s. 527 or s. 501(c)(4).

(e) "Fund" means the Executive Branch Lobby Registration Trust Fund.

(f) "Lobbies" means seeking, on behalf of another person, to influence an agency with respect to a decision of the agency in the area of policy or procurement or an attempt to obtain the goodwill of an agency official or employee. "Lobbies" also means influencing or attempting to influence, on behalf of another, the Constitution Revision Commission's action or nonaction through oral or written communication or an attempt to obtain the goodwill of a member or employee of the Constitution Revision Commission.

(g) "Lobbying firm" means a business entity, including an individual contract lobbyist, that receives or becomes entitled to receive any compensation for the purpose of lobbying, where any partner, owner, officer, or employee of the business entity is a lobbyist.

(h) "Lobbyist" means a person who is employed and receives payment, or who contracts for economic consideration, for the purpose of lobbying, or a person who is principally employed for governmental affairs by another person or governmental entity to lobby on behalf of that other person or governmental entity. "Lobbyist"

does not include a person who is:

1. An attorney, or any person, who represents a client in a judicial proceeding or in a formal administrative proceeding conducted pursuant to chapter 120 or any other formal hearing before an agency, board, commission, or authority of this state.

2. An employee of an agency or of a legislative or judicial branch entity acting in the normal course of his or her duties.

3. A confidential informant who is providing, or wishes to provide, confidential information to be used for law enforcement purposes.

4. A person who lobbies to procure a contract pursuant to chapter 287 which contract is less than the threshold for CATEGORY ONE as provided in s. 287.017.

(i) "Principal" means the person, firm, corporation, or other entity which has employed or retained a lobbyist.

(2) The Executive Branch Lobby Registration Trust Fund is hereby created within the commission to be used for the purpose of funding any office established to administer the registration of lobbyists lobbying an agency, including the payment of salaries and other expenses. The trust fund is not subject to the service charge to General Revenue provisions of chapter 215. All annual registration fees collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited into such fund.

(3) A person may not lobby an agency until such person has registered as a lobbyist with the commission. Such registration shall be due upon initially being retained to lobby and is renewable on a calendar year basis thereafter. Upon registration the person shall provide a statement signed by the principal or principal's representative that the registrant is authorized to represent the principal. The principal shall also identify and designate its main business on the statement authorizing that lobbyist pursuant to a classification system approved by the commission. The registration shall require each lobbyist to disclose, under oath, the following information:

(a) Name and business address;

(b) The name and business address of each principal represented;

(c) His or her area of interest;

(d) The agencies before which he or she will appear; and

(e) The existence of any direct or indirect business association, partnership, or financial relationship with any employee of an agency with which he or she lobbies, or intends to lobby, as disclosed in the registration.

(4) The annual lobbyist registration fee shall be set by the commission by rule, not to exceed $40 for each principal represented.

(5)(a)1. Each lobbying firm shall file a compensation report with the commission for each calendar quarter during any portion of which one or more of the firm's lobbyists were registered to represent a principal. The report shall include the:

a. Full name, business address, and telephone number of the lobbying firm;

b. Name of each of the firm's lobbyists; and

c. Total compensation provided or owed to the lobbying firm from all principals for the reporting period, reported in one of the following categories: $0; $1 to $49,999; $50,000 to $99,999; $100,000 to $249,999; $250,000 to $499,999; $500,000 to $999,999; $1 million or more.

2. For each principal represented by one or more of the firm's lobbyists, the lobbying firm's compensation report shall also include the:

a. Full name, business address, and telephone number of the principal; and

b. Total compensation provided or owed to the lobbying firm for the reporting period, reported in one of the following categories: $0; $1 to $9,999; $10,000 to $19,999; $20,000 to $29,999; $30,000 to $39,999; $40,000 to $49,999; or $50,000 or more. If the category "$50,000 or more" is selected, the specific dollar amount of

compensation must be reported, rounded up or down to the nearest $1,000.

