

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: PCS for HB 253 Regulation of Securities

SPONSOR(S): Insurance & Banking Subcommittee

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
Orig. Comm.: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee		Fletcher	Lloyd

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

In Florida, the Securities and Investor Protection Act, ch. 517, F.S. (Act), regulates securities issued, offered, and sold in the state of Florida. The Florida Office of Financial Regulation’s (OFR) Division of Securities regulates and registers the offer and sale of securities in, to, or from Florida by firms, branch offices, and individuals affiliated with these firms. The Act currently prohibits dealers, associated persons, and issuers from offering or selling securities in this state unless registered with the OFR or specifically exempted. Additionally, all securities in Florida must be registered with the OFR unless they meet one of the exemptions in ss. 517.051 or 517.061, F.S., or are federally covered (i.e., under the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States Securities Exchange Commission (SEC)).

The bill eliminates the requirement for an issuer to register with OFR when selling securities. The bill also eliminates the escrow agreement section of ch. 517, F.S. Additionally, the bill reduces the issuer filing fee for security offerings below a certain monetary value, as determined by the SEC.

The bill creates a continuing education requirement, based on the North American Securities Administration Association (NASAA) model rule, for associated persons of investment advisers and federal covered advisers. Under this new section an associated person for an investment adviser is required to take twelve (12) credits of continuing education annually. Six (6) of these credits must be on ethics and regulatory obligations while the remaining six (6) credits must focus on knowledge and skills relating to financial products. Currently, 12 states have adopted continuing education rules based on the NASAA model rule.

Various sections throughout ch. 517, F.S. have been updated to provide technical updates, clarity, and the modernization of the language used within the Chapter. Definitions have been introduced and amended, in part, to account for these changes. Limited liability companies have been expressly included throughout the statute and have been provided parallel descriptions to corporations when relevant.

The bill has no impact on local governments, an insignificant negative impact on state government, and an indeterminate fiscal impact on the private sector.

The bill provides an effective date of October 1, 2023.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

Federal Securities Regulation

The federal Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (1934 Act) requires registration of securities market participants like broker-dealers and exchanges.¹ Generally, any person acting as “broker” or “dealer” as defined in the 1934 Act must be registered with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and join a self-regulatory organization (SRO), like the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) or a national securities exchange. The 1934 Act broadly defines “broker” as “any person engaged in the business of effecting transactions in securities for the account of others,” which the SEC has interpreted to include involvement in any of the key aspects of a securities transaction, including solicitation, negotiation, and execution.² A “dealer” is “any person engaged in the business of buying and selling securities for such person’s own account through a broker or otherwise.”³

Certain entities in the securities industry are often referred to as “broker-dealers” because such entities are considered “brokers” when executing trades on behalf of customers, but are “dealers” when executing trades for their own account. In addition to being registered with the SEC, broker-dealers must comply with state registration requirements.

State Securities Regulation

In addition to federal securities laws, “Blue Sky Laws” are state laws that protect the investing public from fraudulent sales practices and activities.⁴ In Florida, the Securities and Investor Protection Act, ch. 517, F.S. (Act), regulates securities issued, offered, and sold in the state of Florida. The Florida Office of Financial Regulation’s (OFR) Division of Securities (Division) regulates and registers the offer and sale of securities in, to, or from Florida by firms, branch offices, and individuals affiliated with these firms in accordance with the Act and Rule Chapter 69W, Florida Administrative Code.⁵

As of December 31, 2022, the Division had total registrants in the following areas:

- Dealers: 2,421
- Investment advisers: 8,096
- Branch offices: 11,435
- Associated Persons: 361,200⁶

The Act prohibits dealers, associated persons, and issuers from offering or selling securities in this state unless registered with OFR or specifically exempted.⁷ Additionally, all securities in Florida must be registered with OFR unless they meet one of the exemptions in ss. 517.051 or 517.061, F.S., or are federally covered (i.e., under the exclusive jurisdiction of the SEC).⁸ Failure to meet the precise

¹ 15 U.S.C. §§ 78c(a)(4) and 78o; U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, *Guide to Broker-Dealer Registration*, <http://www.sec.gov/divisions/marketreteq/bdguide.htm#II> (last visited Mar. 19, 2023).

