By the Committee on Banking and Insurance; and Senator Lee

597-02406-15 20151402c1 1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to the organization of the Department 3 of Financial Services; amending s. 20.121, F.S.; 4 revising the divisions and functions of the 5 department; authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to 6 establish divisions, bureaus, or offices of the 7 department; amending s. 28.2401, F.S.; providing 8 funding from certain probate petition service charges 9 to the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation 10 for clerk education provided by the corporation; 11 amending s. 28.241, F.S., relating to the deposit of 12 certain filing fees for trial and appellate proceedings, to conform provisions to changes made by 13 the act; amending s. 28.35, F.S.; deleting a 14 15 requirement that the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation contract with the department 16 17 for certain audits; amending s. 110.205, F.S.; 18 exempting audit and accounting positions of the 19 department from career service requirements; amending 20 s. 624.26, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made 21 by the act; amending s. 624.307, F.S.; providing 22 powers and duties of the department's Division of 23 Consumer Services; authorizing the division to impose certain penalties; authorizing the department to adopt 24 25 rules relating to the division; providing for construction; amending s. 624.502, F.S.; requiring 2.6 27 that certain service of process fees be deposited into 28 the Administrative Trust Fund; amending ss. 16.59, 29 400.9935, 409.91212, 440.105, 440.1051, 440.12,

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30	624.521, 626.016, 626.989, 626.9891, 626.9892,
31	626.9893, 626.9894, 626.9895, 626.99278, 627.351,
32	627.711, 627.736, 627.7401, 631.156, 641.30, and
33	932.7055, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made
34	by act; making technical changes; providing an
35	effective date.
36	
37	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
38	
39	Section 1. Subsections (2) and (6) of section 20.121,
40	Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
41	20.121 Department of Financial Services.—There is created a
42	Department of Financial Services.
43	(2) DIVISIONSThe Department of Financial Services shall
44	consist of the following divisions and offices:
45	(a) The Division of Accounting and Auditing , which shall
46	include the following bureau and office:
47	1. The Bureau of Unclaimed Property.
48	2. The Office of Fiscal Integrity which shall function as a
49	criminal justice agency for purposes of ss. 943.045-943.08 and
50	shall have a separate budget. The office may conduct
51	investigations within or outside this state as the bureau deems
52	necessary to aid in the enforcement of this section. If during
53	an investigation the office has reason to believe that any
54	criminal law of this state has or may have been violated, the
55	office shall refer any records tending to show such violation to
56	state or federal law enforcement or prosecutorial agencies and
57	shall provide investigative assistance to those agencies as
58	required.

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59	(b) The Division of State Fire Marshal.
60	(c) The Division of Risk Management.
61	(d) The Division of Treasury, which shall include a Bureau
62	of Deferred Compensation responsible for administering the
63	Government Employees Deferred Compensation Plan established
64	under s. 112.215 for state employees.
65	(e) The Division of Criminal Investigations, which shall
66	function as a criminal justice agency for purposes of ss.
67	943.045-943.08 Insurance Fraud.
68	(f) The Division of Rehabilitation and Liquidation.
69	(g) The Division of Insurance Agent and Agency Services.
70	(h) The Division of Consumer Services.
71	1. The Division of Consumer Services shall perform the
72	following functions concerning products or services regulated by
73	the department or by the Office of Insurance Regulation:
74	a. Receive inquiries and complaints from consumers.
75	b. Prepare and disseminate such information as the
76	department deems appropriate to inform or assist consumers.
77	c. Provide direct assistance and advocacy for consumers who
78	request such assistance or advocacy.
79	d. With respect to apparent or potential violations of law
80	or applicable rules by a person or entity licensed by the
81	department or office, report apparent or potential violations to
82	the office or the appropriate division of the department, which
83	may take such further action as it deems appropriate.
84	e. Designate an employee of the division as primary contact
85	for consumers on issues relating to sinkholes.
86	2. Any person licensed or issued a certificate of authority
87	by the department or by the Office of Insurance Regulation shall

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88	respond, in writing, to the Division of Consumer Services within
89	20 days after receipt of a written request for information from
90	the division concerning a consumer complaint. The response must
91	address the issues and allegations raised in the complaint. The
92	division may impose an administrative penalty for failure to
93	comply with this subparagraph of up to \$2,500 per violation upon
94	any entity licensed by the department or the office and \$250 for
95	the first violation, \$500 for the second violation, and up to
96	\$1,000 per violation thereafter upon any individual licensed by
97	the department or the office.
98	3. The department may adopt rules to administer this
99	paragraph.
100	4. The powers, duties, and responsibilities expressed or
101	granted in this paragraph do not limit the powers, duties, and
102	responsibilities of the Department of Financial Services, the
103	Financial Services Commission, the Office of Insurance
104	Regulation, or the Office of Financial Regulation set forth
105	elsewhere in the Florida Statutes.
106	(i) The Division of Workers' Compensation.
107	(j) The Division of Administration.
108	(k) The Division of Legal Services.
109	(1) The Division of Information Systems.
110	<u>(j)(m)</u> The Office of Insurance Consumer Advocate.
111	<u>(k) (n)</u> The Division of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer
112	Services.
113	(1) (0) The Division of Public Assistance Fraud.
114	
115	The Chief Financial Officer may establish any other division,
116	bureau, or office of the department that he or she deems