3. If the lobbying firm subcontracts work from another lobbying firm and not from the original principal:

a. The lobbying firm providing the work to be subcontracted shall be treated as the reporting lobbying firm's principal for reporting purposes under this paragraph; and

b. The reporting lobbying firm shall, for each lobbying firm identified under subparagraph 2., identify the name and address of the principal originating the lobbying work.

4. The senior partner, officer, or owner of the lobbying firm shall certify to the veracity and completeness of the information submitted pursuant to this paragraph.

(b) For each principal represented by more than one lobbying firm, the commission shall aggregate the reporting-period and calendar-year compensation reported as provided or owed by the principal.

(c) The reporting statements shall be filed no later than 45 days after the end of each reporting period. The four reporting periods are from January 1 through March 31, April 1 through June 30, July 1 through September 30, and October 1 through December 31, respectively. Reporting statements must be filed by electronic means as provided in s. 112.32155.

(d) The commission shall provide by rule the grounds for waiving a fine, the procedures by which a lobbying firm that fails to timely file a report shall be notified and assessed fines, and the procedure for appealing the fines. The rule shall provide for the following:

1. Upon determining that the report is late, the person designated to review the timeliness of reports shall immediately notify the lobbying firm as to the failure to timely file the report and that a fine is being assessed for each late day. The fine shall be $50 per day per report for each late day up to a maximum of $5,000 per late report.

2. Upon receipt of the report, the person designated to review the timeliness of reports shall determine the amount of the fine due based upon the earliest of the following:

a. When a report is actually received by the lobbyist registration and reporting office.

b. When the electronic receipt issued pursuant to s. 112.32155 is dated.

3. Such fine shall be paid within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted by the Lobbyist Registration Office, unless appeal is made to the commission. The moneys shall be deposited into the Executive Branch Lobby Registration Trust Fund.

4. A fine shall not be assessed against a lobbying firm the first time any reports for which the lobbying firm is responsible are not timely filed. However, to receive the one-time fine waiver, all reports for which the lobbying firm is responsible must be filed within 30 days after the notice that any reports have not been timely filed is transmitted by the Lobbyist Registration Office. A fine shall be assessed for any subsequent late-filed reports.

5. Any lobbying firm may appeal or dispute a fine, based upon unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on the designated due date, and may request and shall be entitled to a hearing before the commission, which shall have the authority to waive the fine in whole or in part for good cause shown. Any such request shall be made within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted by the Lobbyist Registration Office. In such case, the lobbying firm shall, within the 30-day period, notify the person designated to review the timeliness of reports in writing of his or her intention to bring the matter before the commission.

6. The person designated to review the timeliness of reports shall notify the commission of the failure of a lobbying firm to file a report after notice or of the failure of a lobbying firm to pay the fine imposed. All lobbyist registrations for lobbyists who are partners, owners, officers, or employees of a lobbying firm that fails to timely pay a fine are automatically suspended until the fine is paid or waived, and the commission shall promptly notify all affected principals of each suspension and each reinstatement.

7. Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 120, any fine imposed under this subsection that is not waived by final order of the commission and that remains unpaid more than 60 days after the notice of payment due or more

than 60 days after the commission renders a final order on the lobbying firm's appeal shall be collected by the Department of Financial Services as a claim, debt, or other obligation owed to the state, and the department may assign the collection of such fine to a collection agent as provided in s. 17.20.

(e) Each lobbying firm and each principal shall preserve for a period of 4 years all accounts, bills, receipts, computer records, books, papers, and other documents and records necessary to substantiate compensation. Any documents and records retained pursuant to this section may be subpoenaed for audit by the Legislative Auditing Committee pursuant to s. 11.40, and such subpoena may be enforced in circuit court.

(6)(a) Notwithstanding s. 112.3148, s. 112.3149, or any other provision of law to the contrary, no lobbyist or principal shall make, directly or indirectly, and no agency official, member, or employee shall knowingly accept, directly or indirectly, any expenditure.

(b) No person shall provide compensation for lobbying to any individual or business entity that is not a lobbying firm.

(7) A lobbyist shall promptly send a written statement to the commission canceling the registration for a principal upon termination of the lobbyist's representation of that principal. Notwithstanding this requirement, the commission may remove the name of a lobbyist from the list of registered lobbyists if the principal notifies the office that a person is no longer authorized to represent that principal.