² *Id.*

³ 15 U.S.C. § 78c(a)(5).

⁴ U.S. SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION, *Blue Sky Laws*, <http://www.sec.gov/answers/bluesky.htm> (last visited Mar. 19, 2023).

⁵ Pursuant to s. 20.121(3), F.S., the Financial Services Commission (the Governor and Cabinet) serves as the OFR’s agency head for purposes of rulemaking and appoints the OFR’s Commissioner, who serves as the agency head for purposes of final agency action for all areas within the OFR’s regulatory authority.

⁶ Office of Financial Regulation, Agency Analysis of 2023 House Bill 253, p. 2 (Mar. 1, 2023).

⁷ s. 517.12, F.S.

⁸ S. 517.07, F.S. If a security is registered with the SEC, s. 517.082, F.S., requires the broker or issuer to notify OFR that the security is registered with the SEC.

requirements of these exemptions can subject the issuer to civil, criminal, and administrative liability for the sale of unregistered securities, which is a third-degree felony in Florida.⁹ Civil remedies under the Act include rescission and damages.¹⁰ In addition, issuers must comply with disclosure requirements in state and federal laws that provide potential investors with full and fair disclosures regarding the securities.

The Act requires the following individuals or businesses to be registered with OFR under s. 517.12, F.S., before selling or offering to sell any securities in or from offices in this state, or selling securities to persons in this state from offices outside this state:¹¹

- Dealers, which include:¹²
 - Any person, other than an associated person registered under ch. 517, F.S., who engages as a broker or principal in the business of offering, buying, selling, or otherwise dealing or trading in securities issued by another person.
 - Any issuer who through persons directly compensated or controlled by the issuer engages in the business of offering or selling securities which are issued (or proposed to be issued) by the issuer.
- Investment advisers, which include any person who receives compensation and engages in the business of advising others as to the value of securities or as to the advisability of investments in, purchasing of, or selling of securities, except a dealer whose performance of these services is solely incidental to the conduct their business as a dealer and who receives no special compensation for such services.¹³ Investment advisers do not include a “federal covered adviser.”¹⁴
- Associated persons, which include:¹⁵
 - With respect to a *dealer or investment adviser*, any of the following:
 - Any partner, officer, director, or branch manager of a dealer or investment adviser or any person occupying a similar status or performing similar functions;
 - Any individual directly or indirectly controlling or controlled by such dealer or investment adviser, other than an employee whose function is only clerical or ministerial; or
 - Any individual, other than a dealer, employed, appointed, or authorized by a dealer, investment adviser, or issuer to sell securities in any manner or act as an investment adviser as defined in s. 517.021, F.S.
 - With respect to a *federal covered adviser*, any person who is an investment adviser representative and who has a place of business in this state.

Self-Regulatory Organizations

Formed as a result of a 2007 merger between the National Association of Securities Dealers and certain operational arms of the New York Stock Exchange,¹⁶ FINRA is the largest private self-regulatory organization for all securities firms doing business in the United States.¹⁷ In addition to operating the largest securities arbitration forum in the United States, FINRA operates the Central Registration Depository and the Investment Adviser Registration Depository, both which are central databases for registration, reporting, and disclosure information for the securities industry.¹⁸

⁹ S. 517.302(1), F.S.

¹⁰ S. 517.211(3-5), F.S.

¹¹ S. 517.12(1), F.S.

¹² S. 517.021(6)(a), F.S. The term “dealer”, as defined under Florida law, encompasses the definitions of “broker” and “dealer” under federal law.

¹³ S. 517.021(14)(a), F.S.

¹⁴ S. 517.021(9), (14)(b)9., F.S. A federal covered adviser must be registered under federal law and must provide a notice-filing to OFR. Ss. 517.021 and 517.1201, F.S.

¹⁵ S. 517.021(2), F.S.

¹⁶ FINRA, *NASD and NYSE Member Regulation Combine to Form the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority*, <https://www.finra.org/media-center/news-releases/2007/nasd-and-nyse-member-regulation-combine-form-financial-industry> (last visited Mar. 19, 2023).