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597-02406-15 20151402c1 117 necessary to promote the efficient and effective operation of 118 the department pursuant to s. 20.04. 119 (6) STRATEGIC MARKETS RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT UNIT .- The 120 Strategic Markets Research and Assessment Unit is established 121 within the Department of Financial Services. The Chief Financial 122 Officer or his or her designee shall report on September 1, 123 2008, and quarterly thereafter, to the Cabinet, the President of 124 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on 125 the status of the state's financial services markets. At a 126 minimum, the report must include a summary of issues, trends, and threats that broadly impact the condition of the financial 127 128 services industries, along with the effect of such conditions on financial institutions, the securities industries, other 129 financial entities, and the credit market. The Chief Financial 130 131 Officer shall also provide findings and recommendations 132 regarding regulatory and policy changes to the Cabinet, the 133 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of 134 Representatives. 135 Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 28.2401, Florida

135 Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 28.2401, Florida 136 Statutes, is amended to read:

137 28.2401 Service charges and filing fees in probate138 matters.-

(3) An additional service charge of \$4 on petitions seeking
summary administration, formal administration, ancillary
administration, guardianship, curatorship, and conservatorship
shall be paid to the clerk. The clerk shall transfer \$3.50 to
the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Court Education
Trust Fund and shall transfer 50 cents to the Department of
Revenue for deposit into the Department of Financial Services'

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146	Administrative Trust Fund to fund clerk education provided by
147	the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation. No
148	additional fees, charges, or costs shall be added to the service
149	charges or filing fees imposed under this section, except as
150	authorized by general law.
151	Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
152	28.241, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
153	28.241 Filing fees for trial and appellate proceedings
154	(1) Filing fees are due at the time a party files a
155	pleading to initiate a proceeding or files a pleading for
156	relief. Reopen fees are due at the time a party files a pleading
157	to reopen a proceeding if at least 90 days have elapsed since
158	the filing of a final order or final judgment with the clerk. If
159	a fee is not paid upon the filing of the pleading as required
160	under this section, the clerk shall pursue collection of the fee
161	pursuant to s. 28.246.
162	(a)1.a. Except as provided in sub-subparagraph b. and
163	subparagraph 2., the party instituting any civil action, suit,
164	or proceeding in the circuit court shall pay to the clerk of
165	that court a filing fee of up to \$395 in all cases in which
166	there are not more than five defendants and an additional filing
167	fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant in excess of five. Of the
168	first <u>\$199</u> \$200 in filing fees, \$195 must be remitted to the
169	Department of Revenue for deposit into the State Courts Revenue
170	Trust Fund and $ au$ \$4 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue
171	for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the
172	Department of Financial Services and used to fund the contract
173	with the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation created
174	in s. 28.35, and \$1 must be remitted to the Department of

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175 Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within 176 the Department of Financial Services to fund audits of 177 individual clerks' court-related expenditures conducted by the Department of Financial Services. By the 10th of each month, the 178 179 clerk shall submit that portion of the filing fees collected in 180 the previous month which is in excess of one-twelfth of the 181 clerk's total budget to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund. 182

183 b. The party instituting any civil action, suit, or proceeding in the circuit court under chapter 39, chapter 61, 184 185 chapter 741, chapter 742, chapter 747, chapter 752, or chapter 186 753 shall pay to the clerk of that court a filing fee of up to 187 \$295 in all cases in which there are not more than five defendants and an additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each 188 defendant in excess of five. Of the first \$99 \$100 in filing 189 190 fees, \$95 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for 191 deposit into the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund and $_{7}$ \$4 must be 192 remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the 193 Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial 194 Services and used to fund the contract with the Florida Clerks 195 of Court Operations Corporation created in s. 28.35, and \$1 must 196 be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the 197 Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services to fund audits of individual clerks' court-related 198 199 expenditures conducted by the Department of Financial Services.

c. An additional filing fee of \$4 shall be paid to the
clerk. The clerk shall remit \$3.50 to the Department of Revenue
for deposit into the Court Education Trust Fund and shall remit
50 cents to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the

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204 Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial 205 Services to fund clerk education provided by the Florida Clerks 206 of Court Operations Corporation. An additional filing fee of up 207 to \$18 shall be paid by the party seeking each severance that is 208 granted. The clerk may impose an additional filing fee of up to 209 \$85 for all proceedings of garnishment, attachment, replevin, 210 and distress. Postal charges incurred by the clerk of the 211 circuit court in making service by certified or registered mail on defendants or other parties shall be paid by the party at 212 213 whose instance service is made. Additional fees, charges, or 214 costs may not be added to the filing fees imposed under this 215 section, except as authorized in this section or by general law.

216 2.a. Notwithstanding the fees prescribed in subparagraph 217 1., a party instituting a civil action in circuit court relating 218 to real property or mortgage foreclosure shall pay a graduated 219 filing fee based on the value of the claim.

220 b. A party shall estimate in writing the amount in 221 controversy of the claim upon filing the action. For purposes of 222 this subparagraph, the value of a mortgage foreclosure action is 223 based upon the principal due on the note secured by the 224 mortgage, plus interest owed on the note and any moneys advanced 225 by the lender for property taxes, insurance, and other advances 226 secured by the mortgage, at the time of filing the foreclosure. 227 The value shall also include the value of any tax certificates 228 related to the property. In stating the value of a mortgage 229 foreclosure claim, a party shall declare in writing the total 230 value of the claim, as well as the individual elements of the 231 value as prescribed in this sub-subparagraph.