(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.

(b) All proceedings, the complaint, and other records relating to the investigation are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, and any meetings held pursuant to an investigation are exempt from the provisions of s. 286.011(1) and s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution either until the alleged violator requests in writing that such investigation and associated records and meetings be made public or until the commission determines, based on the investigation, whether probable cause exists to believe that a violation has occurred.

(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.

(d)1. Records relating to an audit conducted pursuant to this section or an investigation conducted pursuant to this section or s. 112.32155 are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

2. Any portion of a meeting wherein such investigation or audit is discussed is exempt from s. 286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution.

3. The exemptions no longer apply if the lobbying firm requests in writing that such investigation and associated records and meetings be made public or the commission determines there is probable cause that the audit reflects a violation of the reporting laws.

(9) If the commission finds no probable cause to believe that a violation of this section occurred, it shall dismiss the complaint, whereupon the complaint, together with a written statement of the findings of the investigation and a summary of the facts, shall become a matter of public record, and the commission shall send a copy of the complaint, findings, and summary to the complainant and the alleged violator. If, after investigating information from a random audit of lobbying reports, the commission finds no probable cause to believe that a violation of this section occurred, a written statement of the findings of the investigation and a summary of the facts shall become a matter of public record, and the commission shall send a copy of the findings and summary to the alleged violator. If the commission finds probable cause to believe that a violation occurred, it shall report the results of its investigation to the Governor and Cabinet and send a copy of the report to the alleged violator by

certified mail. Such notification and all documents made or received in the disposition of the complaint shall then become public records. Upon request submitted to the Governor and Cabinet in writing, any person whom the commission finds probable cause to believe has violated any provision of this section 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. However, the Governor and Cabinet may on its own motion require a public hearing and may conduct such further investigation as it deems necessary.

(10) If the Governor and Cabinet find that a violation occurred, the Governor and Cabinet 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).

(12) Any person, when in doubt about the applicability and interpretation of this section to himself or herself in a particular context, may submit in writing the facts of the situation to the commission with a request for an advisory opinion to establish the standard of duty. An advisory opinion shall be rendered by the commission and, until amended or revoked, shall be binding on the conduct of the person who sought the opinion, unless material facts were omitted or misstated in the request.

(13) Agencies shall be diligent to ascertain whether persons required to register pursuant to this section have complied. An agency may not knowingly permit a person who is not registered pursuant to this section to lobby the agency.

(14) Upon discovery of violations of this section an agency or any person may file a sworn complaint with the commission.

(15) The commission shall adopt rules to administer this section, which shall prescribe forms for registration and compensation reports, procedures for registration, and procedures that will prevent disclosure of information that is confidential as provided in this section.

History.—s. 2, ch. 89-325; s. 3, ch. 90-268; s. 29, ch. 90-360; s. 5, ch. 91-292; s. 2, ch. 92-35; s. 6, ch. 93-121; s. 705, ch. 95-147; s. 1, ch. 95-357; s. 2, ch. 96-203; s. 38, ch. 96-406; s. 1, ch. 97-12; s. 2, ch. 2000-232; s. 131, ch. 2003-261; ss. 5, 6, ch. 2005-359; s. 1, ch. 2005-361; ss. 12, 13, 14, ch. 2006-275; s. 6, ch. 2010-151; ss. 29, 30, ch. 2011-6; s. 76, ch. 2011-40; s. 1, ch. 2011-178; HJR 7105, 2011 Regular Session; s. 3, ch. 2012-25; s. 16, ch. 2013-36; s. 17, ch. 2014-17.

112.32151 Requirements for reinstitution of lobbyist registration after felony conviction.—A person convicted of a felony after January 1, 2006, may not be registered as a lobbyist pursuant to s. 112.3215 until the person:

(1) Has been released from incarceration and any postconviction supervision, and has paid all court costs and court-ordered restitution; and

(2) Has had his or her civil rights restored.