¹⁷ FINRA, <https://www.finra.org/#/> (last visited Mar. 19, 2023).

¹⁸ NASAA, *CRD & IARD*, <https://www.nasaa.org/industry-resources/crd-iard/> (last visited Mar. 19, 2023).

NASAA's Model Rule on Investment Adviser Representative Continuing Education

The North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA) is a voluntary, international, association whose membership consists of 67 state, provincial, and territorial securities administrators.¹⁹ Formed in 1919, NASAA is the “oldest international organization devoted to investor protection.”²⁰ NASAA advocates on behalf of state securities agencies in the United States that are responsible for capital formation and investor protection.²¹ NASAA also coordinates training and education seminars for securities agency staff²² and creates model rules for implementation amongst its members.²³

On November 30, 2020, NASAA adopted a model rule for the implementation of continuing education (CE) programs for investment adviser representatives (IARs).²⁴ Among other things, the model rule:

- Requires IARs of both state-registered and federal covered investment advisers seeking registration or renewal of IAR registration to complete 12 CE credits each year;
- Provides IARs must complete six credits of regulatory and ethics content and six credits of compliance and practice content;
- Allows IARs to select courses that appeal to their interests and suit their business models, so long as such courses meet the credit requirements and are approved content for the CE program;
- Permits IARs to satisfy either some or all of the model rule's CE requirements through completion of the IAR's home state's CE requirements and completion of CE courses required to be completed by IARs who maintain certain professional designations and those required to be completed for registration as an agent of a dealer, provided certain criteria are met; and
- Provides course providers and course content must be approved by NASAA;
- Requires an IAR who does not complete the CE requirement by the annual deadline to renew as “CE inactive;”

Under the model rule, IARs are responsible for ensuring that completed CE credits are reported to FINRA, NASAA's vendor for program tracking. NASAA has implemented a course reporting fee of \$3 per credit hour. Individual course costs will vary depending on the course and provider selected.

Currently, 12 NASAA member jurisdictions have adopted CE requirements similar to those proposed in the rule, namely, Arkansas, Colorado, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Vermont, Washington, D.C., and Wisconsin.²⁵

Effect of the Bill

Definitions

The bill creates the following definitions:

- “Accredited investor” has the same definition as that in SEC Rule 501, 17 C.F.R. s. 230.501, which includes:
 - Any bank, savings and loan associations, other institutions defined in section 3(a) of the federal Securities Act of 1933 (1933 Act), brokers or dealers, investment advisers, insurance companies, or investment companies;

¹⁹ NASAA, *Welcome to NASAA*, <https://www.nasaa.org/about-us/> (last visited Mar. 19, 2023).

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ *Id.*

²² *Id.*

²³ See NASAA, *NASAA Model Rule on Investment Adviser Representative Continuing Education (Model Rule 2002-411(h) or 1956-204(B)(6)-CE)*, <https://www.nasaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/NASAA-IAR-CE-Model-Rule.pdf> (last visited, Mar. 19, 2023).

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ NASAA, <https://www.nasaa.org/industry-resources/investment-advisers/investment-adviser-representative-continuing-education/iar-ce-map/> (last visited, Mar. 19, 2023).

- Any private business development company as defined in section 202(a)(22) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940;
- Any organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that is not formed for the specific purpose of acquiring securities offered with total assets in excess of \$5,000,000;
- Any director, executive officer, or general partner of the issuer of the securities being offered or sold, or any director, executive officer, or general partner of a general partner of that issuer; or
- Any natural person whose individual net worth, or joint net worth with that person's spouse or spousal equivalent, exceeds \$1,000,000 (subject to specific calculation restrictions).
- "Control Person" means, with respect to a money services business, any of the following:
 - A person who holds the title of president, treasurer, chief executive officer, chief financial officer, chief operations officer, chief legal officer, or compliance officer;
 - A person who holds any of the officer, general partner, manager, or managing member positions named in the money services business's governing documents;
 - A director of the money services business's board of directors;
 - A shareholder whose name shares are registered in the records of a corporation for profit who owns 25% or more of a class of the company's equity securities;
 - A general, limited, or special partner who has a 25% or greater interest of a limited partnership, limited liability limited partnership, foreign limited partnership, or foreign limited liability limited partnership;
 - A member who holds 25% or greater membership interest in a limited liability company or a foreign limited liability company;
 - A beneficial owner of any legal entity referred to above.
- "Natural person" is defined as an individual.