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c. In its order providing for the final disposition of the

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     matter, the court shall identify the actual value of the claim.
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     The clerk shall adjust the filing fee if there is a difference
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     between the estimated amount in controversy and the actual value
236
     of the claim and collect any additional filing fee owed or
237
     provide a refund of excess filing fee paid.
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          d. The party shall pay a filing fee of:
239
           (I) Three hundred and ninety-five dollars in all cases in
240
     which the value of the claim is $50,000 or less and in which
     there are not more than five defendants. The party shall pay an
241
242
     additional filing fee of up to $2.50 for each defendant in
243
     excess of five. Of the first $199 <del>$200</del> in filing fees, $195 must
244
     be remitted by the clerk to the Department of Revenue for
245
     deposit into the General Revenue Fund and _{\mathcal{T}} $4 must be remitted
246
     to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative
247
     Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services and used
248
     to fund the contract with the Florida Clerks of Court Operations
249
     Corporation created in s. 28.35, and $1 must be remitted to the
250
     Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust
251
     Fund within the Department of Financial Services to fund audits
252
     of individual clerks' court-related expenditures conducted by
253
     the Department of Financial Services;
254
           (II) Nine hundred dollars in all cases in which the value
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of the claim is more than \$50,000 but less than \$250,000 and in which there are not more than five defendants. The party shall pay an additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant in excess of five. Of the first $\frac{$704}{$705}$ in filing fees, \$700 must be remitted by the clerk to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund and, \$4 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative

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262	Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services and used
263	to fund the contract with the Florida Clerks of Court Operations
264	Corporation created in s. 28.35 , and \$1 must be remitted to the
265	Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust
266	Fund within the Department of Financial Services to fund audits
267	of individual clerks' court-related expenditures conducted by
268	the Department of Financial Services; or
269	(III) One thousand nine hundred dollars in all cases in

270 which the value of the claim is \$250,000 or more and in which 271 there are not more than five defendants. The party shall pay an 272 additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant in excess of five. Of the first $$1,704 \frac{$1,705}{100}$ in filing fees, \$930273 274 must be remitted by the clerk to the Department of Revenue for 275 deposit into the General Revenue Fund, \$770 must be remitted to 276 the Department of Revenue for deposit into the State Courts 277 Revenue Trust Fund and $_{\tau}$ \$4 must be remitted to the Department of 278 Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within 279 the Department of Financial Services to fund the contract with 280 the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation created in s. 281 28.35, and \$1 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for 282 deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department 283 of Financial Services to fund audits of individual clerks' 284 court-related expenditures conducted by the Department of 285 Financial Services.

e. An additional filing fee of \$4 shall be paid to the
clerk. The clerk shall remit \$3.50 to the Department of Revenue
for deposit into the Court Education Trust Fund and shall remit
50 cents to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the
Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial

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291	Services to fund clerk education provided by the Florida Clerks
292	of Court Operations Corporation. An additional filing fee of up
293	to \$18 shall be paid by the party seeking each severance that is
294	granted. The clerk may impose an additional filing fee of up to
295	\$85 for all proceedings of garnishment, attachment, replevin,
296	and distress. Postal charges incurred by the clerk of the
297	circuit court in making service by certified or registered mail
298	on defendants or other parties shall be paid by the party at
299	whose instance service is made. Additional fees, charges, or
300	costs may not be added to the filing fees imposed under this
301	section, except as authorized in this section or by general law.
302	Section 4. Paragraphs (e) through (h) of subsection (2) of
303	section 28.35, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
304	28.35 Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation
305	(2) The duties of the corporation shall include the
306	following:
307	(e) Entering into a contract with the Department of
308	Financial Services for the department to audit the court-related
309	expenditures of individual clerks pursuant to s. 17.03.
310	<u>(e)</u> Reviewing, certifying, and recommending proposed
311	budgets submitted by clerks of the court pursuant to s. 28.36.
312	As part of this process, the corporation shall:
313	1. Calculate the minimum amount of revenue necessary for
314	each clerk of the court to efficiently perform the list of
315	court-related functions specified in paragraph (3)(a). The
316	corporation shall apply the workload measures appropriate for
317	determining the individual level of review required to fund the
318	clerk's budget.
319	2. Prepare a cost comparison of similarly situated clerks
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597-02406-15 20151402c1 320 of the court, based on county population and numbers of filings, 321 using the standard list of court-related functions specified in 322 paragraph (3)(a). 323 3. Conduct an annual base budget review and an annual 324 budget exercise examining the total budget of each clerk of the 325 court. The review shall examine revenues from all sources, 326 expenses of court-related functions, and expenses of noncourt-327 related functions as necessary to determine that court-related 328 revenues are not being used for noncourt-related purposes. The 329 review and exercise shall identify potential targeted budget 330 reductions in the percentage amount provided in Schedule VIII-B 331 of the state's previous year's legislative budget instructions, 332 as referenced in s. 216.023(3), or an equivalent schedule or 333 instruction as may be adopted by the Legislature. 334 4. Identify those proposed budgets containing funding for 335 items not included on the standard list of court-related 336 functions specified in paragraph (3)(a). 337 5. Identify those clerks projected to have court-related 338 revenues insufficient to fund their anticipated court-related 339 expenditures. 340 6. Use revenue estimates based on the official estimate for 341 funds accruing to the clerks of the court made by the Revenue 342 Estimating Conference. 343 7. Identify and report pay and benefit increases in any 344 proposed clerk budget, including, but not limited to, cost of 345 living increases, merit increases, and bonuses. 346 8. Provide detailed explanation for increases in 347 anticipated expenditures in any clerk budget that exceeds the 348 current year budget by more than 3 percent.