History.—s. 9, ch. 2005-359; s. 8, ch. 2007-5.

112.32155 Electronic filing of compensation reports and other information.—

(1) As used in this section, the term "electronic filing system" means an Internet system for recording and reporting lobbying compensation and other required information by reporting period.

(2) Each lobbying firm who is required to file reports with the Commission on Ethics pursuant to s. 112.3215 must file such reports with the commission by means of the electronic filing system.

(3) A report filed pursuant to this section must be completed and filed through the electronic filing system not later than 11:59 p.m. of the day designated in s. 112.3215. A report not filed by 11:59 p.m. of the day designated is a late-filed report and is subject to the penalties under s. 112.3215(5).

(4) Each report filed pursuant to this section is considered to meet the certification requirements of s. 112.3215(5)(a)4. Persons given a secure sign-on to the electronic filing system are responsible for protecting it from disclosure and are responsible for all filings using such credentials, unless they have notified the commission that their credentials have been compromised.

(5) The electronic filing system must:

(a) Be based on access by means of the Internet.

(b) Be accessible by anyone with Internet access using standard web-browsing software.

(c) Provide for direct entry of compensation report information as well as upload of such information from software authorized by the commission.

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

(6) The commission shall provide by rule procedures to implement and administer this section, including, but not limited to:

(a) Alternate filing procedures in case the electronic filing system is not operable.

(b) The issuance of an electronic receipt to the person submitting the report indicating and verifying the date and time that the report was filed.

(7) The commission shall make all the data filed available on the Internet in an easily understood and accessible format. The Internet website shall also include, but not be limited to, the names and business addresses of lobbyists, lobbying firms, and principals, the affiliations between lobbyists and principals, and the classification system designated and identified by each principal pursuant to s. 112.3215(3).

History.—s. 7, ch. 2005-359.

112.3217 Contingency fees; prohibitions; penalties.—

(1) "Contingency fee" means a fee, bonus, commission, or nonmonetary benefit as compensation which is dependent or in any way contingent on the enactment, defeat, modification, or other outcome of any specific executive branch action.

(2) No person may, in whole or in part, pay, give, or receive, or agree to pay, give, or receive, a contingency fee. However, this subsection does not apply to claims bills.

(3) Any person who violates this section commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. If such person is a lobbyist, the lobbyist shall forfeit any fee, bonus, commission, or profit received in violation of this section and is subject to the penalties set forth in s. 112.3215. When the fee, bonus, commission, or profit is nonmonetary, the fair market value of the benefit shall be used in determining the amount to be forfeited. All forfeited benefits shall be deposited into the Executive Branch Lobby Registration Trust Fund.

(4) Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit any salesperson engaging in legitimate state business on behalf of a company from receiving compensation or commission as part of a bona fide contractual arrangement with that company.

History.—s. 7, ch. 93-121; s. 9, ch. 2000-336.

112.322 Duties and powers of commission.—

(1) It is the duty of the Commission on Ethics to receive and investigate sworn complaints of violation of the code of ethics as established in this part and of any other breach of the public trust, as provided in s. 8(f), Art. II of the State Constitution, including investigation of all facts and parties materially related to the complaint at issue.

(2)(a) Any public officer or employee may request a hearing before the Commission on Ethics to present oral or written testimony in response to allegations that such person violated the code of ethics established in this part or allegations of any other breach of the public trust, as provided in s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, provided a majority of the commission members present and voting consider that the allegations are of such gravity as to affect the general welfare of the state and the ability of the subject public officer or employee effectively to discharge the duties of the office. If the allegations made against the subject public officer or employee are made under oath, then he or she shall also be required to testify under oath.

(b) Upon completion of any investigation initiated under this subsection, the commission shall make a finding and public report as to whether any provision of the code of ethics has been violated or any other breach of the public trust has been committed by the subject official or employee. In the event that a violation or breach is found to have been committed, the commission shall recommend appropriate action to the agency or official having power to impose any penalty provided by s. 112.317.

(c) All proceedings conducted pursuant to this subsection shall be public meetings within the meaning of chapter 286, and all documents made or received in connection with the commission's investigation thereof shall be public records within the meaning of chapter 119.

(d) Any response to a request of a public official or employee shall be addressed in the first instance to the official or employee making the request.

(3)(a) Every public officer, candidate for public office, or public employee, when in doubt about the applicability and interpretation of this part or s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution to himself or herself in a particular context, may submit in writing the facts of the situation to the Commission on Ethics with a request for an advisory opinion to establish the standard of public duty. Any public officer or employee who has the power to hire or terminate employees may likewise seek an advisory opinion from the commission as to the application of the provisions of this part or s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution to any such employee or applicant for employment. An advisory opinion shall be rendered by the commission, and each such opinion shall be numbered, dated, and published without naming the person making the request, unless such person consents to the use of his or her name.

(b) Such opinion, until amended or revoked, shall be binding on the conduct of the officer, employee, or candidate who sought the opinion or with reference to whom the opinion was sought, unless material facts were omitted or misstated in the request for the advisory opinion.

(4) The commission has the power to subpoena, audit, and investigate. The commission may subpoena witnesses and compel their attendance and testimony, administer oaths and affirmations, take evidence, and require by subpoena the production of any books, papers, records, or other items relevant to the performance of the duties of the commission or to the exercise of its powers. The commission may delegate to its investigators the authority to administer oaths and affirmations. The commission may delegate the authority to issue subpoenas to its chair, and may authorize its employees to serve any subpoena issued under this section. In the case of a refusal to obey a subpoena issued to any person, the commission may make application to any circuit court of this state which shall have jurisdiction to order the witness to appear before the commission and to produce evidence, if so ordered, or to give testimony touching on the matter in question. Failure to obey the order may be punished by the court as contempt. Witnesses shall be paid mileage and witnesses fees as authorized for witnesses in civil cases, except that a witness who is required to travel outside the county of his or her residence to testify is entitled to per diem and travel expenses at the same rate provided for state employees under s. 112.061, to be paid after the witness appears.

(5) The commission may recommend that the Governor initiate judicial proceedings in the name of the state against any executive or administrative state, county, or municipal officer to enforce compliance with any provision of this part or of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or to restrain violations of this part or of s. 8, Art.

II of the State Constitution, pursuant to s. 1(b), Art. IV of the State Constitution; and the Governor may without further action initiate such judicial proceedings.

(6) The commission is authorized to call upon appropriate agencies of state government for such professional assistance as may be needed in the discharge of its duties. The Department of Legal Affairs shall, upon request, provide legal and investigative assistance to the commission.

(7) The commission may prepare materials designed to assist persons in complying with the provisions of this part and with s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution.

(8) It shall be the further duty of the commission to submit to the Legislature from time to time a report of its work and recommendations for legislation deemed necessary to improve the code of ethics and its enforcement.

(9) The commission is authorized to make such rules not inconsistent with law as are necessary to carry out the duties and authority conferred upon the commission by s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or by this part. Such rules shall be limited to:

(a) Rules providing for the practices and procedures of the commission.

(b) Rules interpreting the disclosures and prohibitions established by s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution and by this part.

History.—s. 2, ch. 74-176; s. 4, ch. 75-199; s. 1, ch. 76-89; s. 1, ch. 77-174; s. 7, ch. 82-98; s. 33, ch. 89-169; s. 12, ch. 91-85; s. 13, ch. 94-277; s. 1416, ch. 95-147; s. 7, ch. 2000-243; s. 15, ch. 2006-275.

112.3231 Time limitations.—

(1) On or after October 1, 1993, all sworn complaints alleging a violation of this part, or of any other breach of the public trust within the jurisdiction of the Commission on Ethics under s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, shall be filed with the commission within 5 years of the alleged violation or other breach of the public trust.

(2) A violation of this part or any other breach of public trust is committed when every element has occurred or, if the violation or breach of public trust involves a continuing course of conduct, at the time when the course of conduct or the officer's, employee's, or candidate's complicity therein is terminated. Time starts to run on the day after the violation or breach of public trust is committed.