The bill amends the following definitions:

- "Associated person" is now defined by a party's relation to a dealer or to an investment adviser.
 - With respect to a dealer, an associated person is a natural person who is employed, appointed, or authorized by a dealer and who represents the dealer in effecting the purchase or sale of a security.
 - The term does not include a dealer or a partner, officer, or director of a dealer unless such person is specified in the group above. The term also does not include a dealer's employee whose function is only clerical or ministerial.
 - With respect to an investment adviser, an associated person is an individual, including, but not limited to, a partner, officer, director, or branch manager who is employed by or associated with, or is subject to the supervision or control of an investment adviser registered under this chapter, and such person:
 - Makes recommendations or otherwise gives investment advice regarding securities;
 - Manages client accounts or portfolios;
 - Determines which recommendations or advice regarding securities should be given;
 - Receives compensation to solicit, offer, or negotiate for the sale of investment advisory services; or
 - Supervises employees who perform a function outlined above.
 - With respect to an investment adviser, associated person does not include an investment adviser or an employee whose function is only clerical or ministerial.
- "Control" is amended to replace "under common control with" with "under control with."
- "Dealer" is defined as any person, other than an associated person of a dealer, that engages, for all or part of the person's time, directly or indirectly, as agent or principal in the business of offering, buying, selling, or otherwise dealing or trading in securities issued by another person. The term does not include the following:
 - A licensed practicing attorney who renders or performs any services in connection with the regular practice of the attorney's profession.
 - A bank authorized to do business in the state, except a nonbank subsidiary of a bank.

- A trust company having trust powers that it is authorized to exercise in this state, which renders or performs services in a fiduciary capacity incidental to the exercise of its trust powers.
- A wholesaler selling exclusively to dealers.
- A person buying and selling for the person's own account exclusively through a registered dealer or stock exchange.
- An issuer.
- A natural person representing an issuer in the purchase, sale, or distribution of the issuer's own securities if such person meets certain criteria.
- "Guaranty" is amended to clarify that a "writing" means "an agreement in writing."
- "Intermediary" is amended to clarify that an intermediary facilitates an offer or sale of a security of an issuer with a principal place of business in Florida through the intermediary's website.
- "Investment adviser" is amended to have a parallel structure to the new definition of "dealer."

The bill also amends various definitions to include the use of gender-neutral terms, to provide inclusion of any amendments to referenced federal securities law, and to specifically include references to limited liability companies.

Viatical Settlements

The bill amends s. 517.072, F.S. to include provisions relating to viatical settlements for organizational purposes that use to reside in s. 517.081, F.S. The provisions were not substantially changed.

Registration Procedure

The bill amends s. 517.081, F.S. to allow for all issuers meeting certain criteria, instead of just corporations, to use simplified offering circular to register securities. The bill reduces the issuer filing fee of \$1,000 to \$200 for offerings that are below the amount provided in s. 3(b) of the 1933 Act. The bill also provides that the office shall deem an application to register a security abandoned if the issuer has failed to complete a timely application, as specified by commission rule.

Registration by Notification; Federal Registration Statements

The bill provides that the office will consider an application for registration by notification abandoned if the SEC has not declared effective the applicant's federal registration statement within 180 days after the applicant's filing.

Revocation or Denial of Registration of Securities

The bill amends this section to include "investigations" in addition to "examinations" in various provisions as these provisions are applicable to both examinations and investigations conducted by the office.

The bill replaces the "demonstrated any evidence of unworthiness" standard for revocation or denial of a securities registration with the "engaged in any action that would be grounds for revocation, denial, or suspension under s. 517.161(1), F.S." standard.

The bill removes the standard of "is in any other way dishonest." The bill also removes the standard of revoking or denying a registration based on an issuer failing to timely complete any application for registration filed with the office. This provision is, instead, incorporated within ss. 517.081 and 517.082, F.S.