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349	9. Identify and report the budget of any clerk which
350	exceeds the average budget of similarly situated clerks by more
351	than 10 percent.
352	<u>(f)</u> Developing and conducting clerk education programs.
353	(g) (h) Before Beginning August 1, 2014, and each August 1
354	of each year thereafter, submitting to the Legislative Budget
355	Commission, as provided in s. 11.90, its proposed budget and the
356	information described in paragraph <u>(e)</u> (f) , as well as the
357	proposed budgets for each clerk of the court. Before October 1
358	of each year beginning in 2014 , the Legislative Budget
359	Commission shall consider the submitted budgets and shall
360	approve, disapprove, or amend and approve the corporation's
361	budget and shall approve, disapprove, or amend and approve the
362	total of the clerks' combined budgets or any individual clerk's
363	budget. If the Legislative Budget Commission fails to approve or
364	amend and approve the corporation's budget or the clerks'
365	combined budgets before October 1, the clerk shall continue to
366	perform the court-related functions based upon the clerk's
367	budget for the previous county fiscal year.
368	Section 5. Paragraph (y) is added to subsection (2) of
369	section 110.205, Florida Statutes, to read:
370	110.205 Career service; exemptions
371	(2) EXEMPT POSITIONSThe exempt positions that are not
372	covered by this part include the following:
373	(y) All audit and accounting positions of the Division of
374	Accounting and Auditing of the Department of Financial Services.
375	Section 6. Subsection (4) of section 624.26, Florida
376	Statutes, is amended to read:
377	624.26 Collaborative arrangement with the Department of

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378	Health and Human Services
379	(4) The department's Division of Consumer Services may
380	respond to complaints by consumers relating to a requirement of
381	PPACA as authorized under s. 20.121(2)(h), and report apparent
382	or potential violations to the office and to the federal
383	Department of Health and Human Services.
384	Section 7. Subsection (10) is added to section 624.307,
385	Florida Statutes, to read:
386	624.307 General powers; duties.—
387	(10) (a) The department's Division of Consumer Services
388	shall perform the following functions concerning products or
389	services regulated by the department or office:
390	1. Receive inquiries and complaints from consumers.
391	2. Prepare and disseminate such information as the
392	department deems appropriate to inform or assist consumers.
393	3. Provide direct assistance and advocacy for consumers who
394	request such assistance or advocacy.
395	4. With respect to apparent or potential violations of law
396	or applicable rules by a person or entity licensed by the
397	department or office, report apparent or potential violations to
398	the office or the appropriate division of the department, which
399	may take such further action as it deems appropriate.
400	5. Designate an employee of the division as primary contact
401	for consumers on issues relating to sinkholes.
402	(b) Any person licensed or issued a certificate of
403	authority by the department or the office shall respond, in
404	writing, to the division within 20 days after receipt of a
405	written request for information from the division concerning a
406	consumer complaint. The response must address the issues and

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597-02406-15 20151402c1 407 allegations raised in the complaint. The division may impose an 408 administrative penalty for failure to comply with this paragraph 409 of up to \$2,500 per violation upon any entity licensed by the 410 department or the office and \$250 for the first violation, \$500 411 for the second violation, and up to \$1,000 per violation 412 thereafter upon any individual licensed by the department or the 413 office. 414 (c) The department may adopt rules to administer this 415 subsection. 416 (d) The powers, duties, and responsibilities expressed or 417 granted in this subsection do not limit the powers, duties, and 418 responsibilities of the Department of Financial Services, the 419 Financial Services Commission, the Office of Insurance 420 Regulation, or the Office of Financial Regulation as otherwise 421 provided by law. 422 Section 8. Section 624.502, Florida Statutes, as amended by 423 chapter 2014-53, Laws of Florida, is amended to read: 424 624.502 Service of process fee.-In all instances as 425 provided in any section of the insurance code and s. 48.151(3) 426 in which service of process is authorized to be made upon the 427 Chief Financial Officer or the director of the office, the 428 plaintiff shall pay to the department or office a fee of \$15 for 429 such service of process, which fee shall be deposited into the 430 Administrative Trust Fund Insurance Regulatory Trust Fund. 431 Section 9. Section 16.59, Florida Statutes, is amended to 432 read: 433 16.59 Medicaid fraud control.-The Medicaid Fraud Control 434 Unit is created in the Department of Legal Affairs to

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investigate all violations of s. 409.920 and any criminal

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597-02406-15 20151402c1 436 violations discovered during the course of those investigations. 437 The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit may refer any criminal violation 438 so uncovered to the appropriate prosecuting authority. The 439 offices of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, the Agency for 440 Health Care Administration Medicaid program integrity program, 441 and the Divisions of Criminal Investigations Insurance Fraud and 442 Public Assistance Fraud within the Department of Financial 443 Services shall, to the extent possible, be collocated; however, positions dedicated to Medicaid managed care fraud within the 444 445 Medicaid Fraud Control Unit shall be collocated with the 446 Division of Criminal Investigations Insurance Fraud. The Agency 447 for Health Care Administration, the Department of Legal Affairs, 448 and the Divisions of Criminal Investigations Insurance Fraud and 449 Public Assistance Fraud within the Department of Financial 450 Services shall conduct joint training and other joint activities 451 designed to increase communication and coordination in 452 recovering overpayments.

453 Section 10. Subsection (9) of section 400.9935, Florida 454 Statutes, is amended to read:

455

400.9935 Clinic responsibilities.-

456 (9) In addition to the requirements of part II of chapter 457 408, the clinic shall display a sign in a conspicuous location 458 within the clinic readily visible to all patients indicating 459 that, pursuant to s. 626.9892, the Department of Financial 460 Services may pay rewards of up to \$25,000 to persons providing 461 information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons 462 committing crimes investigated by the Division of Criminal 463 Investigations Insurance Fraud arising from violations of s. 440.105, s. 624.15, s. 626.9541, s. 626.989, or s. 817.234. An 464