(3) The applicable period of limitation is tolled on the day a sworn complaint against the public officer, employee, or candidate is filed with the Commission on Ethics. If it can be concluded from the face of the complaint that the applicable period of limitation has run, the complaint shall be dismissed and the commission shall issue a public report.

History.—s. 13, ch. 91-85; s. 10, ch. 94-277.

112.3232 Compelled testimony.—If any person called to give evidence in a commission proceeding shall refuse to give evidence because of a claim of possible self-incrimination, the commission, with the written authorization of the appropriate state attorney, may apply to the chief judge of the appropriate judicial circuit for a judicial grant of immunity ordering the testimony or other evidence of such person notwithstanding his or her objection, but in such case no testimony or other information compelled under the order, or any information directly or indirectly derived from such testimony or other information, may be used against the witness in any criminal proceeding.

History.—s. 10, ch. 2000-243.

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

(1) The commission shall investigate an alleged violation of this part or 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:

(a) Upon a written complaint executed on a form prescribed by the commission and signed under oath or 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 s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

(b) Written referrals and records relating to such referrals held by the commission or its agents, the Governor, the Department of Law Enforcement, or a state attorney, and records relating to any preliminary investigation of such referrals held by the commission or its agents, are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

(c) Any portion of a 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 s. 286.011, s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution, and s. 120.525.

(d) Any portion of a proceeding of the commission in which a determination regarding a referral is discussed or acted upon is exempt from s. 286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution, and s. 120.525.

(e) The exemptions in paragraphs (a)-(d) apply until:

1. The complaint is dismissed as legally insufficient;
2. The alleged violator requests in writing that such records and proceedings be made public;
3. The commission determines that it will not investigate the referral; or
4. 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.

(f) A complaint or referral under this part against a candidate in any general, special, or primary election may not be filed nor may any intention of filing such a complaint or referral be disclosed on the day of any such election or within the 30 days immediately preceding the date of the election, unless the complaint or referral is based upon personal information or information other than hearsay.

(g) This subsection is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2018, 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. 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 the duty of the committee to report its final action upon the matter 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 the power to invoke the penalty provisions of this part.

(5) If, in cases 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 the duty of the committee to report its final action upon the matter 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 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 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 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 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) 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.

History.—s. 2, ch. 74-176; s. 5, ch. 75-199; s. 3, ch. 83-282; s. 30, ch. 90-360; s. 14, ch. 91-85; s. 11, ch. 94-277; s. 1417, ch. 95-147; s. 2, ch. 95-354; s. 4, ch. 96-311; s. 3, ch. 97-293; s. 14, ch. 2000-151; s. 17, ch. 2000-331; s. 30, ch. 2001-266; s. 1, ch. 2002-186; s. 1,

ch. 2005-186; s. 17, ch. 2008-4; s. 3, ch. 2009-126; s. 1, ch. 2010-116; s. 1, ch. 2010-130; s. 18, ch. 2011-34; s. 17, ch. 2013-36; s. 1, ch. 2013-38; s. 18, ch. 2014-17.

112.3241 Judicial review.—Any final action by the commission taken pursuant to this part shall be subject to review in a district court of appeal upon the petition of the party against whom an adverse opinion, finding, or recommendation is made.

History.—s. 6, ch. 75-199; s. 4, ch. 84-318.

112.3251 Citizen support and direct-support organizations; standards of conduct.—A citizen support or direct-support organization created or authorized pursuant to law must adopt its own ethics code. The ethics code must contain the standards of conduct and disclosures required under ss. 112.313 and 112.3143(2), respectively. However, an ethics code adopted pursuant to this section is not required to contain the standards of conduct specified in s. 112.313(3) or (7). The citizen support or direct-support organization may adopt additional or more stringent standards of conduct and disclosure requirements if those standards of conduct and disclosure requirements do not otherwise conflict with this part. The ethics code must be conspicuously posted on the citizen support or direct-support organization's website.

History.—s. 5, ch. 2014-183.

112.326 Additional requirements by political subdivisions and agencies not prohibited.—Nothing in this act shall prohibit the governing body of any political subdivision, by ordinance, or agency, by rule, from imposing upon its own officers and employees additional or more stringent standards of conduct and disclosure requirements than those specified in this part, provided that those standards of conduct and disclosure requirements do not otherwise conflict with the provisions of this part.

History.—s. 5, ch. 75-196; s. 12, ch. 94-277.

112.3261 Lobbying before water management districts; registration and reporting.—

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

(a) "District" means a water management district created in s. 373.069 and operating under the authority of chapter 373.

(b) "Lobbies" means seeking, on behalf of another person, to influence a district with respect to a decision of the district in an area of policy or procurement or an attempt to obtain the goodwill of a district official or employee. The term "lobbies" shall be interpreted and applied consistently with the rules of the commission implementing s. 112.3215.

(c) "Lobbyist" has the same meaning as provided in s. 112.3215.

(d) "Principal" has the same meaning as provided in s. 112.3215.

(2) A person may not lobby a district until such person has registered as a lobbyist with that district. Such registration shall be due upon initially being retained to lobby and is renewable on a calendar-year basis thereafter. Upon registration, the person shall provide a statement signed by the principal or principal's representative stating that the registrant is authorized to represent the principal. The principal shall also identify and designate its main business on the statement authorizing that lobbyist pursuant to a classification system approved by the district. Any changes to the information required by this section must be disclosed within 15 days by filing a new registration form. The registration form shall require each lobbyist to disclose, under oath, the following:

(a) The lobbyist's name and business address.

(b) The name and business address of each principal represented.

(c) The existence of any direct or indirect business association, partnership, or financial relationship with any officer or employee of a district with which he or she lobbies or intends to lobby.

(d) In lieu of creating its own lobbyist registration forms, a district may accept a completed legislative branch

or executive branch lobbyist registration form.

(3) A district shall make lobbyist registrations available to the public. If a district maintains a website, a database of currently registered lobbyists and principals must be available on the district's website.

(4) A lobbyist shall promptly send a written statement to the district canceling the registration for a principal upon termination of the lobbyist's representation of that principal. A district may remove the name of a lobbyist from the list of registered lobbyists if the principal notifies the district that a person is no longer authorized to represent that principal.

(5) A district may establish an annual lobbyist registration fee, not to exceed $40, for each principal represented. The district may use registration fees only to administer this section.

(6) A district shall be diligent to ascertain whether persons required to register pursuant to this section have complied. A district may not knowingly authorize a person who is not registered pursuant to this section to lobby the district.

(7) Upon receipt of a sworn complaint alleging that a lobbyist or principal has failed to register with a district or has knowingly submitted false information in a report or registration required under this section, the commission shall investigate a lobbyist or principal pursuant to the procedures established under s. 112.324. The commission shall provide the Governor with a report of its findings and recommendations in any investigation conducted pursuant to this subsection. The Governor is authorized to enforce the commission's findings and recommendations.

(8) Water management districts may adopt rules to establish procedures to govern the registration of lobbyists, including the adoption of forms and the establishment of a lobbyist registration fee.

History.—s. 6, ch. 2014-183.

APPENDIX 5

COMPETITIVE SOLICITATIONS

GULF CONSORTIUM CONFLICT OF INTEREST CERTIFICATION

Section 287.056 (19), Florida Statutes

The Gulf Consortium requires all individuals serving on the Evaluation Team for Consultant Services for the Development of the State Expenditure Plan to certify that they are independent of, and have no conflict of interest in, the entities evaluated and selected.

NOTE: This form is to be signed by all members of the Evaluation Team.

Name of Solicitation:	Consultant Services for the Development of the Gulf Consortium's State Expenditure Plan Required by the RESTORE Act
Solicitation #	BC-06-17-14-33
Name of Vendors, if applicable:	Arcadis USA, Ecology & Environment; Environmental Sciences Associates, Langton Associates, Matrix Design Group, MWH Global

By signature below, I certify that I am independent of, and have no conflict of interest in, the entities evaluated and selected for the solicitation described above.

SIGNED BY: _____ TITLE: _____

PRINTED NAME: _____ DATE: _____