The bill requires that the office must provide notice of the entry of an order suspending the rights to sell securities to the issuer personally or by mail. This amendment eliminates the ability of the office to provide such notice by telephone confirmed in writing or by telegraph.

Registration of Dealers, Associated Persons, Intermediaries, and Investment Advisers

The bill eliminates the requirement that issuers register with the office to sell securities. The bill also clarifies which exempt transactions the registration requirement applies to as well as the meaning of “securities business.”

The bill eliminates the requirement that the office finds the applicant to be of “good repute and character.” Instead, the office is tasked with finding that the applicant complied with the “applicable registration provisions.” The bill provides the office shall register the application “unless the applicant is otherwise disqualified for registration pursuant to law.”

Continuing Education Requirements for Associated Persons of Investment Advisers and Federal Covered Advisers

The bill creates s. 517.1214, F.S. which provides a continuing education requirement for the associated persons of an investment adviser or a federally covered adviser. Starting in the year ending December 31, 2024, the associated person of an investment adviser or a federal covered investment adviser shall complete continuing educational content offered by a person that NASAA or NASAA's designee has authorized to provide the continuing education content required. The continuing education requirement follows an annual reporting period that starts on January 1 and ends on December 31. An associated person's initial reporting period commences the first day of the first full reporting period after the individual is required to be registered with the state.

The continuing education requirement consists of a total of 12 hours of continuing education content split into two broad categories:

- Six credits of approved continuing education content that addresses ethical and regulatory obligations, with at least 3 hours of the content covering the topic of ethics; and
- Six credits of approved continuing educational content that addresses an associated person's skills and knowledge regarding financial products, investment features, and practices in the investment advisory industry.

An associated person who is also a registered associated person of a FINRA member dealer and is in compliance with FINRA's continuing education requirements will be considered to be in compliance with the continuing education requirements of this section provided that the FINRA continuing education content is approved by NASAA.

Credits of continuing education completed by an associated person who currently holds a credential that qualifies for an examination waiver by passing any test prescribed in s. 15(b)(7) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 will be found to comply with the continuing education requirement upon meeting certain conditions. This condition entails that the associated person completes the credits of continuing education as a condition for maintaining the credential during the relevant reporting period; the credits of continuing education completed were mandatory to maintain the credential; and the continuing education content provided by the credentialing organization during the relevant reporting period is approved by NASAA.

The bill provides that an associated person is responsible for ensuring that the provider of continuing education content reports the associated person's completion of the requirements. Additionally, completed continuing education content that exceeds the requirements of this section cannot be carried over into a following year.

An associated person that fails to comply with this section by the end of a reporting period must register as “CE Inactive” and must complete the continuing education content requirements for the year they failed to comply with the requirements and the current reporting year in order to register as an associated person again. If the associated person renews as “CE Inactive” at the close of the calendar year and fails to complete and report all required CE credits for all reporting periods required by the close of the next calendar year, the associated person becomes unregistered.

An associated person required to be registered in Florida who is registered as an associated person in the individual's home state is considered to be in compliance with this section if the associated person meets Florida's annual 12-hour CE requirements explained above and such person is in compliance with the home state's CE requirements.

An associated person who was previously registered under s. 517.12, F.S. and became unregistered must complete the continuing education requirements for all reporting periods that occurred between the time that the associated person become unregistered and when the person became registered again under s. 517.12, F.S. unless the associated person takes and passes the required examinations or the examination requirements are waived in connection with the subsequent application for registration.

Rules of Conduct and Prohibited Business Practices for Dealers, Dealers' Associated Persons and Intermediaries

The bill amends this section to include intermediaries.

Revocation, Denial, or Suspension of Registration of Dealer, Investment Adviser, Intermediary, or Associated Person

The bill amends this section to add failure to pay, or attempting to avoid paying, certain final judgments, arbitration awards, fines, civil penalties, orders of restitution and disgorgement, or similar monetary payment obligations as grounds for denying, suspending, or revoking a registration.

Escrow Agreement

The bill repeals s. 517.181, F.S. which allowed the office to require an escrow agreement for securities that had been issued for certain intangible assets. The escrow agreement would require that the security be delivered in escrow to the office or other depository satisfactory to the office. The security would be released from escrow upon showing that the issuer is currently operating a sound business.