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465	authorized employee of the Division of Criminal Investigations
466	Insurance Fraud may make unannounced inspections of a clinic
467	licensed under this part as necessary to determine whether the
468	clinic is in compliance with this subsection. A licensed clinic
469	shall allow full and complete access to the premises to such
470	authorized employee of the division who makes an inspection to
471	determine compliance with this subsection.
472	Section 11. Subsection (6) of section 409.91212, Florida
473	Statutes, is amended to read:
474	409.91212 Medicaid managed care fraud
475	(6) Each managed care plan shall report all suspected or
476	confirmed instances of provider or recipient fraud or abuse
477	within 15 calendar days after detection to the Office of
478	Medicaid Program Integrity within the agency. At a minimum the
479	report must contain the name of the provider or recipient, the
480	Medicaid billing number or tax identification number, and a
481	description of the fraudulent or abusive act. The Office of
482	Medicaid Program Integrity in the agency shall forward the
483	report of suspected overpayment, abuse, or fraud to the
484	appropriate investigative unit, including, but not limited to,
485	the Bureau of Medicaid program integrity, the Medicaid fraud
486	control unit, the Division of Public Assistance Fraud, the
487	Division of <u>Criminal Investigations</u> Insurance Fraud , or the
488	Department of Law Enforcement.
489	(a) Failure to timely report shall result in an
490	administrative fine of \$1,000 per calendar day after the 15th
491	day of detection.

492 (b) Failure to timely report may result in additional493 administrative, civil, or criminal penalties.

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597-02406-15 20151402c1 494 Section 12. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 495 440.105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 496 440.105 Prohibited activities; reports; penalties; 497 limitations.-(1) (a) Any insurance carrier, any individual self-insured, 498 499 any commercial or group self-insurance fund, any professional 500 practitioner licensed or regulated by the Department of Health, 501 except as otherwise provided by law, any medical review 502 committee as defined in s. 766.101, any private medical review 503 committee, and any insurer, agent, or other person licensed 504 under the insurance code, or any employee thereof, having 505 knowledge or who believes that a fraudulent act or any other act 506 or practice which, upon conviction, constitutes a felony or 507 misdemeanor under this chapter is being or has been committed 508 shall send to the Division of Criminal Investigations Insurance 509 Fraud, Bureau of Workers' Compensation Fraud, a report or 510 information pertinent to such knowledge or belief and such 511 additional information relative thereto as the bureau may 512 require. The bureau shall review such information or reports and 513 select such information or reports as, in its judgment, may 514 require further investigation. It shall then cause an 515 independent examination of the facts surrounding such 516 information or report to be made to determine the extent, if 517 any, to which a fraudulent act or any other act or practice which, upon conviction, constitutes a felony or a misdemeanor 518 519 under this chapter is being committed. The bureau shall report 520 any alleged violations of law which its investigations disclose 521 to the appropriate licensing agency and state attorney or other 522 prosecuting agency having jurisdiction with respect to any such

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523	violations of this chapter. If prosecution by the state attorney
524	or other prosecuting agency having jurisdiction with respect to
525	such violation is not begun within 60 days of the bureau's
526	report, the state attorney or other prosecuting agency having
527	jurisdiction with respect to such violation shall inform the
528	bureau of the reasons for the lack of prosecution.
529	Section 13. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 440.1051,
530	Florida Statutes, are amended to read
531	440.1051 Fraud reports; civil immunity; criminal
532	penalties
533	(1) The Bureau of Workers' Compensation Insurance Fraud of
534	the Division of <u>Criminal Investigations</u> Insurance Fraud of the
535	department shall establish a toll-free telephone number to
536	receive reports of workers' compensation fraud committed by an
537	employee, employer, insurance provider, physician, attorney, or
538	other person.
539	(2) Any person who reports workers' compensation fraud to
540	the Division of <u>Criminal Investigations</u> Insurance Fraud under
541	subsection (1) is immune from civil liability for doing so, and
542	the person or entity alleged to have committed the fraud may not
543	retaliate against him or her for providing such report, unless
544	the person making the report knows it to be false.
545	Section 14. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
546	440.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
547	440.12 Time for commencement and limits on weekly rate of
548	compensation
549	(1) Compensation is not allowed for the first 7 days of
550	the disability, except for benefits provided under s. 440.13.
551	However, if the injury results in more than 21 days of
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597-02406-15 20151402c1 disability, compensation is allowed from the commencement of the disability. (c) Each carrier shall keep a record of all payments made under this subsection, including the time and manner of such payments, and shall furnish these records or a report based on these records to the Division of Criminal Investigations Insurance Fraud and the Division of Workers' Compensation, upon request. Section 15. Subsection (1) of section 624.521, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 624.521 Deposit of certain tax receipts; refund of improper payments.-

564 (1) The department of Financial Services shall promptly 565 deposit in the State Treasury to the credit of the Insurance 566 Regulatory Trust Fund all "state tax" portions of agents' 567 licenses collected under s. 624.501 necessary to fund the 568 Division of Criminal Investigations Insurance Fraud. The balance 569 of the tax shall be credited to the General Fund. All moneys 570 received by the department of Financial Services or the office 571 not in accordance with the provisions of this code or not in the 572 exact amount as specified by the applicable provisions of this 573 code shall be returned to the remitter. The records of the 574 department or office shall show the date and reason for such 575 return.

576 Section 16. Subsection (4) of section 626.016, Florida 577 Statutes, is amended to read:

578 626.016 Powers and duties of department, commission, and 579 office.-

(4) Nothing in this section is intended to limit the

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

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597-02406-15 20151402c1 581 authority of the department and the Division of Criminal 582 Investigations Insurance Fraud, as specified in s. 626.989. 583 Section 17. Subsections (2) and (6) of section 626.989, 584 Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 585 626.989 Investigation by department or Division of Criminal 586 Investigations Insurance Fraud; compliance; immunity; 587 confidential information; reports to division; division 588 investigator's power of arrest.-589 (2) If, by its own inquiries or as a result of complaints, 590 the department or its Division of Criminal Investigations 591 Insurance Fraud has reason to believe that a person has engaged 592 in, or is engaging in, a fraudulent insurance act, an act or 593 practice that violates s. 626.9541 or s. 817.234, or an act or 594 practice punishable under s. 624.15, it may administer oaths and 595 affirmations, request the attendance of witnesses or proffering 596 of matter, and collect evidence. The department shall not compel 597 the attendance of any person or matter in any such investigation 598 except pursuant to subsection (4). 599 (6) Any person, other than an insurer, agent, or other

600 person licensed under the code, or an employee thereof, having 601 knowledge or who believes that a fraudulent insurance act or any 602 other act or practice which, upon conviction, constitutes a 603 felony or a misdemeanor under the code, or under s. 817.234, is being or has been committed may send to the Division of Criminal 604 605 Investigations Insurance Fraud a report or information pertinent 606 to such knowledge or belief and such additional information 607 relative thereto as the department may request. Any professional 608 practitioner licensed or regulated by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, except as otherwise provided by 609

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610	law, any medical review committee as defined in s. 766.101, any
611	private medical review committee, and any insurer, agent, or
612	other person licensed under the code, or an employee thereof,
613	having knowledge or who believes that a fraudulent insurance act
614	or any other act or practice which, upon conviction, constitutes
615	a felony or a misdemeanor under the code, or under s. 817.234,
616	is being or has been committed shall send to the Division of
617	<u>Criminal Investigations</u> Insurance Fraud a report or information
618	pertinent to such knowledge or belief and such additional
619	information relative thereto as the department may require. The
620	Division of <u>Criminal Investigations</u> Insurance Fraud shall review
621	such information or reports and select such information or
622	reports as, in its judgment, may require further investigation.
623	It shall then cause an independent examination of the facts
624	surrounding such information or report to be made to determine
625	the extent, if any, to which a fraudulent insurance act or any
626	other act or practice which, upon conviction, constitutes a
627	felony or a misdemeanor under the code, or under s. 817.234, is
628	being committed. The Division of Criminal Investigations
629	Insurance Fraud shall report any alleged violations of law which
630	its investigations disclose to the appropriate licensing agency
631	and state attorney or other prosecuting agency having
632	jurisdiction with respect to any such violation, as provided in
633	s. 624.310. If prosecution by the state attorney or other
634	prosecuting agency having jurisdiction with respect to such
635	violation is not begun within 60 days of the division's report,
636	the state attorney or other prosecuting agency having
637	jurisdiction with respect to such violation shall inform the
638	division of the reasons for the lack of prosecution.

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597-02406-15 20151402c1 639 Section 18. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section 640 626.9891, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 641 626.9891 Insurer anti-fraud investigative units; reporting 642 requirements; penalties for noncompliance.-643 (1) Each Every insurer admitted to do business in this 644 state who in the previous calendar year, at any time during that 645 year, had \$10 million or more in direct premiums written shall: 646 (a) Establish and maintain a unit or division within the 647 company to investigate possible fraudulent claims by insureds or 648 by persons making claims for services or repairs against 649 policies held by insureds; or 650 (b) Contract with others to investigate possible fraudulent 651 claims for services or repairs against policies held by 652 insureds. 653 654 An insurer subject to this subsection shall file with the 655 Division of Criminal Investigations Insurance Fraud of the department on or before July 1, 1996, a detailed description of 656 657 the unit or division established pursuant to paragraph (a) or a 658 copy of the contract and related documents required by paragraph 659 (b). 660 (2) Every insurer admitted to do business in this state, 661 which in the previous calendar year had less than \$10 million in 662 direct premiums written, must adopt an anti-fraud plan and file it with the Division of Criminal Investigations Insurance Fraud 663 664 of the department on or before July 1, 1996. An insurer may, in 665 lieu of adopting and filing an anti-fraud plan, comply with the 666 provisions of subsection (1).

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(3) Each insurer's insurers anti-fraud plan must plans

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668	shall include all of the following:
669	(a) A description of the insurer's procedures for detecting
670	and investigating possible fraudulent insurance $\mathtt{acts}. extsf{\cdot}$
671	(b) A description of the insurer's procedures for the
672	mandatory reporting of possible fraudulent insurance acts to the
673	Division of <u>Criminal Investigations</u> Insurance Fraud of the
674	department <u>.</u> +
675	(c) A description of the insurer's plan for anti-fraud
676	education and training of its claims adjusters or other
677	personnel <u>.; and</u>
678	(d) A written description or chart outlining the
679	organizational arrangement of the insurer's anti-fraud personnel
680	who are responsible for the investigation and reporting of
681	possible fraudulent insurance acts.
682	Section 19. Subsection (2) of section 626.9892, Florida
683	Statutes, is amended to read:
684	626.9892 Anti-Fraud Reward Program; reporting of insurance
685	fraud
686	(2) The department may pay rewards of up to \$25,000 to
687	persons providing information leading to the arrest and
688	conviction of persons committing crimes investigated by the
689	Division of <u>Criminal Investigations</u> Insurance Fraud arising from
690	violations of s. 440.105, s. 624.15, s. 626.9541, s. 626.989, or
691	s. 817.234.
692	Section 20. Subsection (1) of section 626.9893, Florida
693	Statutes, is amended to read:
694	626.9893 Disposition of revenues; criminal or forfeiture
695	proceedings
696	(1) The Division of <u>Criminal Investigations</u> Insurance Fraud

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697	of the Department of Financial Services may deposit revenues
698	received as a result of criminal proceedings or forfeiture
699	proceedings, other than revenues deposited into the Department
700	of Financial Services' Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund under
701	s. 17.43, into the Insurance Regulatory Trust Fund. Moneys
702	deposited pursuant to this section shall be separately accounted
703	for and shall be used solely for the division to carry out its
704	duties and responsibilities.
705	Section 21. Subsection (2) of section 626.9894, Florida
706	Statutes, is amended to read:
707	626.9894 Gifts and grants
708	(2) All rights to, interest in, and title to such donated
709	or granted property shall immediately vest in the Division of
710	Criminal Investigations Insurance Fraud upon donation. The
711	division may hold such property in coownership, sell its
712	interest in the property, liquidate its interest in the
713	property, or dispose of its interest in the property in any
714	other reasonable manner.
715	Section 22. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
716	626.9895, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
717	626.9895 Motor vehicle insurance fraud direct-support
718	organization
719	(1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
720	(a) "Division" means the Division of <u>Criminal</u>
721	Investigations Insurance Fraud of the Department of Financial
722	Services.
723	Section 23. Section 626.99278, Florida Statutes, is amended
724	to read:
725	626.99278 Viatical provider anti-fraud planEvery licensed

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597-02406-15 20151402c1 726 viatical settlement provider and registered life expectancy 727 provider must adopt an anti-fraud plan and file it with the 728 Division of Criminal Investigations Insurance Fraud of the 729 department. Each anti-fraud plan shall include: 730 (1) A description of the procedures for detecting and 731 investigating possible fraudulent acts and procedures for 732 resolving material inconsistencies between medical records and 733 insurance applications. 734 (2) A description of the procedures for the mandatory reporting of possible fraudulent insurance acts and prohibited 735 736 practices set forth in s. 626.99275 to the Division of Criminal 737 Investigations Insurance Fraud of the department. 738 (3) A description of the plan for anti-fraud education and 739 training of its underwriters or other personnel. 740 (4) A written description or chart outlining the 741 organizational arrangement of the anti-fraud personnel who are 742 responsible for the investigation and reporting of possible 743 fraudulent insurance acts and for the investigation of 744 unresolved material inconsistencies between medical records and 745 insurance applications. 746 (5) For viatical settlement providers, a description of the 747 procedures used to perform initial and continuing review of the 748 accuracy of life expectancies used in connection with a viatical settlement contract or viatical settlement investment. 749 750 Section 24. Paragraph (k) of subsection (6) of section 751 627.351, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 752 627.351 Insurance risk apportionment plans.-753 (6) CITIZENS PROPERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION.-754 (k)1. The corporation shall establish and maintain a unit

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597-02406-15 20151402c1 755 or division to investigate possible fraudulent claims by 756 insureds or by persons making claims for services or repairs 757 against policies held by insureds; or it may contract with 758 others to investigate possible fraudulent claims for services or 759 repairs against policies held by the corporation pursuant to s. 760 626.9891. The corporation must comply with reporting 761 requirements of s. 626.9891. An employee of the corporation 762 shall notify the corporation's Office of the Inspector General 763 and the Division of Criminal Investigations Insurance Fraud 764 within 48 hours after having information that would lead a 765 reasonable person to suspect that fraud may have been committed 766 by any employee of the corporation. 767 2. The corporation shall establish a unit or division

767 767 2. The corporation shall establish a unit of division 768 responsible for receiving and responding to consumer complaints, 769 which unit or division is the sole responsibility of a senior 770 manager of the corporation.

Section 25. Subsections (4) and (7) of section 627.711,
Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

627.711 Notice of premium discounts for hurricane loss
mitigation; uniform mitigation verification inspection form.-

775 (4) An authorized mitigation inspector that signs a uniform 776 mitigation form, and a direct employee authorized to conduct 777 mitigation verification inspections under subsection paragraph 778 (3), may not commit misconduct in performing hurricane 779 mitigation inspections or in completing a uniform mitigation 780 form that causes financial harm to a customer or their insurer; 781 or that jeopardizes a customer's health and safety. Misconduct 782 occurs when an authorized mitigation inspector signs a uniform mitigation verification form that: 783

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597-02406-15 20151402c1 784 (a) Falsely indicates that he or she personally inspected 785 the structures referenced by the form; 786 (b) Falsely indicates the existence of a feature which 787 entitles an insured to a mitigation discount which the inspector 788 knows does not exist or did not personally inspect; 789 (c) Contains erroneous information due to the gross 790 negligence of the inspector; or 791 (d) Contains a pattern of demonstrably false information 792 regarding the existence of mitigation features that could give an insured a false evaluation of the ability of the structure to 793 794 withstand major damage from a hurricane endangering the safety 795 of the insured's life and property. 796 (7) An insurer, person, or other entity that obtains 797 evidence of fraud or evidence that an authorized mitigation 798 inspector or an employee authorized to conduct mitigation 799 verification inspections under subsection paragraph (3) has made 800 false statements in the completion of a mitigation inspection 801 form shall file a report with the Division of Criminal 802 Investigations Insurance Fraud, along with all of the evidence 803 in its possession that supports the allegation of fraud or 804 falsity. An insurer, person, or other entity making the report 805 shall be immune from liability, in accordance with s. 806 626.989(4), for any statements made in the report, during the 807 investigation, or in connection with the report. The Division of 808 Criminal Investigations Insurance Fraud shall issue an 809 investigative report if it finds that probable cause exists to 810 believe that the authorized mitigation inspector, or an employee 811 authorized to conduct mitigation verification inspections under subsection paragraph (3), made intentionally false or fraudulent 812

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597-02406-15 20151402c1 813 statements in the inspection form. Upon conclusion of the 814 investigation and a finding of probable cause that a violation has occurred, the Division of Criminal Investigations Insurance 815 Fraud shall send a copy of the investigative report to the 816 817 office and a copy to the agency responsible for the professional licensure of the authorized mitigation inspector, whether or not 818 819 a prosecutor takes action based upon the report. 820 Section 26. Paragraph (i) of subsection (4) and subsection (14) of section 627.736, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 821 822 627.736 Required personal injury protection benefits; 823 exclusions; priority; claims.-824 (4) PAYMENT OF BENEFITS.-Benefits due from an insurer under 825 ss. 627.730-627.7405 are primary, except that benefits received 826 under any workers' compensation law must be credited against the 827 benefits provided by subsection (1) and are due and payable as 828 loss accrues upon receipt of reasonable proof of such loss and 829 the amount of expenses and loss incurred which are covered by 830 the policy issued under ss. 627.730-627.7405. If the Agency for 831 Health Care Administration provides, pays, or becomes liable for 832 medical assistance under the Medicaid program related to injury, 833 sickness, disease, or death arising out of the ownership, 834 maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle, the benefits under ss. 835 627.730-627.7405 are subject to the Medicaid program. However, 836 within 30 days after receiving notice that the Medicaid program 837 paid such benefits, the insurer shall repay the full amount of 838 the benefits to the Medicaid program. 839 (i) If an insurer has a reasonable belief that a fraudulent

insurance act, for the purposes of s. 626.989 or s. 817.234, has been committed, the insurer shall notify the claimant, in

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597-02406-15 20151402c1 842 writing, within 30 days after submission of the claim that the 843 claim is being investigated for suspected fraud. Beginning at 844 the end of the initial 30-day period, the insurer has an 845 additional 60 days to conduct its fraud investigation. 846 Notwithstanding subsection (10), no later than 90 days after the 847 submission of the claim, the insurer must deny the claim or pay 848 the claim with simple interest as provided in paragraph (d). 849 Interest shall be assessed from the day the claim was submitted 850 until the day the claim is paid. All claims denied for suspected 851 fraudulent insurance acts shall be reported to the Division of 852 Criminal Investigations Insurance Fraud.

(14) FRAUD ADVISORY NOTICE.-Upon receiving notice of a claim under this section, an insurer shall provide a notice to the insured or to a person for whom a claim for reimbursement for diagnosis or treatment of injuries has been filed, advising that:

(a) Pursuant to s. 626.9892, the Department of Financial
Services may pay rewards of up to \$25,000 to persons providing
information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons
committing crimes investigated by the Division of <u>Criminal</u>
<u>Investigations</u> Insurance Fraud arising from violations of s.
440.105, s. 624.15, s. 626.9541, s. 626.989, or s. 817.234.

(b) Solicitation of a person injured in a motor vehicle
crash for purposes of filing personal injury protection or tort
claims could be a violation of s. 817.234, s. 817.505, or the
rules regulating The Florida Bar and should be immediately
reported to the Division of <u>Criminal Investigations</u> Insurance
Fraud if such conduct has taken place.

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Section 27. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1) of

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871	section 627.7401, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
872	627.7401 Notification of insured's rights
873	(1) The commission, by rule, shall adopt a form for the
874	notification of insureds of their right to receive personal
875	injury protection benefits under the Florida Motor Vehicle No-
876	Fault Law. Such notice shall include:
877	(b) An advisory informing insureds that:
878	1. Pursuant to s. 626.9892, the Department of Financial
879	Services may pay rewards of up to \$25,000 to persons providing
880	information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons
881	committing crimes investigated by the Division of <u>Criminal</u>
882	Investigations Insurance Fraud arising from violations of s.
883	440.105, s. 624.15, s. 626.9541, s. 626.989, or s. 817.234.
884	2. Pursuant to s. 627.736(5)(e)1., if the insured notifies
885	the insurer of a billing error, the insured may be entitled to a
886	certain percentage of a reduction in the amount paid by the
887	insured's motor vehicle insurer.
888	(c) A notice that solicitation of a person injured in a
889	motor vehicle crash for purposes of filing personal injury
890	protection or tort claims could be a violation of s. 817.234, s
891	817.505, or the rules regulating The Florida Bar and should be
892	immediately reported to the Division of Criminal Investigations
893	Insurance Fraud if such conduct has taken place.
894	Section 28. Subsection (2) of section 631.156, Florida
895	Statutes, is amended to read:
896	631.156 Investigation by the department; scope of
897	authority; sharing of materials
898	(2) The department may provide documents, books, and
899	records; other investigative products, work product, and
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900	analysis; and copies of any or all of such materials to the
901	Division of <u>Criminal Investigations</u> Insurance Fraud or any other
902	appropriate government agency. The sharing of these materials
903	shall not waive any work product or other privilege otherwise
904	applicable under law.
905	Section 29. Subsection (4) of section 641.30, Florida
906	Statutes, is amended to read:
907	641.30 Construction and relationship to other laws
908	(4) The Division of <u>Criminal Investigations</u> Insurance Fraud
909	of the department is vested with all powers granted to it under
910	the Florida Insurance Code with respect to the investigation of
911	any violation of this part.
912	Section 30. Paragraph (1) of subsection (6) of section
913	932.7055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
914	932.7055 Disposition of liens and forfeited property
915	(6) If the seizing agency is a state agency, all remaining
916	proceeds shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.
917	However, if the seizing agency is:
918	(l) The Division of <u>Criminal Investigations</u> Insurance Fraud
919	of the Department of Financial Services, the proceeds accrued
920	pursuant to the provisions of the Florida Contraband Forfeiture
921	Act shall be deposited into the Insurance Regulatory Trust Fund
922	as provided in s. 626.9893 or into the Department of Financial
923	Services' Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s.
924	17.43, as applicable.
925	Section 31. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.

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