Criminal Punishment Code; Offense Severity Ranking Chart

The bill removes issuers from the listed parties that would face felony charges for violating s. 517.12(1), F.S. as issuers are no longer required to register with the office.

Miscellaneous

The bill eliminates the bad business repute and the unworthiness standard from various sections of the chapter. The bill also eliminates the use of the term "small loan companies" in various sections of the chapter.

The bill amends various sections to:

- Replace the term "insolvent" with "cannot pay its debts as they become due in the usual course of business;"
- Replace "person directly or indirectly controlling" with "control person;"
- Replace the term "advisors" with "advisers" and gendered language with gender-neutral language;
- Provide clarity by specifically including limited liabilities companies in the regulations throughout ch. 517, F.S.; and
- Update cross-references.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amends s. 517.021, F.S., relating to definitions.

Section 2: Amends s. 517.072, F.S., relating to viatical settlement investment.

- Section 3:** Amends s. 517.081, F.S., relating to registration procedure.
- Section 4:** Amends s. 517.082, F.S., relating to registration by notification; federal registration statements.
- Section 5:** Amends s. 517.111, F.S., relating to revocation or denial of registration of securities.
- Section 6:** Amends s. 517.12, F.S., relating to registration of dealers, associated persons, intermediaries, and investment advisers.
- Section 7:** Creates s. 517.1214, F.S., relating to continuing education requirements for associated persons of investment advisers and federal covered advisers.
- Section 8:** Amends s. 517.1217, F.S., relating to rules of conduct and prohibited business practices for dealers and their associated persons and for intermediaries.
- Section 9:** Amends s. 517.161, F.S., relating to revocation, denial, or suspension of registration of dealer, investment adviser, intermediary, or associated person.
- Section 10:** Amends s. 517.1611, F.S., relating to guidelines.
- Section 11:** Repeals s. 517.181, F.S., relating to escrow agreement.
- Section 12:** Amends s. 517.201, F.S., relating to investigations; examinations; subpoenas; hearings; witnesses.
- Section 13:** Amends s. 921.0022, F.S., relating to Criminal Punishment Code; offense severity ranking chart.
- Section 14:** Amends s. 517.1215, F.S., relating to requirements, rules of conduct, and prohibited business practices for investment advisers and their associated persons.
- Section 15:** Amends s. 517.075, F.S., relating to Cuba, prospectus disclosure of doing business with, required.
- Section 16:** Amends s. 517.131, F.S., relating to Securities Guaranty Fund.
- Section 17:** Amends s. 517.211, F.S., relating to remedies available in cases of unlawful sale.
- Section 18:** Amends s. 517.315, F.S., relating to fees.
- Section 19:** Amends s. 626.9911, F.S., relating to definitions.
- Section 20:** Amends s. 744.351, F.S., relating to bond of guardian.
- Section 21:** Amends s. 517.1205, F.S., relating to registration of associated persons specific as to securities dealer, investment adviser, or federal covered adviser identified at time of registration approval.
- Section 22:** Provides an effective date of October 1, 2023.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

The bill would have a negative, although insignificant, fiscal effect on state government as the bill reduces the issuer fee for certain transactions.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

The bill has an indeterminate fiscal impact on the private sector. Specifically, the bill requires associated persons of investment advisers and federal covered advisers to complete continuing education requirements on an annual basis. Costs incurred by associated persons who are required to comply with the requirement will vary. NASAA has implemented a course reporting fee of \$3 per credit hour. Therefore, an associated person will be required to pay a minimum of \$36 per year in addition to any training costs to meet the CE requirements. Training costs are indeterminable and will vary depending on the selected continuing education course and provider, whether the associated person is in compliance with FINRA CE requirements, and whether the associated person holds and maintains certain professional designations.²⁶

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not Applicable. This bill does not appear to affect county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

²⁶ Florida Office of Financial Regulation, Agency Analysis of 2023 House Bill 253, p. 7 (Mar. 1, 2023).
STORAGE NAME pcs0253.IBS
DATE 3/20/2023

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES