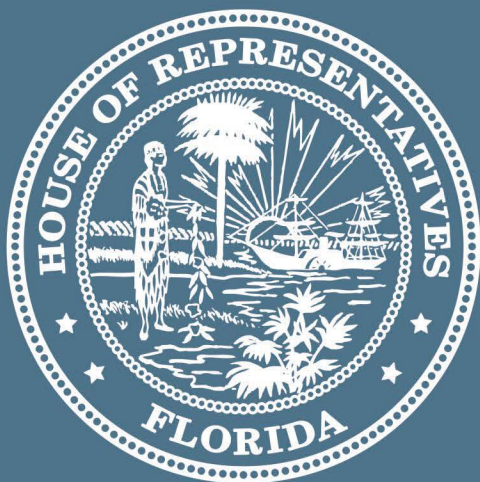


# Florida House of Representatives



# The Rules

2022-2024

**Paul Renner, Speaker**

House Rules Adopted November 22, 2022

Joint Rules Adopted November 22, 2022

As Corrected by Direction of the Clerk of the House

**Edition 1**

December 7, 2022

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## VOLUME CONTENTS

### RULES

Table of Contents .....	v
House Rules .....	1
Joint Rules.....	81
Index .....	113

### APPENDICES

#### STATUTES

Chapter Eleven (selected sections).....	A-1
---	-----

#### CONSTITUTIONS

Florida Constitution .....	B-1
INDEX, Florida Constitution .....	B-109
United States Constitution.....	B-141
INDEX, U.S. Constitution .....	B-149

#### LEGISLATIVE PRACTICE HELPS

Common Motions .....	C-1
Motions: Precedence and Procedure .....	C-5
Extraordinary Vote Requirements.....	C-6

Rules Regulating Vote Requirements *and* Table of Votes Required Based on Members Voting *located on inside of back cover.*



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

RULES OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES .....	1
RULE ONE—LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION .....	1
1.1—Officers of the House.....	1
1.2—Political Party Conferences.....	1
1.3—Seating Challenges.....	1
RULE TWO—POWERS, DUTIES, AND RIGHTS OF THE SPEAKER ....	3
2.1—Presiding .....	3
2.2—Interpreting Rules .....	3
2.3—Deciding Questions of Order .....	3
2.4—Execution of Documents.....	4
2.5—Appointment of a Temporary Presiding Officer .....	4
2.6—Protecting the Interests of the House .....	4
2.7—Control of House Facilities .....	4
RULE THREE—MEMBERS .....	5
3.1—Membership .....	5
3.2—Voting Obligation .....	5
3.3—Attendance Obligation .....	6
3.4—Open Meetings.....	6
RULE FOUR—DUTIES OF CLERK, SERGEANT AT ARMS, AND EMPLOYEES .....	9
4.1—The Clerk .....	9
4.2—The Sergeant at Arms .....	9
4.3—The Employees .....	10
RULE FIVE—FORM AND INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, APPROPRIATIONS PROJECTS .....	11
5.1—"Bill" Stands for All Legislation.....	11
5.2—Member Bill Filing Deadline .....	11
5.3—Limitation on Member Bills Filed .....	11
5.4—Forms of Measures; Sponsorship Transactions .....	12
5.5—Local Bills.....	12
5.6—Claim Bills .....	13
5.7—Reviser's Bills .....	13
5.8—Joint Resolutions.....	13
5.9—Concurrent Resolutions .....	13
5.10—Memorials.....	14
5.11—Substantive and Ceremonial House Resolutions .....	14
5.12—Tributes .....	15

5.13 —Bills Filed During an Interim .....	15
5.14 —Appropriations Projects .....	15
5.15 —Requirements for Introduction.....	17
5.16 —Identification.....	17
5.17 —Companion Measures .....	17
RULE SIX—REFERENCE .....	19
6.1 —Speaker to Refer Legislation.....	19
6.2 —Reference: Generally .....	19
6.3 —Reference: Exception .....	19
6.4 —Reference of Resolutions, Concurrent Resolutions: Exception .....	19
6.5 —Appropriations or Tax Measures: Withdrawal from a Fiscal Committee or Subcommittee; Additional Reference .....	19
6.6 —Policy Bills; Additional Reference .....	20
6.7 —Reference of Veto Messages.....	20
RULE SEVEN—COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES .....	21
PART ONE—Organization .....	21
7.1 —Standing Committees and Subcommittees.....	21
7.2 —Committee and Subcommittee Appointments .....	22
7.3 —Powers of the Chair. ....	22
7.4 —Absence of the Chair .....	22
7.5 —Term of Appointment .....	23
7.6 —Creation of Select Committees .....	23
7.7 — <i>Ex officio</i> Members .....	23
7.8 —Meetings of Committees and Subcommittees .....	24
7.9 —Consideration of Proposed Committee and Subcommittee Bills.....	24
PART TWO—Procedures in Committees and Subcommittees .....	24
7.10 —Scheduling Committee and Subcommittee Meetings .....	24
(a) <i>Notice of Committee and Subcommittee Meetings</i> .....	24
(b) <i>Content of Meeting Notice</i> .....	24
(c) <i>Proposed Bills to be Available</i> .....	24
(d) <i>Notice Deadline Between Sessions</i> .....	24
(e) <i>Notice Deadlines During Sessions</i> .....	25
(f) <i>Notice of Not Meeting</i> .....	25
(g) <i>Amended Notice and Cancellation</i> .....	25
(h) <i>Clerk Duties</i> .....	25
(i) <i>Continuation of a Noticed Meeting</i> .....	25
(j) <i>Rules Committee Exempt from Notice Deadline</i> .....	25
7.11 —Amendment Deadlines and Standards in Committee and Subcommittee.....	25
7.12 —Quorum of Committee or Subcommittee.....	26
7.13 —Meeting During House Sessions.....	26
7.14 —Voting in Committee or Subcommittee.....	26

7.15 —Reconsideration in Committee or Subcommittee .....	27
7.16 —Reports on Bills .....	27
7.17 —Bill Reported Unfavorably by a Committee or Subcommittee .....	28
7.18 —Committee and Subcommittee Substitutes .....	28
7.19 —Subpoena Powers.....	28
7.20 —Appearances and Administration of Oaths .....	28
7.21 —Open Meetings; Decorum.....	29
PART THREE—Conference Committees.....	29
7.22 —Conference Committees.....	29
PART FOUR—Oversight Powers and Responsibilities.....	30
7.23 —Oversight Powers and Responsibilities of Standing Committees and Subcommittees.....	30
RULE EIGHT—DEBATE AND CHAMBER PROTOCOL .....	31
PART ONE—Privilege of the Floor .....	31
8.1 —Privilege of the Floor .....	31
PART TWO—Speaking.....	31
8.2 —Addressing the House; Requirements to Spread Remarks Upon the <i>Journal</i> .....	31
8.3 —When Two Members Rise at Once .....	31
8.4 —Recognition of Members.....	32
8.5 —Recognition of Visitors and Guests .....	32
PART THREE—Debate.....	32
8.6 —Decorum .....	32
8.7 —Speaking and Debate; Right to Close .....	32
8.8 —Asking Questions of Members .....	32
8.9 —Right to Open and Close Debate.....	33
PART FOUR—Materials and Meals in Chamber .....	33
8.10 —Distribution of Materials in Chamber; Meals in Chamber .....	33
PART FIVE—Miscellaneous Papers .....	33
8.11 —Miscellaneous Papers.....	33
RULE NINE—VOTING .....	35
9.1 —Members Shall Vote .....	35
9.2 —Taking the Yeas and Nays .....	35
9.3 —Vote of the Speaker or Temporary Presiding Officer.....	35
9.4 —Votes After Roll Call; Finality of a Roll Call Vote .....	35
9.5 —No Member to Vote for Another Except by Request and Direction.....	36
9.6 —Explanation of Vote.....	36



RULE TEN—ORDER OF BUSINESS AND CALENDARS .....	37
PART ONE—Order of Business .....	37
10.1 —Daily Sessions.....	37
10.2 —Daily Order of Business.....	37
10.3 —Opening Prayer .....	38
10.4 —Quorum .....	38
10.5 —Consideration of Senate Messages: Generally.....	38
PART TWO—Readings .....	38
10.6 —"Reading" Defined.....	38
10.7 —Reading of Bills and Joint Resolutions.....	38
10.8 —Reading of Concurrent Resolutions and Memorials .....	38
10.9 —Reading of House Resolutions.....	39
10.10 —Measures on Third Reading.....	39
PART THREE—Calendars .....	39
10.11 —Special Order Calendar.....	39
(a) <i>Regular Session</i> .....	39
(b) <i>Extended or Special Session</i> .....	40
(c) <i>Floor Procedures Included on the Special Order Calendar</i> .....	40
10.12 —Special Floor Procedures .....	40
10.13 —Consideration of Bills Not on Special Order Calendar.....	40
10.14 —Consent Calendar.....	40
10.15 —Requirements for Placement on Special Order Calendar.....	40
10.16 —Informal Deferral of Bills .....	41
PART FOUR—Ceremonial Resolutions .....	41
10.17 —Ceremonial Resolutions Published in <i>Journal</i> .....	41
PART FIVE—Procedural Limitations in Final Week .....	41
10.18 —Consideration Limits to Bills after Day 55 .....	41
10.19 —Consideration Limits after Day 58.....	41
RULE ELEVEN—MOTIONS.....	43
11.1 —Motions; How Made .....	43
11.2 —Precedence of Motions .....	43
11.3 —Questions of Order Decided Without Debate .....	43
11.4 —Motion to Divide Question .....	44
11.5 —Motion to Recess to a Time Certain .....	44
11.6 —Motion to Lay on the Table .....	44
11.7 —Motion to Reconsider; Immediate Certification of Bills .....	44
11.8 —Motion for the Previous Question.....	45
11.9 —Motion to Limit Debate .....	46
11.10 —Motion to Temporarily Postpone.....	46
11.11 —Motion to Withdraw or Refer a Bill.....	46

11.12 —Motion to Refer or Recommit.....	47
11.13 —Dilatory Motions.....	47
11.14 —Withdrawal of Motion .....	48
RULE TWELVE—AMENDMENTS.....	49
12.1 —Form.....	49
12.2 —Filing Deadlines for Floor Amendments to Bills on Special Order.....	49
12.3 —Presentation and Consideration .....	50
12.4 —Third Reading Amendments.....	51
12.5 —Amendment of Appropriations Bills, Implementing Bills, and Conforming Bills .....	51
12.6 —Consideration of Senate Amendments.....	52
12.7 —Motion to Amend by Removing Enacting or Resolving Clause....	52
12.8 —Germanity of House Floor Amendments.....	53
12.9 —Floor Amendments Out of Order.....	54
12.10 —Printing of Amendments in <i>Journal</i> .....	54
RULE THIRTEEN—RULES .....	55
13.1 —Parliamentary Authorities.....	55
13.2 —Standing Rules Amendment .....	55
13.3 —Rules Apply for Term.....	55
13.4 —Joint Rules .....	55
13.5 —Authority and Interpretation .....	55
13.6 —Majority Action .....	56
13.7 —Extraordinary Action .....	56
13.8 —"Days" Defined.....	56
RULE FOURTEEN—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.....	57
PART ONE—Public Records.....	57
14.1 —Legislative Records .....	57
14.2 —Legislative Records; Maintenance, Control, Destruction, Disposal, and Disposition .....	57
PART TWO—Distribution of Documents; Display of Signs.....	58
14.3 —Distribution of Documents .....	58
14.4 —Display of Signs, Placards, Props, and the Like .....	58
PART THREE—House Seal .....	58
14.5 —House Seal .....	58
RULE FIFTEEN—ETHICS AND CONDUCT OF MEMBERS.....	59
15.1 —Legislative Ethics and Official Conduct.....	59
15.2 —The Integrity of the House.....	59

15.3 —Improper Influence; Solicitation of Campaign Contributions .....	59
15.4 —Ethics; Conflicting Employment .....	59
15.5 —Use of Official Position .....	60
15.6 —Use of Information Obtained by Reason of Official Position.....	61
15.7 —Representation of Another Before a State Agency .....	61
15.8 —Advisory Opinions.....	62
15.9 —Penalties for Violations.....	62
15.10 —Felony Indictment or Information of a Member .....	62
15.11 —Felony Guilty Plea of a Member.....	63
15.12 —Felony Conviction of a Member .....	63
15.13 —Ethics Training .....	63
<b>RULE SIXTEEN—PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS .....</b>	<b>65</b>
16.1 —Issuance of Subpoenas; Administration of Oaths .....	65
16.2 —Contempt Proceedings .....	65
16.3 —False Swearing.....	66
16.4 —Rights of Witnesses .....	66
16.5 —Right of Other Persons to be Heard .....	67
16.6 —Enforcement of Subpoena Out of Session .....	67
16.7 —Definition.....	68
<b>RULE SEVENTEEN—ETHICS AND CONDUCT OF LOBBYISTS.....</b>	<b>69</b>
17.1 —Obligations of a Lobbyist .....	69
17.2 —Advisory Opinions; Compilation Thereof.....	70
17.3 —Penalties for Violations.....	71
<b>RULE EIGHTEEN—COMPLAINTS AGAINST MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE, LOBBYISTS, AND OTHER PERSONS ....</b>	<b>73</b>
18.1 —Complaints Against Members and Officers of the House, Lobbyists, and Other Persons; Procedure .....	73
18.2 —Violations; Investigations .....	73
18.3 —Confidentiality .....	74
18.4 —Conflict .....	75
18.5 —Time Limitations. ....	75
<b>RULE NINETEEN—IMPEACHMENT .....</b>	<b>77</b>
19.1 —Definitions .....	77
19.2 —Procedure .....	78
19.3 —Impeachment Managers.....	79

JOINT RULES .....	81
JOINT RULE ONE—LOBBYIST REGISTRATION AND COMPENSATION REPORTING .....	81
1.1—Those Required to Register; Exemptions; Committee Appearance Records .....	81
1.2—Method of Registration .....	83
1.3—Registration Costs; Exemptions .....	84
1.4—Reporting of Lobbying Firm Compensation .....	85
1.5—Failure to File Timely Compensation Report; Notice and Assessment of Fines; Appeals .....	87
1.6—Open Records; Internet Publication of Registrations and Compensation Reports .....	89
1.7—Records Retention and Inspection and Complaint Procedure .....	89
1.8—Questions Regarding Interpretation of Joint Rule One .....	90
1.9—Effect of Readoption and Revision .....	90
JOINT RULE TWO—GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS REVIEW PERIOD AND BUDGET CONFERENCE COMMITTEE RULES .....	91
2.1—General Appropriations and Related Bills; Review Periods .....	91
2.2—General Appropriations and Related Bills; Definitions .....	92
2.3—Budget Conference Committee Rules .....	93
JOINT RULE THREE—JOINT OFFICES AND POLICIES .....	97
3.1—Joint Legislative Offices .....	97
3.2—Joint Policies .....	98
JOINT RULE FOUR—JOINT COMMITTEES .....	99
4.1—Standing Joint Committees .....	99
4.2—Procedures in Joint Committees .....	99
4.3—Powers of Joint Committees .....	101
4.4—Administration of Joint Committees .....	101
4.5—Special Powers and Duties of the Legislative Auditing Committee....	101
4.6—Special Powers and Duties of the Administrative Procedures Committee .....	102
4.7—Special Powers and Duties of the Committee on Public Counsel Oversight .....	103
JOINT RULE FIVE—AUDITOR GENERAL .....	105
5.1—Rulemaking Authority .....	105
5.2—Budget and Accounting .....	105
5.3—Audit Report Distribution .....	105

JOINT RULE SIX—JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET COMMISSION ...	107
6.1—General Responsibilities .....	107
6.2—Organizational Structure .....	107
6.3—Notice of Commission Meetings .....	108
6.4—Effect of Adoption; Intent.....	108
JOINT RULE SEVEN—QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS.....	109
7.1—Residency.....	109
JOINT RULE EIGHT—ADJOURNING AND RECONVENING OF EACH HOUSE OF THE LEGISLATURE AND PROVIDING FOR ADJOURNMENT <i>SINE DIE</i> .....	111
8.1—Adjourning and Reconvening .....	111
8.2—Adjournment <i>Sine Die</i> .....	111

**RULES OF THE  
FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
RULE ONE—LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION**

***1.1—Officers of the House***

(a) CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS. Pursuant to Section 2 of Article III of the State Constitution:

(1) The House shall choose a permanent presiding officer, designated the "Speaker."

(2) The House hereby designates as its clerk the Clerk of the House (hereinafter "Clerk"), to be appointed and serve in accordance with these rules.

(b) HOUSE LEADERSHIP. In addition to the Speaker, the House shall choose a Speaker *pro tempore*, who shall serve in accordance with Rule 2.5. The Speaker shall appoint a Majority Leader from among the members of the Majority Conference to serve at the pleasure of the Speaker. The Minority Conference shall select a Minority Leader from among the members of the Minority Conference.

(c) OTHER OFFICERS. The Speaker shall appoint a Clerk and a Sergeant at Arms, who shall be employees of the House.

***1.2—Political Party Conferences***

Conference rules shall be interpreted and enforced solely by the respective caucuses.

***1.3—Seating Challenges***

In the case of a contest for a seat in the House, notice setting forth the specific grounds of such contest and the supporting evidence must have been received by the Clerk not less than 5 days before the organization session of the Legislature. No motion to disqualify a member shall be in order at the organization session until a Speaker has been elected in accordance with the State Constitution. In the case of a special election, notice must have been received by the Clerk not less than 5 days before the next regular or special session convenes. If the election is during a session or less than 5 days before the next session, the notice must have been received on the next legislative day following the receipt of certified election results. A contest setting forth facts sufficient to warrant review shall be referred by the Speaker to an appropriate committee or subcommittee. The committee or subcommittee shall conduct hearings as required and report its findings and recommendations to the House. Upon receipt of the committee or subcommittee report, the House shall convene with all dispatch to determine the contest by a majority vote.



## **RULE TWO—POWERS, DUTIES, AND RIGHTS OF THE SPEAKER**

### ***2.1—Presiding***

The Speaker shall take the chair and call the House to order at the hour appointed for meeting and, if a quorum is present, shall proceed with the order of business.

### ***2.2—Interpreting Rules***

The Speaker shall interpret, apply, and enforce the Rules of the House.

### ***2.3—Deciding Questions of Order***

(a) DETERMINATION BY THE SPEAKER. All questions of order shall be presented to the Speaker for determination. The Speaker may require the member raising a point of order to cite the rule or other authority in support of the question. The Speaker may decide the question of order, put such question to the House, or refer such question to the chair of the Rules Committee for a recommendation to the Speaker. Any decision of the Speaker on a point of order is subject to an appeal to the House made timely and separately by any five members.

(b) QUESTIONS OF ORDER ARISING IN COMMITTEE OR SUBCOMMITTEE. A question of order may be certified by a committee or subcommittee chair to the Speaker for determination as any other question of order. A question of order decided in committee or subcommittee may be appealed to the Speaker, provided the appeal is announced in the committee or subcommittee meeting, presented in writing, signed by two members of the committee or subcommittee, and delivered to the applicable chair before 4:30 p.m. the next day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and official state holidays). The appeal must then be immediately certified by the chair to the Speaker, who shall decide the question as any other question of order. The certification or appeal of a question arising in committee or subcommittee does not constitute an automatic stay of further action on the measure to which the question relates.

(c) APPEAL TO THE HOUSE. When a decision of the Speaker on a question of order is appealed, the Speaker shall put the appeal to the House. No member may speak more than once, or for more than 3 minutes, on an appeal unless given leave by the House by majority vote.

(d) DECISIONS NOT SUBJECT TO APPEAL. Responses to parliamentary inquiries and decisions of recognition made by the Speaker may not be appealed.



#### ***2.4—Execution of Documents***

The Speaker shall sign all bills and all writs, warrants, and subpoenas issued by order of the House, all of which shall be attested to by the Clerk. The Speaker may delegate the authority to sign papers authorizing payments or other papers of an administrative nature.

#### ***2.5—Appointment of a Temporary Presiding Officer***

(a) The Speaker may appoint any member to perform the duties of presiding officer for a temporary period of time not to extend beyond a single legislative day.

(b) If the Speaker is absent and has not appointed a presiding officer pursuant to subsection (a), the Speaker *pro tempore* shall act as presiding officer during the Speaker's absence. However, if the Speaker *pro tempore* is also absent and has not appointed a presiding officer pursuant to subsection (a), the chair of the Rules Committee shall act as presiding officer during the absence of both the Speaker and Speaker *pro tempore*.

(c) Upon the Speaker's incapacity or other inability to serve, the Speaker *pro tempore* shall exercise the duties, powers, and prerogatives of the Speaker during the period of such incapacity or other inability to serve.

(d) The Speaker *pro tempore* shall exercise the duties, powers, and prerogatives of the Speaker in the event of the Speaker's death or resignation until the Speaker's successor is elected.

#### ***2.6—Protecting the Interests of the House***

The Speaker may initiate, defend, intervene in, or otherwise participate in any suit on behalf of the House, a committee or subcommittee of the House, a member of the House (whether in the legal capacity of member or otherwise), a former member of the House, or an officer, employee, or agent of the House when the Speaker determines that such suit is of significant interest to the House.

#### ***2.7—Control of House Facilities***

The Speaker shall have administrative control of the Chamber when the House is not in session and of every other room, lobby, and gallery of the House.

## **RULE THREE—MEMBERS**

### ***3.1—Membership***

The House shall exercise its right to be the sole judge of the qualifications, elections, and returns of its members.

### ***3.2—Voting Obligation***

Except when abstention is required, every member shall have an obligation to vote on all matters that come before the House in session or before any committee or subcommittee to which the member is appointed. A member may not vote by proxy. A member may register an electronic vote in the Chamber for another member at the other member's specific request and direction, provided the requesting member is in the Chamber during the vote.

(a) **ABSTENTION ON MATTERS OF SPECIAL PRIVATE GAIN OR LOSS.** A member may not vote on any measure that the member knows would inure to the member's special private gain or loss. The member must disclose the nature of the member's interest in the matter from which the member is required to abstain.

(b) **DISCLOSURE ON MATTERS OF SPECIAL PRIVATE GAIN OR LOSS TO FAMILY OR PRINCIPALS.**

(1) When voting on any measure that the member knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of:

- a. Any principal by whom the member or the member's spouse, parent, or child is retained or employed;
- b. Any parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal by which the member is retained or employed; or
- c. A relative or business associate of the member, the member must disclose the nature of the interest of such person in the outcome of the vote.

(2) For the purpose of this rule, the term:

a. "Relative" means any father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law.

b. "Business associate" means any person or entity engaged in or carrying on a business enterprise with the member as a partner, joint venturer, corporate shareholder where the shares of such corporation are not listed on any national or regional stock exchange, or co-owner of property.

(c) **METHODS OF DISCLOSURE.** If the vote is taken on the floor, disclosure under this rule or under any related law shall be accomplished by filing with the Clerk, within 15 days after the vote occurs, a memorandum the substance of which shall be printed in the *Journal*. If the vote is taken in a committee or subcommittee, the memorandum shall be filed, within 15 days after the vote

occurs, with the committee or subcommittee administrative assistant, who shall file such memorandum in the committee or subcommittee files and with the Clerk.

### **3.3—Attendance Obligation**

(a) COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE. A member shall attend all meetings of committees and subcommittees to which appointed unless excused by the chair or by the Speaker. Excuse from a House session shall constitute excuse from that day's meetings. Failure to attend two meetings, unless excused, shall constitute automatic removal from the committee or subcommittee and create a vacancy. Upon notification of automatic removal, the Speaker may make an appointment to fill such vacancy.

#### (b) SESSION ATTENDANCE.

(1) A member may not be absent from the sessions of the House without approval from the Speaker. Upon written request of a member submitted in a timely manner, the Speaker may, by written notice to the Clerk, excuse the member from attendance for any stated period. It shall be the responsibility of the excused member to advise the Clerk when leaving and returning to the Chamber.

(2) Any member who has answered roll call, either orally or by electronic means, at the opening of any daily session, or who enters after the initial quorum call and informs the Clerk of the member's presence, shall thereafter be presumed present unless necessarily prevented or leave of absence is obtained from the Speaker. The Speaker shall make any determination as to whether a member was necessarily prevented.

### **3.4—Open Meetings**

(a) Subject to order and decorum, each member shall provide reasonable access to members of the public to any meeting between such member and more than one other member of the Legislature, if such members of the public have requested admission and such meeting has been prearranged for the purpose of agreeing to take formal legislative action on pending legislation or amendments at such meeting or at a subsequent time.

(b) Subject to order and decorum, a member of the public requesting admission shall have reasonable access to any meeting between the Speaker, the Senate President, or the Governor, if such meeting has been prearranged for the purpose of agreeing to take formal legislative action on pending legislation or amendments at a subsequent time.

(c) No meeting required by these rules to be open to members of the public shall be conducted in the Members' Lounge, at any location that is closed to the public, or at any location that a participating member knows prohibits

admission on the basis of race, religion, gender, national origin, physical disability, or similar classification.

(d) Meetings conducted in the Chamber of either the House or the Senate while such body is in session shall be considered to be held at a location providing reasonable access to, and to be reasonably open to, the public.

(e) When the number of persons attending a meeting subject to this rule must be limited because of space considerations or otherwise for the maintenance of order or decorum, at least one representative each of the print, radio, and television media shall be included among the members of the public admitted, if such persons have requested admission.

(f) For the purpose of this rule, and as used in Section 4 of Article III of the State Constitution, legislation shall be considered pending if filed with the Clerk. An amendment shall be considered pending if it has been delivered to the administrative assistant of a committee or subcommittee in which the legislation is pending or to the Clerk, if the amendment is to a bill that has been reported favorably by each committee or subcommittee of reference. The term "formal legislative action" shall include any vote of the House or Senate, or of a committee or subcommittee of either house, on final passage or on a motion other than a motion to adjourn or recess.



## **RULE FOUR—DUTIES OF CLERK, SERGEANT AT ARMS, AND EMPLOYEES**

### ***4.1—The Clerk***

(a) The Clerk serves at the pleasure of the Speaker. The Clerk shall:

(1) Be the custodian of all bills, resolutions, and memorials. No member or other person may take possession of an original bill, after filing, with the intention of depriving the Legislature of its availability for consideration.

(2) Provide for the keeping of a complete record of introduction and action on all bills, resolutions, and memorials, including each number, each sponsor, each cosponsor, a brief description of the subject matter, and each committee and subcommittee reference.

(3) Keep a correct journal of proceedings of the House. The *Journal* shall be numbered serially and published from the first day of each session of the Legislature.

(4) Superintend the engrossing and transmitting of bills, resolutions, and memorials and approve the enrolling of all House bills.

(5) Sign and receive necessary papers in the name of the House between a general election and election of the Speaker.

(6) Perform any other duties assigned by the Speaker.

(b) It shall be a ministerial duty of the Clerk to attest to all writs issued by order of the House and to the passage of all legislative measures.

### ***4.2—The Sergeant at Arms***

The Sergeant at Arms (hereinafter "Sergeant") serves at the pleasure of the Speaker. The Sergeant shall attend daily floor sessions of the House and maintain order under the direction of the Speaker or other presiding officer. In case of any disturbance or disorderly conduct within the Chamber, corridors, passages, lobby, galleries, or rooms of the House, whether in the Capitol or elsewhere, the Speaker may order the Sergeant to suppress the same and may order the Sergeant to remove any person creating any disturbance. The Sergeant will ensure that no person is admitted to the Chamber except in accordance with these rules or as directed by the Speaker. The Sergeant shall oversee the security of the House and its members when engaged in their constitutional duties and perform other duties under the command and supervision of the Speaker.

#### ***4.3—The Employees***

The Speaker shall employ all employees of the House and shall determine their qualifications, duties, hours of work, and compensation, including perquisites and other benefits. All employees work for and serve at the pleasure of the Speaker. The Speaker has the right to dismiss any employee of the House without cause, and the pay of such employee shall stop on the designated day of dismissal. Except when operating under direction from a member with authority over the designated employee, no House employee shall seek to influence the passage or rejection of proposed legislation.

## **RULE FIVE—FORM AND INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, APPROPRIATIONS PROJECTS**

### ***5.1—"Bill" Stands for All Legislation***

Except when the context otherwise indicates, "bill," as used in these rules, means a bill, joint resolution, concurrent resolution, resolution, memorial, or other measure upon which a committee or subcommittee may be required to report.

### ***5.2—Member Bill Filing Deadline***

Filing deadlines for member bills shall be as follows:

(a) No general bill, local bill, joint resolution, concurrent resolution (except one relating to extension of a session or legislative organization or procedures), substantive House resolution, or memorial shall be given first reading unless approved for filing with the Clerk no later than noon of the first day of the regular session.

(b) No ceremonial resolution shall be given first reading unless approved for filing with the Clerk before the 46th day of the regular session.

### ***5.3—Limitation on Member Bills Filed***

(a) A member may not file more than seven bills for a regular session. For purposes of this rule, the member considered to have filed a bill is the first-named sponsor of the bill.

(1) Of the seven bills for the 2023 Regular Session, at least two must be approved for filing with the Clerk no later than noon on January 24, 2023.

(2) Of the seven bills for the 2024 Regular Session, at least two must be approved for filing with the Clerk no later than noon on November 21, 2023.

(b) Bills not counted toward these limits include:

(1) Local bills.

(2) Ceremonial House resolutions.

(3) Memorials.

(4) Concurrent resolutions relating to extension of a session or legislative organization or procedures.

(5) Trust fund bills adhering to and necessitated by the substance of another bill.

(6) Public records or public meetings exemption bills adhering to and necessitated by the substance of another bill.

(7) General bills implementing a joint resolution.

(8) Bills withdrawn from further consideration prior to the applicable filing deadline.

(9) Claim bills.



#### ***5.4—Forms of Measures; Sponsorship Transactions***

(a) To be acceptable for introduction, all bills shall be produced in accordance with standards approved by the Speaker.

(b) No member may be added or deleted as a sponsor of a bill without the member's consent. A member desiring to be added or withdrawn as a cosponsor must submit a request to the Clerk. A member desiring to be added or withdrawn as a prime cosponsor must submit a request to the House Bill Drafting Service. A request to be added as a cosponsor or prime cosponsor must be agreed to by the first-named sponsor.

(c) Bills that propose to amend existing provisions of law shall contain the full text of the section, subsection, or paragraph to be amended. As to those portions of general bills that propose to amend existing provisions of the Florida Statutes, words to be added shall be inserted in the text underlined, and words to be deleted shall be struck through with hyphens. If the change in language is so general that the use of these procedures would hinder, rather than assist, the understanding of the amendment, it is not necessary to use the coded indicators of words added or deleted, but, in lieu thereof, a notation similar to the following shall be inserted immediately preceding the affected section of the bill: "Substantial rewording of section. See s. . . . F.S., for present text." When such a notation is used, the notation, as well as the substantially reworded text, shall be underlined. The words to be deleted and the above-described indicators of such words and of new material are for information and guidance and do not constitute a part of the bill under consideration. Numerals in the margins of the line-numbered pages do not constitute a part of the bill and are shown on each page only for convenience in identifying lines. Section catchlines of existing text shall not be underlined, nor shall any other portion of a bill covered by this rule other than new material.

#### ***5.5—Local Bills***

(a) A committee or subcommittee may not report a local bill favorably if the substance of the local bill may be enacted into law by ordinance of a local governing body without the legal need for a referendum.

(b) A local bill that provides an exemption from general law may not be placed on the Special Order Calendar in any section reserved for the expedited consideration of local bills.

(c) All local bills, including local claim bills, must either, as required by Section 10 of Article III of the State Constitution, embody provisions for a ratifying referendum (stated in the title as well as in the text of the bill) or be accompanied by an affidavit of proper advertisement, securely attached to the original bill ahead of its first page.

### **5.6—Claim Bills**

(a) The Speaker may appoint a Special Master to review a claim bill or conduct a hearing, if necessary. The Special Master may administer an oath to all witnesses, accept relevant documentary and tangible evidence offered as deemed necessary, and record the hearing. The Special Master may prepare a final report containing findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations. The report shall be signed by the Special Master, who shall be available, in person, to explain his or her report to any committee or subcommittee of reference.

(b) Stipulations entered into by the parties are not binding on the Special Master or the House or any of its committees or subcommittees.

(c) The hearing and consideration of a claim bill shall be held in abeyance until all available administrative and judicial remedies have been exhausted, except that the hearing and consideration of a claim that is still within the judicial or administrative system may proceed when the parties have executed a written settlement agreement.

### **5.7—Reviser's Bills**

Reviser's bills shall be introduced by the Rules Committee, which may request prior review by another committee or subcommittee.

### **5.8—Joint Resolutions**

(a) Joint resolutions are used to propose amendments to the State Constitution and for legislative apportionment.

(b) Joint resolutions shall contain a title and the resolving clause "Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:". Joint resolutions that propose to amend the State Constitution shall contain the full text of the section to be amended. As to those portions of joint resolutions that propose to amend existing provisions of the State Constitution, words to be added shall be inserted in the text underlined, and words to be deleted shall be struck through with hyphens.

### **5.9—Concurrent Resolutions**

(a) Concurrent resolutions originating in the House shall present only questions pertaining to extension of a session, enactment of joint rules, ratification of federal constitutional amendments, communications with the judiciary, appointment or recall of delegates or alternate delegates to a federal Article V convention and instructions to such delegates, actions taken pursuant to federal law not requiring gubernatorial approval, or other exclusively legislative matters.

(b) Concurrent resolutions originating in the House shall contain a title and the resolving clause "Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida, the Senate Concurring:".

(c) The Secretary of State shall be requested to prepare certified copies of concurrent resolutions after their adoption.

#### ***5.10—Memorials***

A memorial expresses the opinion of the Legislature to the Federal Government. All memorials shall contain the resolving clause "Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:".

#### ***5.11—Substantive and Ceremonial House Resolutions***

(a) All House resolutions shall contain a title and the resolving clause "Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida:".

(b) Substantive House resolutions are used to express an opinion of the House or to regulate practice, procedure, and conduct of the House.

(c) Ceremonial House resolutions are used to recognize landmark achievements and accomplishments of statewide significance and are reserved for high meritorious acts of conduct, achievement, or heroism. All ceremonial House resolutions shall be reviewed and approved by the chair of the Rules Committee before introduction, pursuant to the following standards:

(1) Ceremonial House resolutions should recognize documented accomplishments of statewide interest and consequence.

(2) Ceremonial House resolutions should not honor specific individuals or private, government, or lobbying organizations for activities performed within the normal course of their affairs.

(3) Ceremonial House resolutions should not be filed for an organization that employs the sponsoring member.

(4) Ceremonial House resolutions should not contain controversial or substantive policy statements.

(5) Ceremonial House resolutions should not support or oppose pending legislation or funding requests.

(d) Copies of House resolutions shall be furnished by the Clerk.

### **5.12—Tributes**

(a) Tributes are used to commemorate local achievement, condolences, or other recognition as an individual expression of the sponsoring member and are not presented as an expression of the House or of the Legislature.

(b) Tributes shall be prepared in accordance with standards approved by the Speaker.

### **5.13—Bills Filed During an Interim**

During the period between the organization session and the convening of the first regular session of the legislative biennium and during the period between the first and second regular sessions of the legislative biennium, members may file for introduction bills that have been prepared or reviewed by the House Bill Drafting Service.

### **5.14—Appropriations Projects**

(a)(1) For purposes of these rules, the term "appropriations project" means a specific appropriation, proviso, or item on a conference committee spreadsheet agreed to by House and Senate conferees providing funding for:

a. A local government, private entity, or privately operated program, wherein the specific appropriation, proviso, or item on a conference committee spreadsheet specifically names the local government, private entity, or privately operated program or the appropriation, proviso, or item is written in such a manner as to describe a particular local government, private entity, or privately operated program;

b. A specific transportation facility that was not part of the Department of Transportation's 5-year work program submitted pursuant to s. 339.135, Florida Statutes;

c. An education fixed capital outlay project that was not submitted pursuant to s. 1013.60 or s. 1013.64, Florida Statutes, unless funds for the specific project were appropriated by the Legislature in a prior year and additional funds are needed to complete the project as originally proposed;

d. A specified program, research initiative, institute, center, or similar entity at a specific state college or university, unless recommended by the Board of Governors or the State Board of Education in their Legislative Budget Request; or

e. A local water project.

(2) The term does not include an appropriation that:

a. Is specifically authorized by statute;

b. Is part of a statewide distribution to local governments; or

c. Was recommended by a commission, council, or other similar entity created in statute to make annual funding recommendations, provided that such appropriation does not exceed the amount of funding recommended by the commission, council, or other similar entity.

(b) Before an appropriations project may be included in the House General Appropriations Act, an appropriations project request form and an attestation form must be completed, electronically submitted, and published online in the manner and by the dates prescribed by the Speaker.

(1) An appropriations project request may be for nonrecurring funds only and may not include more than one appropriations project.

(2) The attestation must include verification under penalty of perjury by the organization or entity for which the appropriations project request was submitted that the information in the published appropriations project request form is true and accurate, that any inaccuracies will be promptly corrected, and that the organization or entity consents to investigation of such information and any matter relevant thereto.

(c) Except as provided in Joint Rule 2, a House bill is out of order if it funds an appropriations project for which an appropriations project request form and attestation form were not submitted and published online pursuant to this rule.

(d) A House bill is out of order if a recurring appropriation is used to fund an appropriations project.

(e) A House bill is out of order if it funds an appropriations project that is not clearly identified.

(f) A House bill is out of order if it funds an appropriations project in an amount less than 50 percent of the amount of funding proposed in the published appropriations project request form.

(g) The portion of an appropriations project which was funded with recurring funds in the fiscal year 2016-2017 General Appropriations Act as approved by the Governor and funded at the same or lesser amount in subsequent fiscal years is exempt from the requirements of subsections (c) and (d). If recurring funding for an appropriations project is reduced in a conference report on the General Appropriations Act in any fiscal year, the appropriations project may receive no more than the reduced amount of recurring funding in any subsequent fiscal year. If in any year the recurring funds are eliminated in the conference report on the General Appropriations Act as approved by the Governor, the appropriations project may not receive any recurring funding in any subsequent fiscal year.

### ***5.15—Requirements for Introduction***

(a) All bills (other than an appropriations bill, concurrent resolutions relating to organization of the Legislature, resolutions relating to organization of the House, concurrent resolutions pertaining to extension of a session, reviser's bills, bills proposing any reapportionment or redistricting of the state's legislative or congressional districts, and recall of acts from the Governor) shall either be prepared or, in the case of local bills, reviewed by the House Bill Drafting Service. After completion and delivery by the House Bill Drafting Service, no change may be made in the text or title of the bill without returning the bill to the House Bill Drafting Service before filing.

(b) The House Bill Drafting Service shall notify any member proposing a bill of any identical or substantially similar bill that has been filed and the name of the sponsor of such bill.

### ***5.16—Identification***

Each bill shall be given a number and filed with the Clerk by the House Bill Drafting Service. Bills shall be serially numbered in an odd-numbered sequence, except that bills of a similar type may be serially numbered separately. The Clerk shall validate the original copy of each bill, and each page thereof, to ensure its identification as the item introduced in order to prevent unauthorized or improper substitutions therefor.

### ***5.17—Companion Measures***

A companion Senate bill must be substantially similar in wording, and identical as to specific intent and purpose, to the House bill for which it is being substituted. Whenever a House bill is reached on the floor for consideration, either on second or third reading, and there is also pending on the Calendar of the House a companion bill already passed by the Senate, it shall be in order to move that the Senate companion bill be substituted and considered in lieu of the House bill. Such motion may be adopted by a majority vote, provided the Senate bill is on the same reading; otherwise, the motion shall be to waive the rules by a two-thirds vote and substitute such Senate bill. At the moment the House substitutes the Senate companion bill or takes up a Senate bill in lieu of a House bill, the House bill so replaced shall be automatically laid on the table.



## **RULE SIX—REFERENCE**

### ***6.1—Speaker to Refer Legislation***

The authority to make bill referrals rests with the Speaker, except as otherwise provided in these rules.

### ***6.2—Reference: Generally***

(a) Bills, upon filing or introduction, whether House or Senate, may be referred by the Speaker to one or more committees or subcommittees or any combination thereof or to the Calendar of the House. The order of reference shall be determined by the Speaker.

(b) References of bills and the nature of any documents referred shall be recorded in the *Journal*.

### ***6.3—Reference: Exception***

A Senate bill with a House companion may be paired with the companion House bill at whatever its stage of consideration, provided both bills are on the same reading.

### ***6.4—Reference of Resolutions, Concurrent Resolutions: Exception***

Resolutions on House organization and concurrent resolutions pertaining to extension of the session may be taken up upon motion and adopted at the time of introduction without reference.

### ***6.5—Appropriations or Tax Measures: Withdrawal from a Fiscal Committee or Subcommittee; Additional Reference***

(a) A bill in the possession of a fiscal committee or subcommittee that has been amended by report from a committee or subcommittee of previous reference to remove its fiscal impact may be withdrawn from the fiscal committee or subcommittee on a point of order raised by the committee chair of the fiscal committee having possession of the bill or jurisdiction over the subcommittee having possession of the bill.

(b) If an amendment adopted on the floor of the House affects an appropriation or a tax matter, upon a point of order made by the chair or vice chair of a fiscal committee, the bill may be referred by the Speaker, with the amendment, to an appropriate committee or subcommittee. If the bill, as amended on the floor, is reported favorably without further amendment, it shall be returned to the same reading as when referred. If the bill, as amended on the floor, is reported favorably with further amendment, it shall be returned to second reading.



**6.6—Policy Bills; Additional Reference**

Upon a point of order made by the chair of the Rules Committee, the bill, as amended, may be referred by the Speaker to an appropriate committee or subcommittee if an amendment or series of amendments adopted on the floor of the House:

- (a) Substantially revises the bill; or
- (b) Introduces brand new concepts that were not offered in at least one committee or subcommittee of the House.

If the bill, as amended on the floor, is reported favorably by the committee or subcommittee without further amendment, it shall be returned to the same reading as when referred. If the bill, as amended on the floor, is reported favorably by the committee or subcommittee with further amendment, it shall be returned to second reading.

**6.7—Reference of Veto Messages**

The Speaker may refer veto messages to the appropriate committee or subcommittee for a recommendation.

## **RULE SEVEN—COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES**

### ***PART ONE—Organization***

#### ***7.1—Standing Committees and Subcommittees***

(a) The following standing committees, and the standing subcommittees within their respective jurisdictions, are established:

- (1) Appropriations Committee.
  - a. Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee.
  - b. Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee.
  - c. Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee.
  - d. Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee.
  - e. Justice Appropriations Subcommittee.
  - f. PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee.
  - g. State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee.
- (2) Commerce Committee.
  - a. Energy, Communications & Cybersecurity Subcommittee.
  - b. Insurance & Banking Subcommittee.
  - c. Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee.
- (3) Education & Employment Committee.
  - a. Choice & Innovation Subcommittee.
  - b. Education Quality Subcommittee.
  - c. Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee.
- (4) Health & Human Services Committee.
  - a. Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee.
  - b. Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee.
- (5) Infrastructure Strategies Committee.
  - a. Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee.
  - b. Transportation & Modals Subcommittee.
  - c. Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee.
- (6) Judiciary Committee.
  - a. Civil Justice Subcommittee.
  - b. Criminal Justice Subcommittee.
- (7) Rules Committee.
- (8) State Affairs Committee.
  - a. Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee.
  - b. Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee.

- c. Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee.
- (9) Ways & Means Committee.

(b) For purposes of these rules, the term "committee" includes subcommittee, except where the context indicates otherwise.

### ***7.2—Committee and Subcommittee Appointments***

The Speaker may appoint the chair, the vice chair, and any co-chairs as he or she deems necessary, as well as all members, for each standing House committee and subcommittee. The Speaker may appoint the House chair and all House members of each conference committee, joint committee, and joint select committee created by agreement of the House and Senate or of the Speaker and the President of the Senate. The Speaker shall give written notice of each such appointment to the Clerk for publication. After the Speaker has made committee and subcommittee appointments, the Minority Leader may name a Minority Conference member of any committee or subcommittee as "ranking member" of that committee or subcommittee, subject to the approval of the Speaker.

### ***7.3—Powers of the Chair***

A committee or subcommittee chair has authority to sign all notices, vouchers, and reports required or permitted by these rules. The chair has authority, subject to approval by the Speaker, to sign all subpoenas issued under these rules. The chair has all authority necessary to ensure the orderly operation of the committee or subcommittee, including, but not limited to, presiding over meetings, establishing each meeting agenda, determining the order in which matters are to be taken up, recognizing or not recognizing non-member presenters, and deciding questions of order. Decisions on questions of order may be appealed pursuant to Rule 2.3(b), but there shall be no appeal of the chair's recognition.

### ***7.4—Absence of the Chair***

In the absence of the chair and all co-chairs, the vice chair, if any, shall assume the duty to convene and preside over meetings and such other duties as the Speaker may assign, unless a temporary chair has been appointed by the Speaker. During a meeting properly convened, the presiding chair, vice chair, or temporary chair may temporarily assign the duty to preside at that meeting to another committee or subcommittee member until the assignment is relinquished or revoked.

### **7.5—Term of Appointment**

All standing committee or subcommittee chairs, vice chairs, and members serve at the pleasure of the Speaker. All initial standing committee and subcommittee appointments made by the Speaker in accordance with Rule 7.2 shall be made before each regular session is convened and shall expire on June 30 of odd-numbered years or, if the Legislature is convened in special or extended session on that date, upon adjournment *sine die* of such session.

### **7.6—Creation of Select Committees**

At any time, the Speaker may create a select committee and shall appoint the membership and name the chair and vice chair. A select committee may include the entire membership of the House. A select committee has the jurisdiction, authority, and powers and duties assigned to it by the Speaker and exists for the period of time specified by the Speaker. The Speaker shall give written notice of the creation of a select committee to the Clerk for publication.

### **7.7—Ex officio Members**

(a) The Speaker may designate the Speaker *pro tempore*, the Majority Leader, or the Majority Whip as an *ex officio*, voting member of any committee or subcommittee. In addition, the Speaker may designate a committee chair as an *ex officio*, voting member of any subcommittee within the committee's jurisdiction. Only one *ex officio* member may be designated by the Speaker to sit and vote at a time on any one committee or subcommittee.

(b) The Minority Leader may serve, or designate a Minority Conference member to serve, as an *ex officio*, voting member of any committee or subcommittee when a Minority Conference member appointed to that committee or subcommittee is absent. Only one *ex officio* member may serve or be designated by the Minority Leader at a time. The *ex officio* designation terminates upon the return of the absent member to that committee or subcommittee.

(c) An *ex officio* member shall not be counted for purposes of determining a quorum.

(d) The designation of an *ex officio* member shall be made in writing and addressed to the chair of the committee or subcommittee. Prior to the start of such meeting, a copy of such notice shall be provided to the Minority Leader if the designation is made by the Speaker, or to the Speaker when the Minority Leader intends to serve as or designates an *ex officio* member.

**7.8—Meetings of Committees and Subcommittees**

Committees and subcommittees shall meet only within the dates, times, and locations designated or authorized by the Speaker. Committees and subcommittees shall meet at the call of the chair.

**7.9—Consideration of Proposed Committee and Subcommittee Bills**

Before a standing committee or subcommittee may consider a proposed committee or subcommittee bill, the chair shall submit a written request to the Speaker for approval. A request for approval to consider a proposed subcommittee bill shall be cosigned by the chair of the committee with jurisdiction over the subcommittee. In introducing a proposed committee or subcommittee bill, the chair must designate a member of the originating committee or subcommittee as first-named cosponsor, with the approval of such member.

**PART TWO—Procedures in Committees and Subcommittees**

**7.10—Scheduling Committee and Subcommittee Meetings**

(a) NOTICE OF COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS. Any committee or subcommittee meeting to be held for the purpose of considering legislation must be noticed. The committee or subcommittee administrative assistant shall provide electronic or paper copies of the notice to the Clerk for publication and to the House Majority Office, the House Minority Office, the members of the committee or subcommittee, and the first-named sponsor of each bill noticed.

(b) CONTENT OF MEETING NOTICE. The notice shall state the date, time, and place of the meeting and, for each bill to be considered, the bill or proposed bill number and a portion of the title sufficient for identification. Except with respect to bills retained on reconsideration under Rule 7.15, only such bills as are included on the notice of a committee or subcommittee meeting may be considered at that meeting.

(c) PROPOSED BILLS TO BE AVAILABLE. A copy of each proposed bill or proposed committee or subcommittee substitute noticed for consideration must be available to each committee or subcommittee member no later than the time of providing notice of the meeting.

(d) NOTICE DEADLINE BETWEEN SESSIONS. During the period when the Legislature is not in session, before any committee or subcommittee holds a meeting for the purpose of considering legislation, a notice of such meeting shall be provided no later than 4:30 p.m. of the 7th day before the meeting.

(e) NOTICE DEADLINES DURING SESSIONS. During the first 45 days of a regular session, notice shall be provided no later than 4:30 p.m. of the 2nd day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and official state holidays) before the committee or subcommittee meeting for the purpose of considering legislation. After the 45th day of a regular session and during any extended session, the notice shall be provided no later than 4:30 p.m. on the day (including Saturdays, Sundays, and official state holidays) before the committee or subcommittee meeting. During any special session, the notice shall be provided no later than 2 hours before the committee or subcommittee meeting.

(f) NOTICE OF NOT MEETING. If a committee or subcommittee is authorized and scheduled for a meeting by the Speaker but does not plan to meet, a notice stating that no meeting will be held shall be provided in the time and manner of noticing a meeting.

(g) AMENDED NOTICE AND CANCELLATION. At any time before a noticed meeting, a bill or other item may be removed from a meeting notice or the meeting may be cancelled by providing an amended notice.

(h) CLERK DUTIES. The Clerk shall promptly publish the content of meeting notices in accordance with policies approved by the Speaker.

(i) CONTINUATION OF A NOTICED MEETING. If the majority of committee or subcommittee members present agree, a committee or subcommittee may continue the consideration of properly noticed legislation after the expiration of the time called for the meeting or may temporarily recess to continue the meeting at a time and place certain on the same day. However, a committee or subcommittee may not meet beyond the time authorized or in a place not authorized by the Speaker without special leave granted by the Speaker.

(j) RULES COMMITTEE EXEMPT FROM NOTICE DEADLINE. The Rules Committee shall be exempt from the notice deadlines of this rule except when meeting to consider the substance of legislation.

#### ***7.11—Amendment Deadlines and Standards in Committee and Subcommittee***

(a) Amendments may be offered in any committee or subcommittee by any member of the House, and shall be filed with the committee or subcommittee subject to the following deadlines:

(1) For the period when the Legislature is not in session, and during the first 45 days of a regular session, an amendment by a member who is not a member of the committee or subcommittee considering the bill shall be filed by 6 p.m. of the day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and official state holidays) before the committee or subcommittee meeting.

(2) After the 45th day of a regular session and during any extended session, an amendment by a member who is not a member of the committee or subcommittee considering the bill shall be filed by 6 p.m. of the day (including Saturdays, Sundays, and official state holidays) before the committee or subcommittee meeting.

(3) During any special session, an amendment by a member who is not a member of the committee or subcommittee considering the bill shall be filed no later than 1 hour before the committee or subcommittee meeting.

(b) Notwithstanding the foregoing, subject to approval by a majority vote of the House, the Rules Committee may establish special amendment deadlines and procedures for appropriations bills, implementing bills, and conforming bills, as defined in Rule 12.5, as well as for bills proposing any reapportionment or redistricting of the state's legislative or congressional districts.

(c) An amendment offered in committee or subcommittee must be reasonably related to the general subject matter of the bill and must include any necessary title amendment.

(d) A committee or subcommittee may not vote on final consideration of a bill with an amended "relating-to clause" in the title, but instead the bill shall be temporarily postponed without motion once all amendments have been considered. The amended bill may be considered at a subsequent meeting upon being properly noticed as a proposed committee substitute that reflects the amendments and the accurate title.

#### ***7.12—Quorum of Committee or Subcommittee***

A majority of any committee's or subcommittee's members shall constitute a quorum necessary for the transaction of business. An *ex officio* member shall not be counted for purposes of determining a quorum.

#### ***7.13—Meeting During House Sessions***

No committee or subcommittee shall meet while the House is in session without special leave of the Speaker.

#### ***7.14—Voting in Committee or Subcommittee***

(a) Every vote on final consideration of a bill in committee or subcommittee shall be taken by the yeas and nays, and the names of the members voting for and against, as well as the names of members absent, shall be recorded on the committee or subcommittee report. Upon the request of any two members, the vote of each member shall be recorded on any other question and all such votes shall be reported with the committee or subcommittee report.

(b) An absent member may submit an indication of how the member would have voted had the member been present, but this shall not be counted on a roll call. If submitted after the committee or subcommittee report has been filed, such votes after roll call shall be filed with the committee or subcommittee administrative assistant, who shall file them in the committee or subcommittee files and with the Clerk.

#### **7.15—Reconsideration in Committee or Subcommittee**

A motion for reconsideration in committee or subcommittee shall be treated in the following manner:

(a) When a main question has been decided by a committee or subcommittee, any member voting with the prevailing side, or any member when the vote was a tie, may move for reconsideration.

(b) Any member voting on the prevailing side on passage or defeat of a bill may, as a matter of right, serve notice that the bill be retained through the next committee or subcommittee meeting for the purpose of reconsideration. Such notice by an individual member may be set aside by adoption of a motion to report the bill immediately, which shall require a two-thirds vote. No bill may be retained under this provision after the 40th day of a regular session or during any extended or special session.

(c) A motion to reconsider a collateral matter must be disposed of during the course of consideration of the main subject to which it is related.

(d) If a bill has been retained under subsection (b), any member may move for its reconsideration at the next meeting of the committee or subcommittee. The retained bill is not required to be included on the committee or subcommittee meeting notice.

(e) If the committee or subcommittee refuses to reconsider or, upon reconsideration, confirms its prior decision, no further motion to reconsider shall be in order except upon unanimous consent of the committee or subcommittee members present.

(f) If a bill is not retained under subsection (b), it shall be promptly reported to the Clerk.

#### **7.16—Reports on Bills**

A committee or subcommittee may report a House bill unfavorably, favorably, or favorably with a committee or subcommittee substitute. A committee or subcommittee may report a Senate bill favorably, favorably with one or more amendments, or unfavorably. A bill may not be reported without recommendation. A motion to lay a bill on the table shall be construed as a motion to report the bill unfavorably.



**7.17—*Bill Reported Unfavorably by a Committee or Subcommittee***

A bill reported unfavorably by a committee or subcommittee shall be laid on the table.

**7.18—*Committee and Subcommittee Substitutes***

(a) A standing committee or subcommittee may introduce a committee or subcommittee substitute embracing the same general subject matter of one or more bills, or for a bill as amended as provided in Rule 7.11(d), and in possession of the committee or subcommittee. A proposed committee or subcommittee substitute must be noticed in the manner required for a proposed committee or subcommittee bill. Upon the filing of a committee or subcommittee substitute, the original bill or bills shall be laid on the table of the House.

(b) Committee and subcommittee substitutes shall be prepared by the House Bill Drafting Service and filed with the Clerk.

(c) No later than the day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and official state holidays) after it is filed by the committee or subcommittee, a committee or subcommittee substitute shall be read a first time and be subject to referral by the Speaker.

**7.19—*Subpoena Powers***

The standing committees and subcommittees of the House may exercise subpoena power and issue other necessary legal process pursuant to Rule 16.

**7.20—*Appearances and Administration of Oaths***

(a) A person who appears before a committee or subcommittee on any matter must submit a committee appearance record as directed by the Speaker. If the person is a lobbyist, the person shall also identify any principal on whose behalf the person appears or whose interests the person represents with respect to such matter.

(b) Whenever desired by a committee or subcommittee, the chair or any other member of the committee or subcommittee may administer oaths and affirmations in the manner prescribed by law to any witness appearing before such committee or subcommittee for the purpose of testifying in any matter about which such committee or subcommittee may require sworn testimony, provided the record of a statement made under oath in committee or subcommittee may not be used to controvert a factual determination of the Legislature.

### **7.21—Open Meetings; Decorum**

(a) All meetings of committees and subcommittees shall be open to the public at all times, subject always to the authority of the chair to maintain order and decorum; however, when reasonably necessary for security purposes or the protection of a witness, a chair, with the concurrence of the Speaker and the Minority Leader, may close a meeting or portion thereof, and the record of such meeting may not disclose the identity of any witness appearing before the committee or subcommittee during a closed session.

(b) The chair shall exercise all authority necessary to maintain order and decorum, including the authority to impose time limitations on testimony and presentations by non-members and to require all persons attending a committee or subcommittee meeting to silence all audible electronic equipment.

(c) Papers of a miscellaneous nature addressed to a committee or subcommittee may, at the discretion of the chair, be read or filed with the committee or subcommittee. When the reading of a paper, other than one upon which the committee or subcommittee is called to give a final vote, is demanded and such reading is objected to by any member of that committee or subcommittee, a determination of whether the paper shall be read shall be made, without debate, by a majority vote.

### **PART THREE—Conference Committees**

#### **7.22—Conference Committees**

(a) The Speaker shall determine the number of House managers needed for all conference committees. A conference committee report shall require the signatures which indicate the affirmative votes of a majority of the managers on the part of each house. Such reports may recommend action on amendments previously adopted by the House or Senate, recommend action on additional compromise amendments, or offer an amendment deleting everything after the enacting clause. New amendments recommended by the conference committee shall accompany the report.

(b) A meeting of the House and Senate conferees is a meeting of the two groups. Conference committee meeting notices shall be published at least 1 hour before the time scheduled for the meeting. Each conference committee may determine its own procedures and select a member to preside if a majority of managers of each house agree.

(c) The receiving of conference committee reports shall always be in order, except when the House is voting on any proposition. When a conference committee report is presented to the House, the procedure shall be:

(1) First to vote on a motion to accept the report in its entirety. The motion shall not be subject to amendment. If this vote fails, the report shall be automatically recommitted to the conference committee.

(2) If the report is accepted, the final vote shall be a roll call on the passage of the bill as amended by the report. The bill as amended by the report is not subject to further amendment.

(d) When House managers report inability of a conference committee to agree, no action of the House taken before such appointment shall preclude further action by the House as the House may determine.

***PART FOUR—Oversight Powers and Responsibilities***

***7.23—Oversight Powers and Responsibilities of Standing Committees and Subcommittees***

(a) Each standing committee or subcommittee is authorized to exercise all powers authorized for committees pursuant to s. 11.143, Florida Statutes, to carry out oversight responsibilities within its respective subject matter jurisdiction. For purposes of this rule, the Speaker shall determine the subject matter jurisdiction of each committee or subcommittee.

(b) Select committees shall exercise committee powers authorized by s. 11.143, Florida Statutes, whenever specifically authorized in writing by the Speaker.

(c) Each committee or subcommittee shall exercise other oversight powers and responsibilities vested in the House whenever specifically authorized by the Speaker.

(d) Each committee or subcommittee shall conduct other business as directed by the Speaker.

## **RULE EIGHT—DEBATE AND CHAMBER PROTOCOL**

### ***PART ONE—Privilege of the Floor***

#### ***8.1—Privilege of the Floor***

(a) **MEMBERS' ACCESS.** Members of the House shall have the exclusive right to enter the Chamber during daily floor sessions, and no other person shall be admitted unless granted privilege of the floor as provided below.

(b) **PRIVILEGED GUESTS.** Subject to the Speaker's discretion to maintain safety, order, and decorum, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Chief Financial Officer, the Attorney General, the Commissioner of Agriculture, members of the Senate, Justices of the Supreme Court, former members of the House, the Doctor of the Day, the Guest Chaplain, and the Law Enforcement Officer of the Day are granted the privilege of the floor; however, no registered lobbyist may be so admitted.

(c) **EMPLOYEES' ADMISSION.** House employees may be admitted to the Chamber as determined by the Speaker.

(d) **OTHER GUESTS.** Other guests may be granted the privilege of the floor by the Speaker or by the House.

(e) **RESTRICTIONS ON NON-MEMBERS.** Persons granted the privilege of the floor may not lobby the members while the House is in session, unless granted leave to address the House.

(f) **SESSION ATTIRE.** When the House is in session, all persons in the Chamber shall be dressed in proper business attire.

### ***PART TWO—Speaking***

#### ***8.2—Addressing the House; Requirements to Spread Remarks Upon the Journal***

(a) When a member desires to speak or deliver any matter to the House, the member shall rise and respectfully address the Speaker as "Mr. (or Madam) Speaker" and shall confine all remarks to the question under debate, avoiding personalities. Once recognized, a member may speak from the member's desk or may, with the Speaker's permission, speak from the well.

(b) Any motion to spread remarks upon the *Journal*, except those of the Governor or the Speaker, shall be referred to the chair of the Rules Committee for recommendation before being put to the House.

#### ***8.3—When Two Members Rise at Once***

When two or more members rise at once, the Speaker shall name the one who is to speak first. This decision shall be final and not open to debate or appeal.

#### ***8.4—Recognition of Members***

There shall be no appeal of the Speaker's recognition, but the Speaker shall be governed by the rules and usage in priority of entertaining motions from the floor. When a member seeks recognition, the Speaker may ask, "For what purpose does the member rise?" or "For what purpose does the member seek recognition?"

#### ***8.5—Recognition of Visitors and Guests***

On written request by a member, on a form approved by the Clerk, the Speaker may recognize or permit the member to recognize any person or persons in the gallery. After granting a request for recognition, the Speaker shall afford that recognition at a convenient place in the order of business, considering the need for order and decorum and the need for continuity of debate. At an appropriate time during proceedings on the floor, the Speaker may recognize the Doctor of the Day and the Law Enforcement Officer of the Day.

### ***PART THREE—Debate***

#### ***8.6—Decorum***

The members shall attend to the debates unless necessarily prevented, and no member shall stand between the Speaker and a member recognized to speak.

#### ***8.7—Speaking and Debate; Right to Close***

(a) A member may not speak more than once nor occupy more than 15 minutes in debate on any question, except as provided in Rule 10.11(c).

(b) A member who has the floor may not be interrupted by another member for any purpose, save the privilege of the House, unless he or she consents to yield to the other member. A member desiring to interrupt another in debate should first address the Speaker for the permission of the member speaking. The Speaker shall then ask the member who has the floor if he or she wishes to yield and shall then announce the decision of that member. Whether to yield shall be entirely within the speaking member's discretion. This subsection shall not, however, deprive the first-named sponsor or mover of the right to close when the effect of an amendment or motion would be to foreclose favorable action on the bill, amendment, or motion.

#### ***8.8—Asking Questions of Members***

It is entirely within a speaking member's discretion whether to yield to a question. The proper purpose of a question is for the questioner to obtain information in good faith when the questioner does not know the answer, not for the questioner to supply information to the body. Questions should not be used to editorialize, explicate, pontificate, or provide commentary. Neither a question nor an answer to a question may contain arguments or debate.

### ***8.9—Right to Open and Close Debate***

The member presenting a motion shall have the right to open and close the debate and, for this purpose, may speak each time up to 10 minutes, unless otherwise limited by majority vote of the House, notwithstanding the limitation in Rule 8.7.

### ***PART FOUR—Materials and Meals in Chamber***

#### ***8.10—Distribution of Materials in Chamber; Meals in Chamber***

(a) The following constitutes policy regarding material distributed to the general membership through the Sergeant at Arms' Office and pages:

(1) All material must be approved by the chair of the Rules Committee prior to such distribution.

(2) The following official materials are approved: House and Senate bills, resolutions, memorials, and amendments thereto, and official calendars and journals; committee and subcommittee meeting notices; communications from the Speaker and Clerk and official communications from the Senate; and official staff reports of standing or select committees or subcommittees or of the majority or minority party.

(b) While members may consume nonalcoholic beverages on the floor, meals will not be allowed on the floor without concurrence of a majority vote.

### ***PART FIVE—Miscellaneous Papers***

#### ***8.11—Miscellaneous Papers***

Papers of a miscellaneous nature addressed to the House may, at the discretion of the Speaker, be read, noted in the *Journal*, or filed with the appropriate committee or subcommittee. When the reading of a paper other than one upon which the House is called to give a final vote is demanded and such reading is objected to by any member, whether the paper shall be read shall be determined without debate by the House by a majority vote.



## **RULE NINE—VOTING**

### ***9.1—Members Shall Vote***

Every member shall be within the Chamber at the time announced for a daily floor session unless excused or necessarily prevented, and shall vote on each question put, unless required to abstain under Rule 3.2.

### ***9.2—Taking the Yeas and Nays***

The Speaker shall declare all votes, but if any member rises to doubt a vote, upon a showing of hands by five members, the Speaker shall take the sense of the House by oral or electronic roll call. When taking the yeas and nays on any question, the electronic roll-call system may be used and when so used shall have the force and effect of a roll call taken as provided in these rules. This system likewise may be used to determine the presence of a quorum. When the House is ready to vote upon a question requiring roll call, and the vote is by electronic roll call, the Speaker shall identify the matter to be voted on, direct the Clerk to unlock the machine, and direct the House to proceed to vote. When sufficient time has elapsed for each member to vote, the Speaker shall ask whether all members have voted and, after a short pause, the Speaker shall direct the Clerk to lock the machine and record the vote. When the vote is completely recorded, the Speaker shall announce the result to the House, and the Clerk shall record the action upon the *Journal*.

### ***9.3—Vote of the Speaker or Temporary Presiding Officer***

The Speaker or temporary presiding officer is not required to vote in legislative proceedings other than on final passage of a bill, except when the Speaker's or temporary presiding officer's vote would be decisive. In all yea and nay votes, the Speaker's or temporary presiding officer's name shall be called last. With respect to voting, the Speaker or temporary presiding officer is subject to the same disqualification and disclosure requirements as any other member.

### ***9.4—Votes After Roll Call; Finality of a Roll Call Vote***

(a) After the result of a roll call has been announced, a member, unless his or her absence from the entirety of the daily floor session is unexcused, may submit to the Clerk an indication of how the member would have voted or would have voted differently. The Clerk shall provide forms for the recording of these actions. When timely submitted, the vote after roll call shall be shown beneath the roll call in the *Journal*. Otherwise, the vote after roll call shall be shown separately in the *Journal*.

(b) In no instance, other than by reason of an electronic or mechanical malfunction, shall the result of a voting machine roll call on any question be changed.



**9.5—No Member to Vote for Another Except by Request and Direction**

(a) No member may vote for another member except at the other member's specific request and direction. No member may vote for another member who is absent from the Chamber, nor may any person who is not a member cast a vote for a member.

(b) In no case shall a member vote for another on a quorum call.

(c) Any member who votes or attempts to vote for another member in violation of this rule or who requests another member to vote for the requesting member in violation of this rule may be disciplined in such a manner as the House may deem proper.

(d) Any person who is not a member and who votes in the place of a member shall be subject to such discipline as the House may deem proper.

**9.6—Explanation of Vote**

A member may not explain his or her vote during a roll call but may reduce his or her explanation to writing in not more than 200 words in an electronic format approved by the Clerk. Upon submission to the Clerk, this explanation shall be spread upon the *Journal*.

## **RULE TEN—ORDER OF BUSINESS AND CALENDARS**

### ***PART ONE—Order of Business***

#### ***10.1—Daily Sessions***

The House shall meet each legislative day as stated in the motion adjourning the House on the prior legislative day on which the House met.

#### ***10.2—Daily Order of Business***

(a) When the House convenes on a new legislative day, the daily order of business shall be as follows:

- (1) Call to Order.
- (2) Prayer.
- (3) Roll Call.
- (4) Pledge of Allegiance.
- (5) Correction of the *Journal*.
- (6) Communications.
- (7) Messages from the Senate.
- (8) Reports of Committees.
- (9) Motions Relating to Committee and Subcommittee References.
- (10) Matters on Reconsideration.
- (11) Bills and Joint Resolutions on Third Reading.
- (12) Special Orders.
- (13) House Resolutions.
- (14) Unfinished Business.
- (15) Introduction and Reference.

(b) During special sessions, the order of business of Introduction and Reference shall be called for immediately following the order of business of Correction of the *Journal*.

(c) Within each order of business, matters shall be considered in the order in which they appear on the daily printed Calendar of the House.

(d) After the 45th day of a regular session, by a majority vote, the House may, on motion of the chair or vice chair of the Rules Committee, move to Communications, Messages from the Senate, Bills and Joint Resolutions on Third Reading, or Special Orders. The motion may provide which matter on such order of business may be considered.

(e) The following orders may be omitted on any regular session day if there is no relevant business on the desk:

- (1) Communications.
- (2) Messages from the Senate.
- (3) Reports of Committees.
- (4) House Resolutions.
- (5) Unfinished Business.
- (6) Introduction and Reference.

### ***10.3—Opening Prayer***

A chaplain or other person designated by the Speaker shall attend at the beginning of each day's floor session and open the same with prayer.

### ***10.4—Quorum***

A majority of the membership of the House shall constitute a quorum to conduct business.

### ***10.5—Consideration of Senate Messages: Generally***

Senate messages may be considered by the House at the time and in the order determined by the Speaker.

## ***PART TWO—Readings***

### ***10.6—"Reading" Defined***

"Reading" means the stage of consideration of a bill, resolution, or memorial after reading of a portion of the title sufficient for identification, as determined by the Speaker.

### ***10.7—Reading of Bills and Joint Resolutions***

Each bill and each joint resolution shall be read on 3 separate legislative days prior to a vote upon final passage unless this rule is waived by a two-thirds vote, provided the publication of a bill or joint resolution by its title in the *Journal* shall satisfy the requirements of first reading.

### ***10.8—Reading of Concurrent Resolutions and Memorials***

Concurrent resolutions and memorials shall be read on 2 separate legislative days prior to a voice vote upon adoption, except that concurrent resolutions extending a legislative session or involving other procedural legislative matters may be read twice without motion on the same legislative day.

**10.9—Reading of House Resolutions**

(a) A House resolution shall receive two readings by title only prior to a voice vote upon adoption.

(b) Ceremonial resolutions may be shown as read and adopted by publication in full in the *Journal* in accordance with Rule 10.17.

**10.10—Measures on Third Reading**

(a) Bills on third reading shall be taken up in the order in which the House concluded action on them on second reading.

(b) Before any bill shall be read the third time, whether amended or not, it shall be referred without motion to the Engrossing Clerk for examination and, if amended, the engrossing of amendments. In the case of any Senate bill amended in the House, the amendment adopted shall be reproduced and attached to the bill amended in such manner that it will not be lost therefrom.

(c) A bill shall be deemed on its third reading when it has been read a second time on a previous legislative day and has no motion pending.

**PART THREE—Calendars**

**10.11—Special Order Calendar**

(a) REGULAR SESSION.

(1) The Rules Committee shall periodically submit, as needed, a Special Order Calendar determining the sequence for consideration of legislation. The Special Order Calendar may include bills on second reading, bills on unfinished business, resolutions, and specific sections for local bills, trust fund bills, and bills to be taken up at a time certain. Upon adoption of a Special Order Calendar, no other bills shall be considered for the time period set forth for that Special Order Calendar, except that any bill appearing on that Special Order Calendar may be stricken from it by a majority vote or any bill may be added to it pursuant to Rule 10.13. A previously adopted Special Order Calendar shall expire upon adoption by the House of a new Special Order Calendar.

(2) Any committee, subcommittee, or member may apply in writing to the chair of the Rules Committee to place a bill on the Special Order Calendar. The Rules Committee may grant such requests by a majority vote.

(3) During the first 55 days of a regular session, the Special Order Calendar shall be published in three Calendars of the House, and it may be taken up on the day of the third published Calendar. After the 55th day of a regular session, the Special Order Calendar shall be published in one Calendar of the House and may be taken up on the day the Calendar is published.

(b) EXTENDED OR SPECIAL SESSION.

(1) During any extended or special session, the Rules Committee shall establish a Special Order Calendar and only those bills on such Special Order Calendar shall be placed on the Calendar of the House.

(2) During any extended or special session, the Special Order Calendar shall be published in one Calendar of the House and bills thereon may be taken up on the legislative day the Calendar is published.

(c) FLOOR PROCEDURES INCLUDED ON THE SPECIAL ORDER CALENDAR. The Special Order Calendar submitted by the Rules Committee shall include procedures to manage questions and debate regarding every bill listed on the Special Order Calendar. The procedures shall apply to any Senate bill substituted for or taken up in lieu of a House bill and shall include allocations of time for questions and debate on bills and amendments. The time allocated for questions shall include the question and the answer. Neither question nor answer shall be protracted in an attempt to use up the time. Such procedures shall be reasonable to allow for proper consideration and implemented upon adoption of the Special Order Calendar by majority vote in session.

***10.12—Special Floor Procedures***

The Rules Committee may recommend special floor procedures for the management of amendments and debate on a particular bill, on second and third readings, which procedures may include limitations on amendments and debate. Such procedures may not be implemented unless approved by a majority vote in session.

***10.13—Consideration of Bills Not on Special Order Calendar***

A bill not included on the Special Order Calendar may be considered by the House upon a two-thirds vote.

***10.14—Consent Calendar***

The Rules Committee may submit Consent Calendar procedures to expedite the consideration of noncontroversial legislation.

***10.15—Requirements for Placement on Special Order Calendar***

No measure may be placed on a Special Order Calendar until it has been reported favorably by each committee and subcommittee of reference and is available for consideration on the floor.

***10.16—Informal Deferral of Bills***

Whenever the member who introduced a bill or the first-named member sponsor of a committee or subcommittee bill is absent from the Chamber when the bill has been reached in the regular order on second or third reading, consideration shall be informally deferred until such member's return, unless another member consents to offer the bill on behalf of the original member. The bill shall retain its position on the Calendar of the House during the same legislative day. The member shall have the responsibility of making the motion for its subsequent consideration.

***PART FOUR—Ceremonial Resolutions***

***10.17—Ceremonial Resolutions Published in Journal***

Upon approval of the chair of the Rules Committee, a ceremonial resolution may be shown as read and adopted by publication in full in the *Journal*. The Rules Committee shall distribute a list of such resolutions 1 day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and official state holidays) prior to the day of their publication, during which time any member may file with the Rules Committee an objection to any resolution listed. Each resolution for which an objection has been filed shall be removed from the list and placed on the Calendar of the House. All resolutions without objections shall be printed in the next published *Journal* and considered adopted by the House.

***PART FIVE—Procedural Limitations in Final Week***

***10.18—Consideration Limits to Bills after Day 55***

After the 55th day of a regular session, no House bills on second reading may be taken up and considered by the House.

***10.19—Consideration Limits after Day 58***

After the 58th day of a regular session, the House may consider only:

- (a) Returning messages.
- (b) Conference reports.
- (c) Concurrent resolutions.



## **RULE ELEVEN—MOTIONS**

### ***11.1—Motions; How Made***

Every motion shall be made orally, except when requested by the Speaker to be reduced to writing.

### ***11.2—Precedence of Motions***

(a) When a question is under consideration, the Speaker or the chair of a committee or subcommittee shall receive no motion except:

- (1) To adjourn at a time certain.
- (2) To adjourn.
- (3) To recess to a time certain.
- (4) To lay on the table.
- (5) To reconsider.
- (6) For the previous question.
- (7) To limit debate.
- (8) To temporarily postpone.
- (9) To postpone to a time or day certain.
- (10) To refer to or to recommit to committee or subcommittee.
- (11) To amend.
- (12) To amend by removing the enacting or resolving clause.

(b) Such motions shall have precedence in the descending order given.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a)(10) above, the Motion to Withdraw or Refer a Bill pursuant to Rule 11.11 and the Motion to Refer or Recommit pursuant to Rule 11.12 are not available in committee or subcommittee.

### ***11.3—Questions of Order Decided Without Debate***

The Speaker shall decide, without debate, all procedural questions of order that arise when a motion is before the House or on appeal.



#### ***11.4—Motion to Divide Question***

If a question before the House is susceptible of separation into two or more parts, any member may move for a division of the question so that each part may be voted on separately. However, a motion to remove and insert cannot be divided.

#### ***11.5—Motion to Recess to a Time Certain***

A motion to recess to a time certain shall be treated the same as a motion to adjourn, except that the motion is debatable when no business is before the House and can be amended as to the time to recess and duration of the recess. It yields only to a motion to adjourn.

#### ***11.6—Motion to Lay on the Table***

(a) A motion to lay on the table is not debatable and cannot be amended; however, before the motion is put to a vote, the first-named sponsor of a bill or the mover of a debatable motion shall be allowed 5 minutes within which to discuss the same and may divide the time with, or waive this right in favor of, some other member.

(b) A motion to lay an amendment on the table, if adopted, does not carry with it the measure to which it adheres.

#### ***11.7—Motion to Reconsider; Immediate Certification of Bills***

(a) When a motion or main question has been made and carried or lost, it shall be in order at any time as a matter of right on the same legislative day for a member voting with the prevailing side, or for any member in the case of a voice or tie vote, to move for reconsideration thereof.

(b) When a majority of members vote in the affirmative but the proposition is lost because it is one in which the concurrence of a greater number than a majority is necessary for adoption or passage, any member may move for reconsideration.

(c) The motion to reconsider shall require a majority vote for adoption.

(d) If the House refuses to reconsider or upon reconsideration confirms its prior decision, no further motion to reconsider shall be in order except upon unanimous consent of the members present.

(e) Debate shall be allowed on a motion to reconsider only when the question that it is proposing to reconsider is debatable. When debate upon a motion to reconsider is in order, no member shall speak thereon more than once or for more than 5 minutes.

(f) The adoption of a motion to reconsider a vote upon any secondary matter shall not remove the main subject under consideration from consideration of the House.

(g) A motion to reconsider a collateral matter must be disposed of at once during the course of the consideration of the main subject to which it is related, and such motion shall be out of order after the House has passed to other business.

(h) No bill referred or recommitted to a committee or subcommittee by a vote of the House shall be brought back into the House on a motion to reconsider.

(i) The Clerk shall retain possession of all bills and joint resolutions for the period after passage during which reconsideration may be moved. Unless otherwise directed by the Speaker, all measures acted on by the House shall be transmitted to the Senate at the conclusion of that legislative day, except that local bills, concurrent resolutions, and memorials shall be transmitted to the Senate without delay.

(j) The adoption of a motion to waive the rules and immediately certify any bill to the Senate shall be construed as releasing the measure from the Clerk's possession for the period of reconsideration.

(k) During the last 14 days of a regular session or any extension thereof and during any special session, all measures acted on by the House shall be transmitted to the Senate without delay unless otherwise directed by the Speaker.

#### ***11.8—Motion for the Previous Question***

(a) The previous question may be asked and ordered upon any debatable single motion, series of motions, or amendment pending and the effect thereof shall be to conclude all action on the same legislative day. If third reading is reached on another legislative day, the order for the previous question must be renewed on that day.

(b) The motion for the previous question shall be decided without debate. If the motion prevails, the sponsor of a bill or debatable motion and an opponent shall be allowed 3 minutes each within which to debate the pending question, and each may divide the time with, or waive this right in favor of, some other member. On second reading, the final available question is the main amendment; on third reading, it is the bill.

(c) When the motion for the previous question is adopted on a main question, the sense of the House shall be taken without delay on pending amendments and such question in the regular order.

(d) The motion for the previous question may not be made by the first-named sponsor or mover.

**11.9—*Motion to Limit Debate***

When there is debate by the House, it shall be in order for a member to move to limit debate and such motion shall be decided without debate, except that the first-named sponsor or mover of the question under debate shall have 5 minutes within which to discuss the motion and may divide the allotted time with, or waive it in favor of, some other member. If, by majority vote, the question is decided in the affirmative, debate shall be limited to 10 minutes for each side, unless a different time is stated in the motion, such time to be apportioned by the Speaker; however, the first-named sponsor or mover shall have an additional 5 minutes within which to close the debate and may divide the allotted time with, or waive it in favor of, some other member.

**11.10—*Motion to Temporarily Postpone***

(a) The motion to temporarily postpone shall be decided without debate and shall cause a measure to be set aside but retained on the desk.

(b) If a main question has been temporarily postponed after having been debated or after motions have been applied and is not brought back before the House on the same legislative day, it shall be placed under the order of unfinished business on the Calendar of the House. If a main question is temporarily postponed before debate has commenced or motions have been applied, its reading shall be considered a nullity and the bill shall retain its original position on the order of business on the same legislative day; otherwise, the bill reverts to the status of bills on second or third reading, as applicable.

(c) The motion to return to consideration of a temporarily postponed main question shall be made under the proper order of business when no other matter is pending.

(d) If applied to a collateral matter, the motion to temporarily postpone shall not cause the main question to be carried with it. After having been temporarily postponed, if a collateral matter is not brought back before the House in the course of consideration of the adhering or main question, it shall be deemed abandoned.

**11.11—*Motion to Withdraw or Refer a Bill***

(a) A motion to withdraw a bill from a committee or subcommittee shall require a two-thirds vote on the floor.

(b) Any member may, no later than under the order of business of Motions Relating to Committee and Subcommittee References on the legislative day following reference of a bill, move for reference from one committee or subcommittee to a different committee or subcommittee, which shall be decided by a majority vote.

(c) A motion to refer a bill from one committee or subcommittee to another committee or subcommittee, other than as provided in subsection (b), may be made during the regular order of business and shall require a two-thirds vote.

(d) A motion to refer a bill to an additional committee or subcommittee may be made during the regular order of business and shall require a two-thirds vote.

(e) A motion to refer shall be debated only as to the propriety of the reference.

(f) A motion to withdraw a bill from further consideration of the House shall require a two-thirds vote.

(1) The chair or vice chair of the Rules Committee, at the request of the first-named member sponsor, may move for the withdrawal of a bill from further consideration.

(2) The first-named member sponsor of a bill may, prior to its introduction and provided no substantive action has been taken on it, withdraw the bill by written notice to the Clerk.

(3) In moving for the withdrawal of a bill from further consideration by floor motion, the introducer shall be required to identify the nature of the bill.

#### ***11.12—Motion to Refer or Recommit***

(a) Any bill on the Calendar of the House may be referred or recommitted by the House to a committee or subcommittee by a majority vote.

(b) A motion to refer or recommit a bill that is before the House may be made during the regular order of business. The motion shall be debatable only as to the propriety of that reference and shall require an affirmative majority vote.

(c) If a bill on third reading is referred or recommitted to a committee or subcommittee that subsequently reports the bill favorably with a committee or subcommittee substitute or with one or more amendments, the bill shall return to second reading.

(d) Referral or recommitment of a House bill shall automatically carry with it a Senate companion bill then on the Calendar of the House.

#### ***11.13—Dilatory Motions***

Dilatory or delaying motions shall not be in order.

***11.14—Withdrawal of Motion***

(a) The mover of a motion may withdraw the motion at any time before it has been acted on or a vote on it has commenced.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), once the proposer of an amendment is recognized, the amendment may be withdrawn only with the consent of the body.

## **RULE TWELVE—AMENDMENTS**

### ***12.1—Form***

(a) Floor amendments shall be prepared by the House Bill Drafting Service and filed with the Clerk.

(b) A floor amendment filed with the Clerk after the applicable filing deadline is late filed. A late-filed floor amendment may be taken up for consideration only upon motion adopted by a two-thirds vote.

(c) A motion to amend is in order during the second or third reading of any bill.

### ***12.2—Filing Deadlines for Floor Amendments to Bills on Special Order***

(a) During the first 55 days of a regular session:

(1) Main floor amendments must be submitted to the House Bill Drafting Service by 3 p.m. and approved for filing with the Clerk by 4 p.m. of the first day a bill appears on the Special Order Calendar in the Calendar of the House; and

(2) Amendments to main floor amendments, substitute amendments for main floor amendments, and amendments to substitute amendments must be submitted to the House Bill Drafting Service by 6:30 p.m. and approved for filing by 7 p.m. of the same day.

(b) After the 55th day of a regular session and during any extended or special session:

(1) Main floor amendments must be submitted to the House Bill Drafting Service not later than 1 hour before the applicable filing deadline and approved for filing with the Clerk not later than the earlier of the following deadlines:

a. Eight a.m. on the day session is scheduled to convene on the day the bill appears on the Special Order Calendar in the Calendar of the House; or

b. Two hours before session is scheduled to convene on the day the bill appears on the Special Order Calendar of the House.

(2) Amendments to main floor amendments, substitute amendments for main floor amendments, and amendments to substitute amendments must be approved for filing not later than 1 hour after the applicable main floor amendment deadline.

(c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, subject to approval by a majority vote of the House, the Rules Committee may establish special amendment deadlines and procedures for appropriations bills, implementing bills, and conforming bills, as well as for bills proposing any reapportionment or redistricting of the state's legislative or congressional districts.

**12.3—Presentation and Consideration**

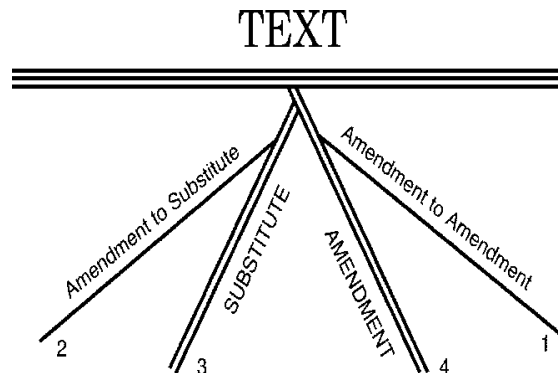
(a) Amendments shall be taken up only as sponsors gain recognition from the Speaker, except that the chair of the committee or subcommittee (or any member thereof designated by the chair) reporting the measure under consideration shall have preference for the presentation of committee or subcommittee amendments to Senate bills.

(b) An amendment to a pending main amendment may be received, but until it is disposed of, no other motion to amend will be in order except a substitute amendment or an amendment to the substitute. Such amendments are to be disposed of in the following order:

(1) Amendments to the amendment are voted on before the substitute is taken up. Only one amendment to the amendment is in order at a time.

(2) Amendments to the substitute are next voted on.

(3) The substitute then is voted on. The adoption of a substitute amendment in lieu of an original amendment shall be treated and considered as an amendment to the bill itself.



(c) The adoption of an amendment to a section shall not preclude further amendment of that section. If a bill is being considered section by section or item by item, only amendments to the section or item under consideration shall be in order.

(d) For the purpose of this rule, an amendment shall be deemed pending only after its proposer has been recognized by the Speaker.

(e) A bill or proposed committee bill designated as a reviser's bill may be amended only by making deletions.

(f) An amendment that is frivolous in its content is not in order.

#### ***12.4—Third Reading Amendments***

(a) Amendments proposed on third reading shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption, except that technical amendments introduced in the name of the chair of the Rules Committee shall require a majority vote for adoption. Amendments on third reading, other than technical amendments introduced in the name of the chair of the Rules Committee, must be submitted to the House Bill Drafting Service not later than 1 hour before the applicable filing deadline and approved for filing not later than the earlier of the following deadlines:

(1) Nine a.m. on the day session is scheduled to convene on the day the bill is reached on third reading; or

(2) One hour before session is scheduled to convene on the day the bill is reached on third reading.

(b) A motion for reconsideration of an amendment on third reading requires a two-thirds vote for adoption.

#### ***12.5—Amendment of Appropriations Bills, Implementing Bills, and Conforming Bills***

(a) For purposes of these rules:

(1) An "appropriations bill" is a general appropriations bill or any other bill the title text of which begins "An act making appropriations," "An act making special appropriations," or "An act making supplemental appropriations."

(2) An "implementing bill" is a bill, effective for one fiscal year, implementing an appropriations bill.

(3) A "conforming bill" is a bill designated as such by the Speaker that amends the Florida Statutes to conform to an appropriations bill.

(b) Whether on the floor or in any committee or subcommittee, whenever an amendment is offered to an appropriations bill that would either increase any state appropriation or decrease any state revenue for any fund, such amendment shall show the amount of the appropriation increase or revenue decrease for a fund by line item and by section and shall decrease an appropriation from within the same appropriations allocation and sub-allocation (as determined by the Speaker) or increase a revenue to the fund in an amount equivalent to or greater than the corresponding appropriation increase or revenue decrease required by the amendment.

(c) Whether on the floor or in any committee or subcommittee, an amendment offered to an implementing bill or to a conforming bill shall not increase a state appropriation to a level that is in excess of the allocations or sub-allocations determined by the Speaker for a fund.



(d) Whether on the floor or in any committee or subcommittee, any amendment offered to an implementing bill or to a conforming bill that reduces revenues supporting appropriations must raise the equivalent or greater revenue for the same fund from other sources.

#### ***12.6—Consideration of Senate Amendments***

(a) After the reading of a Senate amendment to a House bill, the following motions are available:

- (1) Amend the Senate amendment.
- (2) Concur in the Senate amendment.
- (3) Refuse to concur and ask the Senate to recede.

(4) Request the Senate to recede and, if the Senate refuses to recede, to appoint a conference committee to meet with a like committee appointed by the Speaker.

(b) A motion to amend shall be out of order once any other motion is under consideration.

(c) If the Senate refuses to concur in a House amendment to a Senate bill, the following motions shall be in order and shall be privileged in the order named:

- (1) That the House recede.
- (2) That the House insist and ask for a conference committee.
- (3) That the House insist.

(d) The Speaker may, upon determining that a Senate amendment substantially changes the bill as passed by the House, refer the Senate message, with the bill and Senate amendment or amendments, to the appropriate House committee or subcommittee for review and report to the House. The Speaker, upon such reference, shall announce the date and time for the committee or subcommittee to meet. The committee or subcommittee shall report to the House the recommendation for disposition of the Senate amendment or amendments under one of the four options presented in subsection (a). The report shall be furnished to the Clerk and to the House, in writing, by the chair of the reporting committee or subcommittee.

#### ***12.7—Motion to Amend by Removing Enacting or Resolving Clause***

An amendment to remove the enacting clause of a bill or the resolving clause of a resolution or memorial shall, if carried, be considered equivalent to rejection of the bill, resolution, or memorial by the House.

## ***12.8—Germanity of House Floor Amendments***

### **(a) GERMANITY.**

(1) The House shall not consider a floor amendment that relates to a different subject or is intended to accomplish a different purpose than that of the pending question or that, if adopted, would require a title amendment for the bill that is substantially different from the bill's original title or that would unreasonably alter the nature of the bill.

(2) The Speaker shall determine the germanity of any amendment when the question is timely raised.

(3) An amendment of the second degree or a substitute amendment must be germane to both the main amendment and the measure to which it adheres.

**(b) AMENDMENTS THAT ARE NOT GERMANE.** Floor amendments that are not germane include:

(1) A general proposition amending a specific proposition.

(2) An amendment that substantially expands the scope of the bill.

(3) An amendment to a bill when legislative action on that bill is by law or these rules limited to passage, concurrence, or nonconcurrence as introduced.

**(c) AMENDMENTS THAT ARE GERMANE.** Floor amendments that are germane include:

(1) A specific provision amending a general provision.

(2) An amendment that accomplishes the same purpose in a different manner.

(3) An amendment limiting the scope of the proposal.

(4) An amendment providing appropriations necessary to fulfill the original intent of a proposal.

(5) An amendment that changes the effective date of a repeal, reduces the scope of a repeal, or adds a short-term nonstatutory transitional provision to facilitate repeal.

**(d) WAIVER OF RULE.** Waiver of this rule shall require unanimous consent of the House.

**(e) APPLICABILITY.** Committee and subcommittee amendment standards outlined in Rules 7.11(c) and (d) do not apply to floor amendments.

***12.9—Floor Amendments Out of Order***

A floor amendment is out of order if it contains the principal substance of a bill that has:

- (a) Received an unfavorable committee or subcommittee report;
- (b) Been withdrawn from further consideration; or
- (c) Not been reported favorably by at least one committee or subcommittee of reference and may not be offered to a bill on second or third reading. Any amendment containing language that is substantially the same, and identical as to specific intent and purpose, as a measure residing in a committee or subcommittee of reference is covered by this rule.

***12.10—Printing of Amendments in Journal***

All amendments taken up, unless withdrawn, shall be printed in the *Journal*, except that an amendment to an appropriations bill constituting an entirely new bill shall not be printed except upon consideration of the conference committee report.

## **RULE THIRTEEN—RULES**

### ***13.1—Parliamentary Authorities***

In all cases not provided for by the State Constitution, the Rules of the House, or the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, the guiding, but nonbinding, authority shall be first the Rulings of the Speaker and then the latest edition of *Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure*.

### ***13.2—Standing Rules Amendment***

Any standing rule may be rescinded or changed by a majority vote of the members, provided that the proposed change or changes be submitted at least 1 day in advance by the Rules Committee in writing to the members together with notice of the consideration thereof. Any standing rule may be suspended temporarily by a two-thirds vote of the members present, except as otherwise provided in these rules.

### ***13.3—Rules Apply for Term***

The standing rules adopted after the beginning of the term govern all acts of the House during the course of the term unless amended or repealed.

### ***13.4—Joint Rules***

The House shall be governed by joint rules approved by the House and Senate during the term. Such joint rules may not be waived except by agreement of both the House and Senate. A majority vote of the House is required for such agreement.

### ***13.5—Authority and Interpretation***

These rules are adopted pursuant to the specific authority granted and the inherent powers vested in the House of Representatives by the State Constitution. These rules are intended to facilitate the orderly, practical, and efficient completion of legislative work undertaken by the House. These rules shall govern procedures in the House notwithstanding any inconsistent parliamentary tradition and notwithstanding any joint rule or any statute enacted by a prior Legislature. Adoption of these rules constitutes the determination of the House that they do not violate any express regulation or limitation contained in the State Constitution. These rules may not be construed to limit any of the powers, rights, privileges, or immunities vested in or granted to the House by the State Constitution or other organic law.

***13.6—Majority Action***

Unless otherwise indicated by these rules, all action by the House or its committees or subcommittees shall be by majority vote of those members present and voting. When the body is equally divided, the question is defeated.

***13.7—Extraordinary Action***

Unless otherwise required by these rules or the State Constitution, all extraordinary votes shall be by vote of those members present and voting.

***13.8—"Days" Defined***

Wherever used in these rules, a "legislative day" means a day when the House convenes and a quorum is present. All other references to a "day" mean a calendar day.

## **RULE FOURTEEN—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

### ***PART ONE—Public Records***

#### ***14.1—Legislative Records***

There shall be available for public inspection, whether maintained in Tallahassee or in a district office, the papers and records developed and received in connection with official legislative business, except as provided in s. 11.0431, Florida Statutes, or other provision of law. Any person who is denied access to a legislative record and who believes that he or she is wrongfully being denied such access may appeal to the Speaker the decision to deny access.

#### ***14.2—Legislative Records; Maintenance, Control, Destruction, Disposal, and Disposition***

(a) Records that are required to be created by these rules or that are of vital, permanent, or archival value shall be maintained in a safe location that is easily accessible for convenient use. No such record need be maintained if the substance of the record is published or retained in another form or location. Whenever necessary, but no more often than annually or less often than biennially, records required to be maintained may be archived.

(b) Other records that are no longer needed for any purpose and that do not have sufficient administrative, legal, or fiscal significance to warrant their retention shall be disposed of systematically.

(c)(1) The administrative assistant for each existing committee or subcommittee shall ensure compliance with this rule for all records created or received by the committee or subcommittee or for a former committee or subcommittee whose jurisdiction has been assigned to the committee or subcommittee.

(2) The Speaker, the Speaker *pro tempore*, the Minority Leader, the Majority Leader, and the Sergeant at Arms shall ensure compliance with this rule for all records created or received by their respective offices and their predecessors in office.

(3) Each member shall ensure compliance with this rule for all records created or received by the member or the member's district office.

(4) The director of an ancillary House office shall ensure compliance with this rule for all records created or received by the director's office.

(5) The Clerk shall ensure compliance with this rule for all other records created or received by the House of Representatives.

(d) If a committee, subcommittee, or office is not continued in existence, the records of such committee, subcommittee, or office shall be forwarded to the committee, subcommittee, or office assuming the jurisdiction

or responsibility of the former committee, subcommittee, or office, if any. Otherwise, such records shall be forwarded to the Clerk.

(e) The Clerk shall establish a schedule of reasonable and appropriate fees for copies of legislative records and documents.

***PART TWO—Distribution of Documents; Display of Signs***

***14.3—Distribution of Documents***

Documents required by these rules to be printed or published may be produced and distributed on paper or in electronic form.

***14.4—Display of Signs, Placards, Props, and the Like***

Signs, placards, props, or other objects of similar nature shall be permitted in the rooms, lobby, galleries, or Chamber of the House only upon approval of the chair of the Rules Committee.

***PART THREE—House Seal***

***14.5—House Seal***

(a) REQUIREMENT. There shall be an official seal of the House of Representatives. The seal shall be used only by or on behalf of a member or officer of the House in conjunction with his or her official duties or when specifically authorized in writing by the chair of the Rules Committee.

(b) CONFIGURATION. The seal shall be a circle having in the center thereof a view of the sun's rays over a highland in the distance, a palm tree, a steamboat on the water, and a Native American female scattering flowers in the foreground, encircled by the words "House of Representatives."

(c) USE. Unless a written exception is otherwise granted by the chair of the Rules Committee:

(1) Material carrying the official seal shall be used only by a member, officer, or employee of the House or other persons employed or retained by the House.

(2) The use, printing, publication, or manufacture of the seal, or items or materials bearing the seal or a facsimile of the seal, shall be limited to official business of the House or official legislative business.

(d) CUSTODIAN. The Clerk shall be the custodian of the official seal.

## **RULE FIFTEEN—ETHICS AND CONDUCT OF MEMBERS**

### ***15.1—Legislative Ethics and Official Conduct***

Legislative office is a trust to be performed with integrity in the public interest. A member is respectful of the confidence placed in the member by the other members and by the people. By personal example and by admonition to colleagues whose behavior may threaten the honor of the lawmaking body, the member shall watchfully guard the responsibility of office and the responsibilities and duties placed on the member by the House. To this end, each member shall be accountable to the House for violations of this rule or any provision of Rules 15.1-15.7, which shall be known as the House Code of Conduct.

### ***15.2—The Integrity of the House***

A member shall respect and comply with the law and shall perform at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and independence of the House and of the Legislature. Each member shall perform at all times in a manner that promotes a professional environment in the House, which shall be free from unlawful employment discrimination. Member conduct that causes a material disruption of official legislative business is grounds for discipline by the House.

### ***15.3—Improper Influence; Solicitation of Campaign Contributions***

(a) A member may neither solicit nor accept anything that reasonably may be construed to improperly influence the member's official act, decision, or vote.

(b) A member may not fly on an aircraft that is a private conveyance owned, leased, or procured by a lobbyist, a lobbying firm, or a principal, regardless of whether the member pays for the flight.

(c) A member may neither solicit nor accept any campaign contribution for state, district, county, or municipal office during the 60-day regular legislative session or any extended or special session on the member's own behalf, on behalf of a political party, on behalf of any organization with respect to which the member's solicitation is regulated under s. 106.0701, Florida Statutes, or on behalf of a candidate for the House of Representatives; however, a member may contribute to the member's own campaign.

### ***15.4—Ethics; Conflicting Employment***

(a) A member shall:

(1) Scrupulously comply with the requirements of all laws related to the ethics of public officers.



(2) Upon acceptance of any new employment with any entity that receives state funds directly by appropriation or with any public employer, file a written statement disclosing the employer, position, and salary. Such disclosure must be filed prior to the effective date of the change, or within 30 days after acceptance thereof, whichever is earlier. The process for filing the written statement shall be determined by the Speaker.

(b) A member may not:

(1) Allow personal employment to impair the member's independence of judgement in the exercise of official duties.

(2) Directly or indirectly receive or agree to receive any compensation for any services rendered or to be rendered either by the member or any other person when such activity is in substantial conflict with the duties of a member of the House.

(3) Lobby for compensation on issues of policy, appropriations, or procurement before the federal government, the Legislature, any state government body or agency, or any political subdivision of this state, during his or her term of office.

#### ***15.5—Use of Official Position***

(a) A member may not:

(1) Corruptly use or attempt to use the member's official position or any property or resource which may be within the member's trust in a manner contrary to the trust or authority placed in the member, either by the public or by other members, for the purpose of securing a special privilege, benefit, or exemption for the member or for others.

(2) Abuse his or her office in order to obtain a disproportionate benefit for:

a. Himself or herself;

b. His or her spouse, children, or employer; or

c. Any business with which he or she contracts; in which he or she is an officer, a partner, a director, or a proprietor; or in which he or she owns an interest.

(3) Solicit or accept an employment offer or investment advice arising out of legislative activities or political activities engaged in while he or she is a member of, or candidate for, the House.

(4) Enter into any investment, joint venture, or other profitmaking relationship with or advised by a lobbyist or principal, except that a member may buy or sell listed, publicly traded securities of a principal unless in violation of Rule 15.6.

(b) For purposes of this rule:

(1) "Disproportionate benefit:" means a benefit, privilege, exemption, or result arising from an act or omission by a member inconsistent with the proper performance of his or her public duties.

(2) "Investment, joint venture, or other profitmaking relationship" does not include an employment relationship or professional partnership or similar venture engaging the professional services of the member.

***15.6—Use of Information Obtained by Reason of Official Position***

A member may engage in business and professional activity in competition with others but may not use or provide to others, for the member's personal gain or benefit or for the personal gain or benefit of any other person or business entity, any information that has been obtained by reason of the member's official capacity as a member and that is unavailable to members of the public as a matter of law. A member may not use any nonpublic information obtained by reason of the member's legislative activities for the purpose of buying or selling any investment or to otherwise create income for the member or any other person.

***15.7—Representation of Another Before a State Agency***

A member may not personally represent another person or entity for compensation before any state agency other than a judicial tribunal. For the purposes of this rule, "state agency" means any entity of the legislative or executive branch of state government over which the Legislature exercises plenary budgetary and statutory control.

### ***15.8—Advisory Opinions***

(a) A member, when in doubt about the applicability and interpretation of the House Code of Conduct or ethics laws to the member's conduct, may convey the facts of the situation to the House general counsel for an advisory opinion. The general counsel shall issue the opinion within 10 days after receiving the request. The advisory opinion may be relied upon by the member requesting the opinion. Upon request of any member, the committee or subcommittee designated by the Speaker to have responsibility for the ethical conduct of members may revise an advisory opinion rendered by the House general counsel through an advisory opinion issued to the member who requested the opinion.

(b) An advisory opinion rendered by the House general counsel or the committee or subcommittee shall be numbered, dated, and published. Advisory opinions from the House general counsel or the committee or subcommittee may not identify the member seeking the opinion unless such member so requests.

### ***15.9—Penalties for Violations***

Separately from any prosecutions or penalties otherwise provided by law, any member determined to have violated the requirements of these rules relating to ethics or member conduct shall be fined, censured, reprimanded, placed on probation, or expelled or have such other lesser penalty imposed as may be appropriate. Such determination and disciplinary action shall be taken by a two-thirds vote of the House, except that expulsions shall require two-thirds vote of the membership, upon recommendation of the State Affairs Committee pursuant to Rule 18.

### ***15.10—Felony Indictment or Information of a Member***

(a) If an indictment or information for a felony of any jurisdiction is filed against a member of the House, the member indicted or informed against may request the Speaker to excuse the member, without pay, from all privileges of membership of the House pending final adjudication.

(b) If the indictment or information is either *nolle prosequied* or dismissed, or if the member is found not guilty of all felonies, the member shall

be paid all back pay and other benefits retroactive to the date the member was excused.

**15.11—*Felony Guilty Plea of a Member***

A member who enters a plea of guilty or *nolo contendere* to a felony of any jurisdiction may, at the discretion of the Speaker, be suspended immediately, without a hearing and without pay, from all privileges of membership of the House through the remainder of that member's term.

**15.12—*Felony Conviction of a Member***

(a) A member convicted of a felony of any jurisdiction may, at the discretion of the Speaker, be suspended immediately, without a hearing and without pay, from all privileges of membership of the House pending appellate action or the end of the member's term, whichever occurs first.

(b) A member suspended under the provisions of this rule may, within 10 days after such suspension, file a written request for a hearing, setting forth specific reasons contesting the member's suspension. Upon receipt of a written request for a hearing, the Speaker shall appoint a select committee, which shall commence a hearing on the member's suspension within 30 days and issue a report to the House within 10 days after the conclusion of the hearing. The report of the select committee shall be final unless the member, within 10 days after the issuance of the report, requests in writing that the Speaker convene the full House to consider the report of the select committee. Upon receipt of a request for such consideration, the Speaker shall timely convene the House for such purpose.

(c) If the final appellate decision is to sustain the conviction, then the member's suspension shall continue to the end of the member's term. If the final appellate decision is to vacate the conviction and there is a rehearing, the member shall be subject to Rule 15.10. If the final appellate decision is to vacate the conviction and no felony charges remain against the member, the member shall be entitled to restitution of back pay and other benefits retroactive to the date of suspension.

**15.13—*Ethics Training***

The House shall provide ethics training as directed by the Speaker.



## **RULE SIXTEEN—PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS**

### ***16.1—Issuance of Subpoenas; Administration of Oaths***

(a) In order to carry out its duties, each standing or select committee, whenever required, may issue subpoenas and other necessary process to compel the attendance of witnesses before such committee or the taking of sworn testimony pursuant to these rules.

(b) Each standing or select committee, whenever required, may also compel by subpoena *duces tecum* the production of any books, letters, or other documentary evidence it may need to examine in reference to any matter before it.

(c) The chair of the standing or select committee shall issue such process on behalf of such committee after a majority of the committee votes to approve issuance and the Speaker has provided written approval. The chair or any other member of such committee may administer all oaths and affirmations in the manner prescribed by law to witnesses who shall appear before such committee for the purpose of testifying in any matter about which such committee may require evidence.

### ***16.2—Contempt Proceedings***

(a) The House may punish, by fine or imprisonment, any person who is not a member and who is guilty of disorderly or contemptuous conduct in its presence or of a refusal to obey its lawful summons.

(b) A person shall be deemed in contempt if the person:

(1) Fails or refuses to appear in compliance with a subpoena or, having appeared, fails or refuses to testify under oath or affirmation;

(2) Fails or refuses to answer any relevant question or fails or refuses to furnish any relevant book, paper, or other document subpoenaed on behalf of such committee; or

(3) Commits any other act or offense against such committee that, if committed against the Legislature or either house thereof, would constitute contempt.

(c) During a legislative session, a standing or select committee may, by majority vote of all of its members, apply to the House for contempt citation. The application shall be considered as though the alleged contempt had been committed in or against the House itself. If such committee is meeting during the interim, its application shall be made to the circuit court pursuant to Rule 16.6.

(d) A person guilty of contempt under this rule may be punished in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of Article 3 of the State Constitution, or may be subject to such other punishment as the House may, in the exercise of

its inherent powers, impose prior to and in lieu of the imposition of the aforementioned penalty.

(e) The sheriffs in the several counties shall make such service and execute all process or orders when required by standing or select committees. Sheriffs shall be paid as provided for in s. 30.231, Florida Statutes.

### ***16.3—False Swearing***

Whoever willfully affirms or swears falsely in regard to any material matter or thing before any standing or select committee is guilty of false swearing in an official proceeding, which is a felony of the second degree and shall be punished as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, Florida Statutes.

### ***16.4—Rights of Witnesses***

(a) All witnesses summoned before any standing or select committee shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses and per diem at the rates provided in s. 112.061, Florida Statutes. However, the fact that such reimbursement is not tendered at the time that the subpoena is served shall not excuse the witness from appearing as directed therein.

(b) Service of a subpoena requiring the attendance of a person at a meeting of a standing or select committee shall be made in the manner provided by law for the service of subpoenas in a civil action at least 7 days prior to the date of the meeting unless a shorter period of time is authorized by majority vote of all the members of such committee. If a shorter period of time is authorized, the persons subpoenaed shall be given reasonable notice of the meeting, consistent with the particular circumstances involved.

(c) Any person who is served with a subpoena to attend a meeting of any standing or select committee also shall be served with a general statement informing the person of the subject matter of such committee's investigation or inquiry and a notice that the person may be accompanied at the meeting by private counsel.

(d) Upon the request of any party and the approval of a majority of the standing or select committee, the chair shall instruct all witnesses to leave the meeting room and retire to a designated place. The witness shall be instructed by the chair not to discuss the testimony of the witness or the testimony of any other person with anyone until the meeting has been adjourned and the witness has been discharged by the chair. The witness shall be further instructed that if any person discusses or attempts to discuss the matter under investigation with the witness after receiving such instructions, the witness shall bring such matter to the attention of such committee. No member of such committee or representative thereof may discuss any matter or matters pertinent to the subject matter under investigation with any witness to be called before such committee from the time that these instructions are given until the meeting has been adjourned and the

witness has been discharged by the chair. Any person violating this subsection shall be in contempt of the House.

(e) Any standing or select committee taking sworn testimony from witnesses as provided in these rules shall cause a record to be made of all proceedings in which testimony or other evidence is demanded or adduced, which record shall include rulings of the chair, questions of such committee and its staff, the testimony or responses of witnesses, sworn written statements submitted to the committee, and such other matters as the committee or its chair may direct.

(f) A witness at a meeting, upon advance request and at the witness's own expense, shall be furnished a certified transcript of the witness's testimony at the meeting.

#### ***16.5—Right of Other Persons to be Heard***

(a) Any person who, in the opinion of the committee, is adversely affected as a result of being mentioned or otherwise identified during a meeting being conducted for the purpose of taking sworn testimony from witnesses of any standing or select committee may, upon the request of the person or upon the request of any member of such committee, appear personally before such committee and testify on the person's own behalf, or, with such committee's consent, file a sworn written statement of facts or other documentary evidence for incorporation into the record of the meeting. Any such witness, however, shall, before filing such statement, consent to answer questions from such committee regarding the contents of the statement.

(b) Upon the consent of a majority of the members present, a quorum having been established, any standing or select committee may permit any other person to appear and testify at a meeting or submit a sworn written statement of facts or other documentary evidence for incorporation into the record. No request to appear, appearance, or submission shall limit in any way the committee's power of subpoena. Any such witness, however, shall, before filing such statement, consent to answer questions from any standing or select committee regarding the contents of the statement.

#### ***16.6—Enforcement of Subpoena Out of Session***

If any witness fails to respond to the lawful subpoena of any standing or select committee at a time when the Legislature is not in session or, having responded, fails to answer all lawful inquiries or to turn over evidence that has been subpoenaed, such committee may file a complaint before any circuit court of the state setting up such failure on the part of the witness. On the filing of such



complaint, the court shall take jurisdiction of the witness and the subject matter of the complaint and shall direct the witness to respond to all lawful questions and to produce all documentary evidence in the possession of the witness that is lawfully demanded. The failure of any witness to comply with such order of the court shall constitute a direct and criminal contempt of court, and the court shall punish such witness accordingly.

***16.7—Definition***

Pursuant to Rule 7.1(b) and for purposes of Rule 16, the term "committee" includes the House and any subcommittee thereof.

## **RULE SEVENTEEN—ETHICS AND CONDUCT OF LOBBYISTS**

### ***17.1—Obligations of a Lobbyist***

(a) A lobbyist shall supply facts, information, and opinions of principals to legislators from the point of view that the lobbyist openly declares. A lobbyist shall not offer or propose anything that may reasonably be construed to improperly influence the official act, decision, or vote of a legislator, nor shall a lobbyist attempt to improperly influence the selection of officers or employees of the House. A lobbyist, by personal example and admonition to colleagues, shall maintain the honor of the legislative process, including faithful adherence to the rules of the House, by the integrity of the lobbyist's relationship with legislators as well as with the principals whom the lobbyist represents. Each lobbyist shall conduct himself or herself at all times in a manner that promotes a professional environment in the House, exemplifies proper conduct in public meetings, promotes lawful conduct by all involved in the legislative process, and contributes to an environment free from harassment and discrimination. Each lobbyist shall respect and support the honorable conduct of the members of the House and discourage unlawful conduct.

(b) A lobbyist shall not knowingly and willfully falsify, conceal, or cover up, by any trick, scheme, or device, a material fact; make any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation; or make or use any writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry.

(c) During a regular session or any extended or special session, a lobbyist may not contribute to a member's campaign.

(d) A lobbyist may not make any expenditure prohibited by s. 11.045(4)(a), Florida Statutes.

(e) No registered lobbyist shall be permitted upon the floor of the House while it is in session.

(f) A member shall not be directly or indirectly lobbied via electronic communication while the House is in daily session or during any meeting of a committee or subcommittee to which the House member has been appointed. The term "electronic communication" includes, but is not limited to, e-mail, text messaging, social media messaging, and image sharing.

(g) A lobbyist who was a member of the Legislature at any time after November 8, 2016, may not lobby the House for a period of 6 years following vacation of office as a member of the Legislature. This rule does not apply to a public officer who is carrying out the duties of his or her public office.

(h) A lobbyist may not lobby the House for any purpose with respect to any issue, amendment, bill, or appropriation unless the lobbyist has filed a House appearance record identifying the specific matter and each principal represented thereon. The record shall be filed in the manner directed by the Speaker in advance of lobbying on the matter. On matters other than specific bills or amendments identified by bill or amendment number, an issue or appropriation must be identified with specificity sufficient to give notice of each particular legislative subject or proposal that is a subject of any communication that constitutes lobbying.

(i) A lobbyist or lobbying firm shall file a true and correct copy of the lobbying contract and any addendum thereto, including accurate information regarding fees to be paid under such contract, when the lobbyist or lobbying firm registers to lobby the Legislature or the Executive Branch on behalf of any officer of this state; any executive or judicial department of this state; any political subdivision, special district, public authority, public hospital, council, commission, unit of local government, or public education entity in this state; or any authority, council, commission, direct-support organization, institution, foundation, or similar entity that is created by law or ordinance to pursue a public purpose, entitled by law or ordinance to any distribution of tax or fee revenues, or organized for the sole purpose of supporting one of the public entities listed in this subsection. This subsection does not apply if the lobbyist is an employee of such principal, the lobbyist's salary is published on the Internet, and the lobbyist does not engage in lobbying on behalf of any other principal.

### ***17.2—Advisory Opinions; Compilation Thereof***

A lobbyist, when in doubt about the applicability and interpretation of Rule 17.1 in a particular context related to that lobbyist's conduct, or any person when in doubt about the applicability and interpretation of s. 11.045, s. 112.3148, or s. 112.3149, Florida Statutes, as such statute or statutes may apply to that person, may request an advisory opinion under this rule. Such request shall be in writing, addressed to the Speaker, and shall contain the relevant facts. The Speaker shall either refer the issue to the House general counsel for review and drafting of an advisory opinion of the Speaker or refer the issue to a committee designated by the Speaker to have responsibility for the ethical conduct of lobbyists, and the person requesting the advisory opinion may appear in person before such committee. The Speaker or this committee shall render advisory opinions to the person who seeks advice as to whether the facts as described in the request and any supplemental communication would constitute a violation of such rule or statute by that person. Such opinion, until amended or revoked, shall be binding upon the House in any proceeding upon a subsequent complaint concerning the person who sought the opinion and acted on it in good faith, unless material facts were omitted or misstated in the request for the advisory opinion. Upon request

of the person who requested the advisory opinion or any member, the committee designated by the Speaker to have responsibility for the ethical conduct of lobbyists may revise any advisory opinion issued by the Speaker or may revise any advisory opinion issued by the general counsel of the Office of Legislative Services under Joint Rule 1.8. The House general counsel or this committee shall make sufficient deletions to prevent disclosing the identity of persons in the decisions or opinions. All advisory opinions of the Speaker or this committee shall be numbered, dated, and published in an annual publication of the House. The Clerk shall keep a compilation of all advisory opinions.

### ***17.3—Penalties for Violations***

Separately from any prosecutions or penalties otherwise provided by law, any person determined to have violated the foregoing requirements of Rule 17, any provision in Joint Rule One, or s. 11.045, s. 112.3148, or s. 112.3149, Florida Statutes, may be reprimanded, censured, prohibited from lobbying for all or any part of the legislative biennium during which the recommended order is proposed, or have such other penalty imposed as may be appropriate. Such determination shall be made by a majority of the House, upon recommendation of the State Affairs Committee pursuant to Rule 18. Any prohibition or other limitation imposed by the House may be continued for up to a total of 2 years by a determination made by a majority of the House at or following the organization session following the biennium during which such prohibition or other limitation was imposed.



**RULE EIGHTEEN—COMPLAINTS AGAINST MEMBERS AND  
OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE, LOBBYISTS,  
AND OTHER PERSONS**

***18.1—Complaints Against Members and Officers of the House, Lobbyists, and Other Persons; Procedure***

Rule 18 governs proceedings on all complaints under the jurisdiction of the House. Such complaints include, but are not limited to:

(a) Those alleging violation of law, violation of the House Code of Conduct, or improper conduct of a member or officer that may reflect upon the House; or

(b) Violations of House Rule 17.1, Joint Rule One, or s. 11.045, s. 112.3148, or s. 112.3149, Florida Statutes, by any lobbyist or person other than a member of the House. For purposes of this rule, receipt of audit information indicating a possible violation of Joint Rule One shall be treated as a complaint.

***18.2—Violations; Investigations***

(a) Any person may file a sworn complaint with the chair of the State Affairs Committee alleging a violation as provided in Rule 18.1. The complaint shall contain the name and legal address of the person filing the complaint ("complainant"), be based on the complainant's personal knowledge, state detailed facts, specify the actions of the named respondent which form the basis for the complaint, and identify each specific rule or law alleged by the complainant to have been violated.

(b) Upon a determination by the chair of the State Affairs Committee that the complaint states facts supporting a finding of probable cause, the Speaker shall refer the complaint to a special master or to a select committee. Upon a determination by the chair of the State Affairs Committee that the complaint fails to state facts supporting a finding of probable cause, the complaint shall be dismissed.

(c) Upon referral by the Speaker of a complaint under subsection (b), the special master or select committee shall conduct an investigation, shall give reasonable notice to the respondent, and shall grant the respondent an opportunity to be heard unless the investigation fails to reveal facts supporting a finding of probable cause. A special master's or select committee's report and recommendation is advisory only and shall be presented to the chair of the State Affairs Committee as soon as practicable after the close of the investigation. If the report and recommendation conclude that the facts do not support a finding of probable cause, the complaint shall be dismissed by the chair of the State Affairs Committee.

(d) If the report and recommendation of the special master or the select committee conclude that the facts support a finding of probable cause, the State Affairs Committee shall consider the report and recommendation, may make further inquiry, shall grant the respondent an opportunity to be heard, and shall develop its own recommendation. If the complaint is against the chair of the State Affairs Committee, the chair is excused and the vice chair shall preside over the deliberation. If the State Affairs Committee votes to dismiss the complaint, the chair of the State Affairs Committee or vice chair shall dismiss the complaint. Otherwise, the special master's or select committee's report and recommendation and the recommendation of the State Affairs Committee shall be presented to the Speaker.

(e) The Speaker shall present the committee's recommendation, along with the report and recommendation of the special master or the select committee, to the House for final action.

(f) Nothing in this rule prohibits the chair of the State Affairs Committee from correcting or preventing the alleged violation by informal means if the chair determines that a violation is inadvertent, technical, or otherwise *de minimis*.

(g) Nothing in this rule prohibits the respondent and the chair of the State Affairs Committee, the special master, or a select committee from agreeing to a consent decree, which shall state findings of fact, and such penalty as may be appropriate. If the House accepts the consent decree, the complaint pursuant to these rules shall be resolved.

(h) The House may move forward with disciplinary proceedings without waiting for the outcome of a criminal case.

### ***18.3—Confidentiality***

Any material provided to the House in response to a complaint filed under Rule 18 that is confidential under applicable law shall remain confidential and shall not be disclosed except as authorized by applicable law. Except as otherwise provided in this rule, a complaint and the records relating to a complaint shall be available for public inspection upon the dismissal of a complaint, a determination as to probable cause, informal resolution of a complaint, or the receipt by the Speaker of a request in writing from the respondent that the complaint and other records relating to the complaint be made public records.

**18.4—Conflict**

If a complaint is filed against the chair of the State Affairs Committee, the initial review of the complaint shall be managed by the Speaker or, if designated by the Speaker, the Speaker *pro tempore*. If a complaint is filed against the Speaker, the duties of the Speaker pursuant to Rule 18 shall be transferred to the Speaker *pro tempore*.

**18.5—Time Limitations**

- (a) A complaint must be filed with the chair of the State Affairs Committee within 2 years after the alleged violation.
- (b) A violation of the House Code of Conduct is committed when every element necessary to establish a violation of the rule has occurred, and time starts to run on the day after the violation occurred.
- (c) The applicable period of limitation is tolled on the day a sworn complaint is filed with the chair of the State Affairs Committee.





## RULE NINETEEN—IMPEACHMENT

### *19.1—Definitions*

(a) The House construes "misdemeanor in office" to include, without limitation:

(1) Any wrongful act that is contrary to justice, honesty, principles, or good morals performed by virtue or under authority of office;

(2) Any willful malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office;

(3) Any breach of expectations of conduct and motivation associated with the office, including, but not limited to:

a. A wrongful official act or omission to perform an official duty;

b. Acceptance of any bribe;

c. Failure to report any attempted bribe to appropriate law enforcement officials;

d. Acceptance of any gift, compensation, or other benefit prohibited to the officer by any law or binding rule of conduct;

e. Acceptance of any undisclosed income if disclosure is required by law or binding rule of conduct;

f. Acceptance of any undisclosed compensation, gift, reimbursement, or other benefit valued in excess of \$100 without making public disclosure on an official internet website within 180 days after receipt, or as otherwise required by law or binding rule of conduct, if the law would require disclosure if such benefit were accepted by a member of the Legislature;

g. Failure to maintain a professional environment in the administration of the office free of unlawful discrimination and free of harassment or abuse of employees or members of the public served by the office;

h. Failure to abide by ethics laws and rules or public corruption laws governing conduct in office;

i. Failure to avoid any appearance of impropriety;

j. Any act injurious to the honor of the State of Florida or of any of its officers or employees unless such act is justified by official duty; or

k. Gross failure to discourage such misconduct by other officers subject to impeachment; or

(4) Any conduct unbecoming of a public officer, including, but not limited to:

a. Commission of any felony under any jurisdiction;

b. Commission of any breach of peace in any place;

c. Sexual harassment;

d. Invidious discrimination;

e. Solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions or expenditure of campaign funds in a manner that violates any law or binding rule of conduct, or acquiescence in such conduct by an agent of the candidate's campaign;

f. Any act contrary to the peace and dignity of the State of Florida; or

g. Gross failure to discourage such conduct by subordinates or by other officers subject to impeachment.

(b) For purposes of this rule:

(1) "Sexual harassment" means engaging in a sexual or romantic relationship with any person other than one's spouse if such person is a subordinate or an employee of a subordinate or an employee of a colleague officer or any related conduct that would be grounds for dismissal if committed by a state employee in any state agency or legislative or judicial body. It also includes solicitation of such relationship. For purposes of this definition, "colleague officer" means:

a. For a statewide elected officer, any other statewide elected officer.

b. For any other constitutional officer, any constitutional officer serving the same county, circuit, or district.

(2) "Breach of peace" means any act or conduct that seriously endangers or disturbs public peace and order, including, but not limited to, any act of unjustified violence against any person or property and malicious destruction of property.

(3) "Gross failure to discourage" means having actual knowledge of wrongful conduct of another person and neglecting to admonish appropriate behavior of such person, covering up inappropriate behavior of such person, failing to exercise vested authority to correct or discipline inappropriate behavior of such person, or failing to report inappropriate behavior of such person when there is a duty to report.

### ***19.2—Procedure***

The House may act in session upon any resolution of impeachment filed in the House, notwithstanding any deadline for filing substantive resolutions, or may proceed on any complaint against an officer subject to impeachment in accordance with Rule 18.

### ***19.3—Impeachment Managers***

When the House is in recess or not in session, the Speaker may appoint a replacement for any impeachment manager appointed by the House if the manager neglects or cannot perform the duties of a manager or if the manager resigns. The Speaker shall be the sole judge of such matters subject only to an appeal to the House filed with the Clerk during a legislative session if filed within 48 hours after the Clerk publishes such replacement appointment.



## JOINT RULES

The Ninety-first Florida Legislature  
Enacted through HCR 3-Org. (2022O), November 22, 2022

### **Joint Rule One—Lobbyist Registration and Compensation Reporting**

#### ***1.1—Those Required to Register; Exemptions; Committee Appearance Records***

(1) All lobbyists before the Florida Legislature must register with the Lobbyist Registration Office in the Office of Legislative Services. Registration is required for each principal represented.

(2) As used in Joint Rule One, unless the context otherwise requires, the term:

(a) "Compensation" means 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.

(b) "Legislative action" means introduction, sponsorship, testimony, debate, voting, or any other official action on any measure, resolution, amendment, nomination, appointment, or report of, or any matter that may be the subject of action by, either house of the Legislature or any committee thereof.

(c) "Lobby" or "lobbying" means influencing or attempting to influence legislative action or nonaction through oral or written communication or through an attempt to obtain the goodwill of a member or employee of the Legislature.

(d) "Lobbying firm" means any business entity, including an individual contract lobbyist, that receives or becomes entitled to receive any compensation for the purpose of lobbying and where any partner, owner, officer, or employee of the business entity is a lobbyist. "Lobbying firm" does not include an entity that has employees who are lobbyists if the entity does not derive compensation from principals for lobbying or if such compensation is received exclusively from a subsidiary or affiliate corporation of the employer. As used in this paragraph, an affiliate corporation is a corporation that directly or indirectly shares the same ultimate parent corporation as the employer and does not receive compensation for lobbying from any unaffiliated entity.

(e) "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. An employee of the principal is not a lobbyist unless the employee is principally employed for governmental affairs. The term "principally employed for governmental affairs" means that one of the principal or most significant responsibilities of the employee to the employer is overseeing the employer's various relationships with government or representing the employer in its contacts with government. Any person employed by the Governor, the Executive Office of the Governor, or any executive or judicial department of the state or any community college of the state who seeks to encourage the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation by personal appearance or attendance before the House of Representatives or the Senate, or any member or committee thereof, is a lobbyist.

(f) "Lobbyist Registration and Compensation Reporting System (LRCRS)" means the online application that serves as the system of record for the Lobbyist Registration Office in the Office of Legislative Services and consists of the electronic registration system and the electronic filing system.

(g) "LRO" means the Lobbyist Registration Office in the Office of Legislative Services.

(h) "Office" means the Office of Legislative Services.

(i) "Payment" or "salary" means wages or any other consideration provided in exchange for services but does not include reimbursement for expenses.

(j) "Principal" means the person, firm, corporation, or other entity that has employed or retained a lobbyist. When an association has employed or retained a lobbyist, the association is the principal; the individual members of the association are not principals merely because of their membership in the association.

(k) "Unusual circumstances," with respect to any failure of a person to satisfy a filing requirement, means uncommon, rare, or sudden events over which the person has no control and which directly result in the failure to satisfy the filing requirement.

(3) For purposes of Joint Rule One, the terms "lobby" and "lobbying" do not include any of the following:

(a) A response to an inquiry for information made by any member, committee, or staff of the Legislature.

(b) An appearance in response to a legislative subpoena.

(c) Advice or services that arise out of a contractual obligation with the Legislature, a member, a committee, any staff, or any legislative entity to render the advice or services where such obligation is fulfilled through the use of public funds.

(d) Representation of a client before the House of Representatives or the Senate, or any member or committee thereof, when the client is subject to disciplinary action by the House of Representatives or the Senate, or any member or committee thereof.

(4) For purposes of registration and reporting, the term "lobbyist" does not include any of the following:

(a) A member of the Legislature.

(b) A person who is employed by the Legislature.

(c) A judge who is acting in that judge's official capacity.

(d) A person who is a state officer holding elective office or an officer of a political subdivision of the state holding elective office and who is acting in that officer's official capacity.

(e) A person who appears as a witness or for the purpose of providing information at the written request of the chair of a committee, subcommittee, or legislative delegation.

(f) A person employed by any executive or judicial department of the state or any community college of the state who makes a personal appearance or attendance before the House of Representatives or the Senate, or any member or committee thereof, while that person is on approved leave or outside normal working hours and who does not otherwise meet the definition of a lobbyist.

(5) When a person, regardless of whether the person is registered as a lobbyist, appears before a committee of the Legislature, that person must submit a Committee Appearance Record as required by the respective house.

(6) The responsibilities of the Office and of the LRO under Joint Rule One may be assigned to another entity by agreement of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for a contract period not to extend beyond December 1 following the Organization Session of the next biennium, provided that the powers and duties of the President, the Speaker, the General Counsel of the Office of Legislative Services, and any legislative committee referenced in Joint Rule One may not be delegated.

### ***1.2—Method of Registration***

(1) Each person required to register with the LRO must register through the LRCRS and attest to that person's full legal name, business address, e-mail address, and telephone number; the name, business address, e-mail address, and telephone number of each principal that person represents; and the extent of any direct business association or partnership that person has with any member of the Legislature. If the lobbyist is, or belongs to, a lobbying firm, the lobbyist must state the name, address, and telephone number of the lobbying firm and the e-mail address of the person responsible for the submission of compensation reports. All lobbyists associated with the same firm must register using the identical name, address, and e-mail address of the firm in the LRCRS.



Registration is not complete until the LRCRS receives authorization from the principal's representative and the registration fee. Lobbyists may not authorize themselves on behalf of the principal representative. Any changes to the information existing in the LRCRS must be updated online in the LRCRS within 15 days from the effective date of the change.

(2) Any person required to register must do so with respect to each principal prior to commencement of lobbying on behalf of that principal. The LRCRS will request authorization from the principal with the principal's name, business address, e-mail address, and telephone number to confirm that the registrant is authorized to represent the principal. The principal or principal's representative shall also identify and designate the principal's main business pursuant to a classification system approved by the Office, which shall be the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) six-digit numerical code that most accurately describes the principal's main business.

(3) Any person required to register must renew the registration annually for each calendar year through the LRCRS.

(4) A lobbyist shall promptly cancel the registration for a principal upon termination of the lobbyist's representation of that principal. A cancellation takes effect the day it is received by the LRCRS. Notwithstanding this requirement, the LRO may remove the name of a lobbyist from the list of registered lobbyists if the principal notifies the LRO in writing that the lobbyist is no longer authorized to represent that principal.

(5) Should a registered lobbyist identify a scrivener's error in their own registration in the LRCRS after submission, they may make a written request to the LRO to correct such error. The request must clearly identify and describe the error. Each request will be reviewed by the Office before any changes will be made.

(6) The LRO shall retain registration information submitted under this rule.

(7) A person required to register under Joint Rule One shall be considered a lobbyist of the Legislature for the purposes of ss. 11.045, 112.3148, and 112.3149, Florida Statutes.

### ***1.3—Registration Costs; Exemptions***

(1) To cover the costs incurred for the administration of Joint Rule One, each person who registers under Joint Rule 1.1 must pay an annual registration fee to the LRO. The annual period runs from January 1 to December 31. These fees must be paid at the time of registration.

(2) The following persons are exempt from paying the fee, provided they are designated in writing by the agency head or person designated in this subsection:

(a) Two employees of each department of the executive branch created under chapter 20, Florida Statutes.

(b) Two employees of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

(c) Two employees of the Executive Office of the Governor.

(d) Two employees of the Commission on Ethics.

(e) Two employees of the Florida Public Service Commission.

(f) Two employees of the judicial branch designated in writing by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court.

(3) The annual fee is up to \$50 per legislative entity for a person to register to represent one principal and up to an additional \$10 per legislative entity for each additional principal that the person registers to represent. The amount of each fee shall be established annually by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The fees set must be adequate to ensure operation of the lobbyists' registration, compensation, and reporting functions. The fees collected by the LRO under this rule shall be deposited into the State Treasury and credited to the Legislative Lobbyist Registration Trust Fund specifically to cover the costs incurred in administering Joint Rule One.

#### ***1.4—Reporting of Lobbying Firm Compensation***

(1)(a) Each lobbying firm shall file a compensation report with the LRO through the LRCRS 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 must include the:

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

2. Registration name of each of the firm's lobbyists; and

3. 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; or \$1 million or more.

(b) For each principal represented by one or more of the firm's lobbyists, the lobbying firm's compensation report must also include the:

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

2. 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.

(c) Compensation shall be reported using the accrual basis of accounting.

(d) Compensation reports should reflect compensation received for lobbying the legislative branch only.

(e) If the lobbying firm subcontracts work from another lobbying firm and not from the original principal:

1. 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

2. The reporting lobbying firm shall, for each lobbying firm identified as the reporting lobbying firm's principal under paragraph (b), identify the name, business address, and telephone number of the principal originating the lobbying work.

(f) The senior partner, officer, or owner of the lobbying firm shall certify to the veracity and completeness of the information submitted pursuant to this rule; certify that no compensation has been omitted from this report by deeming such compensation as "consulting services," "media services," "professional services," or anything other than compensation; and certify that no officer or employee of the firm has made an expenditure in violation of s. 11.045, Florida Statutes.

(2) For each principal represented by more than one lobbying firm, the Office shall aggregate the reporting-period and calendar-year compensation reported as provided or owed by the principal. Compensation reported within a category shall be aggregated as follows:

Category (dollars)	Dollar amount to use aggregating
0	0
1–9,999	5,000
10,000–19,999	15,000
20,000–29,999	25,000
30,000–39,999	35,000
40,000–49,999	45,000
50,000 or more	Actual amount reported

(3) The compensation reports 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. The reports shall be rendered in the identical form provided by the respective houses and shall be open to public inspection.

(4) A report filed pursuant to this rule must be completed and filed through the LRCRS not later than 11:59 p.m. of the day designated in subsection (3). 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 Joint Rule 1.5(1).

(5) Each person given secure sign-on credentials in the LRCRS is responsible for protecting the credentials from disclosure and is responsible for all filings made by use of such credentials, unless and until the Office is notified that the person's credentials have been compromised. Each report filed by electronic means pursuant to this rule shall be deemed certified in accordance with paragraph (1)(f) by the person given the secure sign-on credentials and, as such, subjects the person and the lobbying firm to the provisions of s. 11.045(8), Florida Statutes, as well as any discipline provided under the rules of the Senate or House of Representatives.

(6) If the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives jointly declare that the electronic system is not operable, the reports shall be filed in accordance with instructions on the LRCRS website which will be posted for a reasonable period of time.

***1.5—Failure to File Timely Compensation Report; Notice and Assessment of Fines; Appeals***

(1) Upon determining that the report is late, the LRCRS shall immediately notify the lobbying firm by e-mail 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, not to exceed \$5,000 per report.

(2) Upon submittal of the late-filed report by the lobbying firm, the LRCRS shall determine the amount of the fine based on the submittal date shown in the electronic receipt issued by the LRCRS.

(3) Such fine shall be paid within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted by the LRCRS, unless an appeal is made to the LRO. The moneys shall be deposited into the Legislative Lobbyist Registration Trust Fund.

(4) A fine may not be assessed against a lobbying firm the first time the report for which the lobbying firm is responsible is not timely filed. However, to receive the one-time fine waiver, the report for which the lobbying firm is responsible must be filed within 30 days after the notice of failure to file is transmitted by the LRCRS. A fine shall be assessed for all 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 General Counsel of the Office of Legislative Services, who shall recommend to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or their respective designees, that the fine be waived in whole or in part for good cause shown. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or their respective designees, may, by joint agreement, concur in the recommendation and waive the fine in whole or in part. Any such request shall be made within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted by the LRCRS. In such case, the lobbying firm shall, within the 30-day period, notify the LRO in writing of the firm's intention to request a hearing.

(6) A lobbying firm may request that the filing of a report be waived upon good cause shown, based on unusual circumstances. The request must be filed with the General Counsel of the Office of Legislative Services, who shall make a recommendation concerning the waiver request to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives may, by joint agreement, grant or deny the request.

(7)(a) 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 all late reports have been filed or waived. The LRO shall promptly notify all affected principals, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of any suspension or reinstatement. All lobbyists who are partners, owners, officers, or employees of a lobbying firm are jointly and severally liable for any outstanding fine owed by a lobbying firm.

(b) Such lobbyist may not be reinstated in any capacity representing any principal until the fine is paid and all late reports have been filed or waived or until the fine is waived as to that lobbyist and all late reports for that lobbyist have been filed or waived. A suspended lobbyist may request a waiver upon good cause shown, based on unusual circumstances. The request must be filed with the General Counsel of the Office of Legislative Services who shall, as soon as practicable, make a recommendation concerning the waiver request to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives may, by joint agreement, grant or deny the request.

(8) The LRO shall notify the coordinator of the Office 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.

***1.6—Open Records; Internet Publication of Registrations and Compensation Reports***

(1) All of the lobbyist registration forms and compensation reports received by the LRO shall be available for public inspection and for duplication at reasonable cost.

(2) The LRO shall make information filed pursuant to Joint Rules 1.2 and 1.4 reasonably available on the Internet in an easily understandable and accessible format through the LRCRS. The LRCRS must include, but not be limited to including, the names and business addresses of lobbyists, lobbying firms, and principals; the affiliations between lobbyists and principals; and the classification system designated and identified with respect to principals pursuant to Joint Rule 1.2.

***1.7—Records Retention and Inspection and Complaint Procedure***

(1) 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 reports and registration documentation.

(2) Upon receipt of a complaint based on the personal knowledge of the complainant made pursuant to the Senate Rules or the Rules of the House of Representatives, any such documents and records may be inspected when authorized by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as applicable. The person authorized to perform the inspection shall be designated in writing and shall be a member of The Florida Bar or a certified public accountant licensed in Florida. Any information obtained by such an inspection may only be used for purposes authorized by law, Joint Rule One, the Senate Rules, or the Rules of the House of Representatives, which purposes may include the imposition of sanctions against a person subject to Joint Rule One, the Senate Rules, or the Rules of the House of Representatives. Any employee who uses that information for an unauthorized purpose is subject to discipline. Any member who uses that information for an unauthorized purpose is subject to discipline under the applicable rules of each house.

(3) The right of inspection may be enforced by appropriate writ issued by any court of competent jurisdiction.

***1.8—Questions Regarding Interpretation of Joint Rule One***

(1) A person may request in writing an informal opinion from the General Counsel of the Office of Legislative Services as to the application of Joint Rule One to a specific situation involving that person's conduct. The General Counsel shall issue the opinion within 10 days after receiving the request. The informal opinion may be relied upon by the person who requested the informal opinion. A copy of each informal opinion that is issued shall be provided to the presiding officer of each house. A committee of either house designated pursuant to section 11.045(5), Florida Statutes, may revise any informal opinion rendered by the General Counsel through an advisory opinion to the person who requested the informal opinion. The advisory opinion shall supersede the informal opinion as of the date the advisory opinion is issued.

(2) A person in doubt about the applicability or interpretation of Joint Rule One with respect to that person's conduct may submit in writing the facts for an advisory opinion to the committee of either house designated pursuant to s. 11.045(5), Florida Statutes, and may appear in person before the committee in accordance with s. 11.045(5), Florida Statutes.

***1.9—Effect of Readoption and Revision***

All obligations existing under Joint Rule One as of the last day of the previous legislative biennium are hereby ratified, preserved, and reimposed pursuant to the terms thereof as of that date. The provisions of Joint Rule One are imposed retroactively to the first day of the present legislative biennium except that provisions new to this revision are effective on the date of adoption or as otherwise expressly provided herein.

**Joint Rule Two—General Appropriations Review Period and  
Budget Conference Committee Rules**

***2.1—General Appropriations and Related Bills; Review Periods***

(1) A general appropriations bill shall be subject to a 72-hour public review period before a vote is taken on final passage of the bill in the form that will be presented to the Governor.

(2) If a bill is returned to the house in which the bill originated and the originating house does not concur in all the amendments or adds additional amendments, no further action shall be taken on the bill by the nonoriginating house, and a conference committee shall be established by operation of this rule to consider the bill.

(3) If a bill is referred to a conference committee by operation of this rule, a 72-hour public review period shall be provided prior to a vote being taken on the conference committee report by either house.

(4) A copy of the bill, a copy of the bill with amendments adopted by the nonoriginating house, or the conference committee report shall be furnished to each member of the Legislature, the Governor, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and each member of the Cabinet. Copies for the Governor, Chief Justice, and members of the Cabinet shall be furnished to the official's office in the Capitol or Supreme Court Building.

(5)(a) Copies required to be furnished under subsection (4) shall be furnished to members of the Legislature as follows:

1. A printed copy may be placed on each member's desk in the appropriate chamber; or

2. An electronic copy may be furnished to each member. The Legislature hereby deems and determines that a copy shall have been furnished to the members of the Legislature when an electronic copy is made available to every member of the Legislature. An electronic copy is deemed to have been made available when it is accessible via the Internet or other information network consisting of systems ordinarily serving the members of the Senate or the House of Representatives.



(b) An official other than a member of the Legislature who is to be furnished a copy of a general appropriations bill under subsection (4) may officially request that an electronic copy of the bill be furnished in lieu of a printed copy, and, if practicable, the copy may be furnished to the official in the manner requested.

(6) The Secretary of the Senate shall be responsible for furnishing copies under this rule for Senate bills, House bills as amended by the Senate, and conference committee reports on Senate bills. The Clerk of the House shall be responsible for furnishing copies under this rule for House bills, Senate bills as amended by the House, and conference committee reports on House bills.

(7) The 72-hour public review period shall begin to run upon completion of the furnishing of copies required to be furnished under subsection (4). The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate, as appropriate, shall be informed of the completion time, and such time shall be announced on the floor prior to vote on final passage in each house and shall be entered in the journal of each house. Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays shall be included in the computation under this rule.

(8) An implementing or conforming bill recommended by a conference committee shall be subject to a 24-hour public review period before a vote is taken on the conference committee report by either house, if the conference committee submits its report after the furnishing of a general appropriations bill to which the 72-hour public review period applies.

(9) With respect to each bill that may be affected, a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives may not raise a point of order under this rule after a vote is taken on the bill. Except as may be required by the Florida Constitution, noncompliance with any requirement of this rule may be waived by a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting in each house.

## ***2.2—General Appropriations and Related Bills; Definitions***

As used in Joint Rule Two, the term:

(1) "Conforming bill" means a bill that amends the Florida Statutes to conform to a general appropriations bill.

(2) "General appropriations bill" means a bill that provides for the salaries of public officers and other current expenses of the state and contains no subject other than appropriations. A bill that contains appropriations that are incidental and necessary solely to implement a substantive law is not included within this term. For the purposes of Joint Rule Two and Section 19(d) of Article III of the Florida Constitution, the Legislature hereby determines that, after a general appropriations bill has been enacted and establishes governing law for a particular fiscal year, a bill considered in any subsequent session that makes net reductions in such enacted appropriations or that makes supplemental appropriations shall not be deemed to be a general appropriations bill unless such

bill provides for the salaries of public officers and other current expenses of the state for a subsequent fiscal year.

(3) "Implementing bill" means a bill, effective for one fiscal year, implementing a general appropriations bill.

(4)(a) "Appropriations project" means a specific appropriation, proviso, or item on a conference committee spreadsheet agreed to by House and Senate conferees providing funding for:

1. A local government, private entity, or privately operated program, wherein the specific appropriation, proviso, or item on a conference committee spreadsheet specifically names the local government, private entity, or privately operated program or the appropriation, proviso, or item is written in such a manner as to describe a particular local government, private entity, or privately operated program;

2. A specific transportation facility that was not part of the Department of Transportation's 5-year work program submitted pursuant to s. 339.135, Florida Statutes;

3. An education fixed capital outlay project that was not submitted pursuant to s. 1013.60 or s. 1013.64, Florida Statutes, unless funds for the specific project were appropriated by the Legislature in a prior year and additional funds are needed to complete the project as originally proposed;

4. A specified program, research initiative, institute, center, or similar entity at a specific state college or university, unless recommended by the Board of Governors or the State Board of Education in their Legislative Budget Request; or

5. A local water project.

(b) The term does not include an appropriation that:

1. Is specifically authorized by statute;

2. Is part of a statewide distribution to local governments; or

3. Was recommended by a commission, council, or other similar entity created in statute to make annual funding recommendations, provided that such appropriation does not exceed the amount of funding recommended by the commission, council, or other similar entity.

### **2.3—Budget Conference Committee Rules**

(1) For an appropriations project to be included in a conference committee report:

(a) The appropriations project must be included in a bill or an amendment placed into a budget conference; and

(b) Information required by subsections (2) and (3) relating to the appropriations project must have been in writing and published online prior to the passage by that chamber of the bill or amendment which was placed into a budget conference.

(2) The information collected must include:

(a) A descriptive title of the appropriations project.

(b) The date of the submission.

(c) The name of the submitting member.

(d) The most recent year in which the appropriations project received state funding, if applicable.

(e) Whether the most recent funding for the project had been vetoed.

(f) The amount of the nonrecurring request.

(g) The amount of funding received in the prior year on a recurring or nonrecurring basis.

(h) In what agency the project is best placed and whether the agency has been contacted.

(i) The name of the organization or entity receiving the funds as well as a point of contact for the organization or entity.

(j) The name of the registered lobbyist of the entity requesting the appropriations project.

(k) Whether the organization to receive the funds is a for-profit entity, a not-for-profit entity, a local entity, a state university or college, or other type of organization.

(l) The specific purpose or goal that will be achieved by the funds requested.

(m) The activities and services that will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds.

(n) Specific descriptions of how the funds will be expended, including a description and the amounts to be expended on: administrative costs, itemized to include the salary of the executive director or project head, other salaries and benefits, expenses, and consultants, contractors, or studies; operational costs, itemized to include salaries and benefits, expenses, and consultants, contractors, or studies; and fixed capital outlay, itemized to include land purchase, planning, engineering, construction, and renovation.

(o) The owner of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding, and the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

(p) A description of the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project, if applicable.

(q) A description of the target population to be served and the number of individuals to be served by the appropriations project.

(r) A description of the specific benefit or outcome, including the methodology by which this outcome will be measured.

(s) The amount and percentage of federal, local, and state funds, excluding the funds requested for the appropriations project, or other matching funds available for the appropriations project.

(t) How much additional nonrecurring funding is anticipated to be requested in future years by amount per year.

(u) The suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract.

(3) With respect to an appropriations project that is also a local water project, the information collected must also include:

(a) Whether alternative state funding such as the Waste Water Revolving Loan, Drinking Water Revolving Loan, Small Community Waste Water Drinking grant, or other funding has been requested.

(b) Whether the project is for a financially disadvantaged community, as defined in chapter 62-552, Florida Administrative Code; a financially disadvantaged municipality; a rural area of critical economic concern; or a rural area of opportunity, as defined in s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes.

(c) Whether the construction status is shovel-ready.

(d) The percentage of construction completed and the estimated completion date.

(4) Each chamber must collect the required information described in subsections (2) and (3) in the form and manner prescribed by that chamber.

(5) The portion of an appropriations project which was funded with recurring funds in the most recently enacted general appropriations act is exempt from subsections (1), (2) and (3).

(6) An appropriations project may only be funded with nonrecurring funds, except that the portion of an appropriations project which was funded with recurring funds as provided in subsection (5) may be continued with or without additional nonrecurring funds.

(7) The nonrecurring funding of an appropriations project in the conference committee report may be less than, equal to, or greater than the funding for the appropriations project as originally committed to the conference committee.

(8) An appropriations project that was not included in either chamber's bill in accordance with subsections (1), (2) and (3) may not be included in a conference report.

(9)(a) To be included in a conference committee report, all appropriations projects, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), must be clearly identified in the bill or amendment that will be considered by a conference committee and in any conference report.

(b) An appropriations project funded with recurring funds in the most recently enacted general appropriation act that is not appropriated any additional funds is exempt from the provisions of paragraph (a).

(10) The conference committee must allow for public testimony regarding appropriations projects at each noticed meeting.

(11) Nothing in this rule shall limit either chamber's ability to apply a stricter standard to its own bills prior to the commencement of conference proceedings. This Joint Rule applies to all conference committee reports related to the General Appropriations Act and supersedes either chamber's rules that are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Joint Rule.

## **Joint Rule Three—Joint Offices and Policies**

### **3.1—*Joint Legislative Offices***

(1) The following offices of the Legislature are established:

(a) Office of Economic and Demographic Research.

(b) Office of Legislative Information Technology Services.

(c) Office of Legislative Services.

(d) Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.

(2) Offices established under this rule shall provide support services to the Legislature that are determined by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to be necessary and that can be effectively provided jointly to both houses and other units of the Legislature. Each office shall be directed by a coordinator selected by and serving at the pleasure of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Upon the initial adoption of these joint rules in a biennium, each coordinator position shall be deemed vacant until an appointment is made.

(3) Within the monetary limitations of the approved operating budget, the salaries and expenses of the coordinator and the staff of each office shall be governed by joint policies.

(4) The Office of Legislative Services shall provide legislative support services other than those prescribed in subsections (5)–(7).

(5) The Office of Legislative Information Technology Services shall provide support services to assist the Legislature in achieving its objectives through the application of cost-effective information technology.

(6) The Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall provide research support services, principally regarding forecasting economic and social trends that affect policymaking, revenues, and appropriations.

(7) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall:

(a) Perform independent examinations, program reviews, and other projects as provided by general law, as provided by concurrent resolution, as directed by the Legislative Auditing Committee, or as directed by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House and shall provide recommendations, training, or other services to assist the Legislature.

(b) Transmit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, by December 1 of each year, a list of statutory and fiscal changes recommended by office reports. The recommendations shall be presented in two categories: one addressing substantive law and policy issues and the other addressing budget issues.

### **3.2—*Joint Policies***

(1) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall jointly adopt policies they consider advisable to carry out the functions of the Legislature. Such policies shall be binding on all employees of joint offices and joint committees.

(2) The employees of all joint committees and joint legislative offices shall be under the exclusive control of the Legislature. No officer or agency in the executive or judicial branch shall exercise any manner of control over legislative employees with respect to the exercise of their duties or the terms and conditions of their employment.

## **Joint Rule Four—Joint Committees**

### ***4.1—Standing Joint Committees***

(1) The following standing joint committees are established:

- (a) Administrative Procedures Committee.
- (b) Committee on Public Counsel Oversight.
- (c) Legislative Auditing Committee.

(2) No other joint committee shall exist except as agreed to by the presiding officers or by concurrent resolution approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(3) Appointments to each standing joint committee shall be made or altered and vacancies shall be filled by the Senate and the House of Representatives in accordance with their respective rules. There shall be appointed to each standing joint committee no fewer than five and no more than seven members from each house.

(4)(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint a member of the Senate to serve as the chair, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint a member of the House of Representatives to serve as the vice chair, for:

1. The Legislative Auditing Committee and the Committee on Public Counsel Oversight, for the period from the Organization Session until noon on August 1 of the calendar year following the general election.

2. The Administrative Procedures Committee for the period from noon on August 1 of the calendar year following the general election until the next general election.

(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint a member of the House of Representatives to serve as the chair, and the President of the Senate shall appoint a member of the Senate to serve as the vice chair, for:

1. The Legislative Auditing Committee and the Committee on Public Counsel Oversight, for the period from noon on August 1 of the calendar year following the general election until the next general election.

2. The Administrative Procedures Committee for the period from the Organization Session until noon on August 1 of the calendar year following the general election.

(c) A vacancy in an appointed chair or vice chair shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

### ***4.2—Procedures in Joint Committees***

The following rules shall govern procedures in joint committees other than conference committees:



(1) A quorum for a joint committee shall be a majority of the appointees of each house. No business of any type may be conducted in the absence of a quorum.

(2)(a) Joint committees shall meet only within the dates, times, and locations authorized by both the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(b) Joint committee meetings shall meet at the call of the chair. In the absence of the chair, the vice chair shall assume the duty to convene and preside over meetings and such other duties as provided by law or joint rule. During a meeting properly convened, the presiding chair may temporarily assign the duty to preside at that meeting to another joint committee member until the assignment is relinquished or revoked.

(c) Before any joint committee may hold a meeting, a notice of such meeting shall be provided to the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives. When the Legislature is not in session, notice must be provided no later than 4:30 p.m. of the 7th day before the meeting. When the Legislature is in session, notice must be provided no later than 4:30 p.m. of the 3rd day before the meeting. For purposes of effecting notice to members of the house to which the chair does not belong, notice to the Secretary of the Senate shall be deemed notice to members of the Senate and notice to the Clerk of the House shall be deemed notice to members of the House of Representatives. Noticed meetings may be canceled by the chair with the approval of at least one presiding officer.

(d) If a majority of its members from each house agree, a joint committee may continue a properly noticed meeting after the expiration of the time called for the meeting. However, a joint committee may not meet beyond the time authorized by the presiding officers without special leave granted by both presiding officers.

(3) The presiding officers shall interpret, apply, and enforce rules governing joint committees by agreement when the rule at issue is a joint rule. Unless otherwise determined or overruled by an agreement of the presiding officers, the chair shall determine all questions of order arising in joint committee meetings, but such determinations may be appealed to the committee during the meeting.

(4) Each question, including any appeal of a ruling of the chair, shall be decided by a majority vote of the members of the joint committee of each house present and voting.

#### ***4.3—Powers of Joint Committees***

(1) A joint committee may exercise the subpoena powers vested by law in a standing committee of the Legislature. A subpoena issued under this rule must be approved and signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and attested by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House.

(2) A joint committee may adopt rules of procedure that do not conflict with the Florida Constitution or any law or joint rule, subject to the joint approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(3) A joint committee may not create subcommittees or workgroups unless authorized by both presiding officers.

#### ***4.4—Administration of Joint Committees***

(1) Within the monetary limitations of the approved operating budget, the expenses of the members and the salaries and expenses of the staff of each joint committee shall be governed by joint policies adopted under Joint Rule 3.2.

(2) Subject to joint policies adopted under Joint Rule 3.2, the presiding officers shall appoint and remove the staff director and, if needed, a general counsel and any other staff necessary to assist each joint committee. All joint committee staff shall serve at the pleasure of the presiding officers. Upon the initial adoption of these joint rules in a biennium, each joint committee staff director position shall be deemed vacant until an appointment is made.

#### ***4.5—Special Powers and Duties of the Legislative Auditing Committee***

(1) The Legislative Auditing Committee may direct the Auditor General or the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct an audit, review, or examination of any entity or record described in s. 11.45(2) or (3), Florida Statutes.

(2) The Legislative Auditing Committee may receive requests for audits and reviews from legislators and any audit request, petition for audit, or other matter for investigation directed or referred to it pursuant to general law. The committee may make any appropriate disposition of such requests or referrals and shall, within a reasonable time, report to the requesting party the disposition of any audit request.

(3) The Legislative Auditing Committee may review the performance of the Auditor General and report thereon to the Senate and the House of Representatives.

#### ***4.6—Special Powers and Duties of the Administrative Procedures Committee***

The Administrative Procedures Committee shall:

(1) Maintain a continuous review of the statutory authority on which each administrative rule is based and, whenever such authority is eliminated or significantly changed by repeal, amendment, holding by a court of last resort, or other factor, advise the agency concerned of the fact.

(2) Maintain a continuous review of administrative rules and identify and request an agency to repeal any rule or any provision of any rule that reiterates or paraphrases any statute or for which the statutory authority has been repealed.

(3) Review administrative rules and advise the agencies concerned of its findings.

(4) Exercise the duties prescribed by chapter 120, Florida Statutes, concerning the adoption and promulgation of rules.

(5) Generally review agency action pursuant to the operation of chapter 120, Florida Statutes, the Administrative Procedure Act.

(6) Report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives at least annually, no later than the first week of the regular session, and recommend needed legislation or other appropriate action. Such report shall include the number of objections voted by the committee, the number of suspensions recommended by the committee, the number of administrative determinations filed on the invalidity of a proposed or existing rule, the number of petitions for judicial review filed on the invalidity of a proposed or existing rule, and the outcomes of such actions. Such report shall also include any recommendations provided to the standing committees during the preceding year under subsection (11).

(7) Consult regularly with legislative standing committees that have jurisdiction over the subject areas addressed in agency proposed rules regarding legislative authority for the proposed rules and other matters relating to legislative authority for agency action.

(8) Subject to the approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, have standing to seek judicial review, on behalf of the Legislature or the citizens of this state, of the validity or invalidity of any administrative rule to which the committee has voted an objection and that has not been withdrawn, modified, repealed, or amended to meet the objection. Judicial review under this subsection may not be initiated until the Governor and the head of the agency making the rule to which the committee has objected have been notified of the committee's proposed action and have been given a reasonable opportunity, not to exceed 60 days, for consultation with the committee. The committee may expend public funds from its appropriation for the purpose of seeking judicial review.

(9) Maintain a continuous review of the administrative rulemaking process, including a review of agency procedure and of complaints based on such agency procedure.

(10) Establish measurement criteria to evaluate whether agencies are complying with the delegation of legislative authority in adopting and implementing rules.

(11) Maintain a continuous review of statutes that authorize agencies to adopt rules and shall make recommendations to the appropriate standing committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives as to the advisability of considering changes to the delegated legislative authority to adopt rules in specific circumstances.

***4.7—Special Powers and Duties of the Committee on Public Counsel Oversight***

(1) The Committee on Public Counsel Oversight shall appoint a Public Counsel.

(2) The Committee on Public Counsel Oversight may file a complaint with the Commission on Ethics alleging a violation of chapter 350, Florida Statutes, by a current or former public service commissioner, an employee of the Public Service Commission, or a member of the Public Service Commission Nominating Council.

(3) Notwithstanding Joint Rule 4.4(2), the Committee on Public Counsel Oversight shall not have any permanent staff but shall be served as needed by other legislative staff selected by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.



## **Joint Rule Five—Auditor General**

### ***5.1—Rulemaking Authority***

The Auditor General shall make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations necessary to facilitate audits that he or she is authorized to perform.

### ***5.2—Budget and Accounting***

(1) The Auditor General shall prepare and submit annually to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for their joint approval a proposed budget for the ensuing fiscal year.

(2) Within the limitations of the approved operating budget, the salaries and expenses of the Auditor General and the staff of the Auditor General shall be paid from the appropriation for legislative expense or any other moneys appropriated by the Legislature for that purpose. The Auditor General shall approve all bills for salaries and expenses for his or her staff before the same shall be paid.

### ***5.3—Audit Report Distribution***

(1) A copy of each audit report shall be submitted to the Governor, to the Chief Financial Officer, and to the officer or person in charge of the state agency or political subdivision audited. One copy shall be filed as a permanent public record in the office of the Auditor General. In the case of county reports, one copy of the report of each county office, school district, or other district audited shall be submitted to the board of county commissioners of the county in which the audit was made and shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the circuit court of that county as a public record. When an audit is made of the records of the district school board, a copy of the audit report shall also be filed with the district school board, and thereupon such report shall become a part of the public records of such board.

(2) A copy of each audit report shall be made available to each member of the Legislative Auditing Committee.

(3) The Auditor General shall transmit a copy of each audit report to the appropriate substantive and fiscal committees of the Senate and House of Representatives.

(4) Other copies may be furnished to other persons who, in the opinion of the Auditor General, are directly interested in the audit or who have a duty to perform in connection therewith.

(5) The Auditor General shall transmit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, by December 1 of each year, a list of statutory and fiscal changes recommended by audit reports. The recommendations shall be presented in two categories: one addressing

substantive law and policy issues and the other addressing budget issues. The Auditor General may also transmit recommendations at other times of the year when the information would be timely and useful for the Legislature.

(6) A copy required to be provided under this rule may be provided in an electronic or other digital format if the Auditor General determines that the intended recipient has appropriate resources to review the copy. Copies to members, committees, and offices of the Legislature shall be provided in electronic format as may be provided in joint policies adopted under Joint Rule 3.2.

## **Joint Rule Six—Joint Legislative Budget Commission**

### ***6.1—General Responsibilities***

(1) The commission, as provided in chapter 216, Florida Statutes, shall receive and review notices of budget and personnel actions taken or proposed to be taken by the executive and judicial branches and shall approve or disapprove such actions.

(2) Through its chair, the commission shall advise the Governor and the Chief Justice of actions or proposed actions that exceed delegated authority or that are contrary to legislative policy and intent.

(3) To the extent possible, the commission shall inform members of the Legislature of budget amendments requested by the executive or judicial branches.

(4) The commission shall consult with the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Office of the Governor on matters as required by chapter 216, Florida Statutes.

(5) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives may jointly assign other responsibilities to the commission in addition to those assigned by law.

(6) The commission shall develop policies and procedures necessary to carry out its assigned responsibilities, subject to the joint approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(7) The commission, with the approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, may appoint subcommittees as necessary to facilitate its work.

### ***6.2—Organizational Structure***

(1) The commission is not subject to Joint Rule Four. The commission shall be composed of seven members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate and seven members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(2) The commission shall be jointly staffed by the appropriations committees of both houses. The Senate shall provide the lead staff when the chair of the commission is a member of the Senate. The House of Representatives shall provide the lead staff when the chair of the commission is a member of the House of Representatives.



**6.3—*Notice of Commission Meetings***

Not less than 7 days prior to a meeting of the commission, a notice of the meeting, stating the items to be considered, date, time, and place, shall be filed with the Secretary of the Senate when the chair of the commission is a member of the Senate or with the Clerk of the House when the chair of the commission is a member of the House of Representatives. The Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House shall distribute notice to the Legislature and the public, consistent with the rules and policies of their respective houses.

**6.4—*Effect of Adoption; Intent***

This Joint Rule Six replaces all prior joint rules governing the Joint Legislative Budget Commission and is intended to implement constitutional provisions relating to the Joint Legislative Budget Commission existing as of the date of the rule's adoption.

## **Joint Rule Seven—Qualifications of Members**

### ***7.1—Residency***

(1) A member shall be a legal resident and elector of his or her district at the time of election and shall maintain his or her legal residence within that district for the duration of his or her term of office. While a member may have multiple residences, he or she shall have only one legal residence. The legal residence of a member at a designated location is demonstrated by a totality of the circumstances. Factors to be considered include, but are not limited to:

(a) Where one claims to reside, as reflected in statements to others or in official documents;

(b) The abandonment of a prior legal residence, as evidenced by moving from or selling a prior legal residence;

(c) The abandonment of rights and privileges associated with a prior legal residence;

(d) Where one is registered as a voter;

(e) Where one claims a legal residence for a homestead exemption;

(f) Where one claims a legal residence for a driver license or other government privilege or benefit;

(g) The transfer of one's bank accounts to the district where one maintains a legal residence;

(h) Where one's spouse and minor children maintain a legal residence, work, and attend school;

(i) Where one receives mail and other correspondence;

(j) Where one customarily resides;

(k) Where one conducts business affairs;

(l) Where one rents or leases property; and

(m) Where one plans the construction of a new legal residence.

(2) In accordance with Section 3 of Article X of the Florida Constitution, a vacancy in office occurs when a member fails to maintain a legal residence within his or her district as required at the time of election.

(3) In accordance with Section 2 of Article III of the Florida Constitution, each house of the Legislature shall be the sole judge of the qualifications of its members, including whether a member no longer satisfies his or her qualifications for office.

(4) Each member shall affirm in writing that he or she is a legal resident and elector of his or her district based on the provisions of this Joint Rule. Each member shall file the written affirmation with the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House of Representatives before the convening of Organization

Session following each general election. For a member who is elected pursuant to a special election, the member must execute the written affirmation before or concurrent with taking the oath of office and provide such affirmation to the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House of Representatives. The form of the written affirmation shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives for members of their respective house of the Legislature.

**Joint Rule Eight—Adjourning and Reconvening of Each House of  
the Legislature and Providing for Adjournment *Sine Die***

***8.1—Adjourning and Reconvening***

Pursuant to Section 3(e) of Article III of the Florida Constitution, during any legislative session, each house of the Legislature may, without consent from the other house, determine its respective dates and times for adjourning and reconvening daily sittings.

***8.2—Adjournment Sine Die***

(1) During regular sessions, both houses of the Legislature shall adjourn *sine die* by concurrent resolution or concurrent motions or on the 60th day at 11:59 p.m., unless extended.

(2) During special sessions, both houses shall adjourn *sine die* by concurrent resolution or concurrent motions or upon reaching the hour on which the special session is adjourned *sine die* by operation of the proclamation, unless extended.



## INDEX to Rules and Statutes

2022-2024

House Rules (R.), Joint Rules (J.R.) and selected  
sections of Chapter 11, Florida Statutes (2020) (F.S.) (reprinted in App. A)

(Page numbers are provided for House Rules and Joint Rules only)  
(See Indices to Florida and U.S. Constitutions, App. B, for additional subjects)

<b>Absence</b>	
Chair, R.7.4.....	22
Members .....	<i>See</i> Absence <i>under</i>
<b>Members</b>	
Speaker	
From general duties, R.2.5.....	4
Temporary presiding officer, R.2.5 .....	4
Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> , R.2.5.....	4
<b>Abstain from voting, R.3.2(a).....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Acts, signature of Speaker, R.2.4 .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Adjournment</b>	
Adjourning and reconvening, J.R.8.1.....	111
Motion to adjourn .....	<i>See</i> Adjourn <i>under</i>
<b>Motions</b>	
Motion to recess to a time certain, R.11.5....	44
Sine die, appointments, effect, R.7.5.....	23
<i>Sine die</i> , J.R.8.2 .....	111
Witness limitations until, R.16.4(d) .....	66
<b>Advisory opinions (ethics)</b>	
Lobbyist registration, reporting, J.R.1.8 .....	90
Lobbyists and others, R.17.2.....	70
Member requests, R.15.8.....	62
Publication of	
Opinions to members, R.15.8(b) .....	62
Opinions to non-members, R.17.2.....	70
<b>After Day 40, retain to reconsider, R.7.15(b) .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>After Day 45</b>	
Ceremonial resolution deadline, R.5.2(b) .....	11
Daily order of business, R.10.2(d) .....	37
Notice deadline, R.7.10(e).....	25
<b>After Day 55</b>	
Amendment deadline, R.12.2(b) .....	49
Consideration limit on bills, R.10.18 .....	41
Special Order Calendar, R.10.11(a)(3).....	39
<b>After Day 58, messages only, R.10.19.....</b>	<b>41</b>
Agendas .....	<i>See under</i>
<b>Committee and subcommittee meetings</b>	
<b>Amendments</b>	
Generally, Rule Twelve.....	49
Affecting appropriations or tax matters, R.6.5.....	19
Amendments to amendments	
Deadlines, R.12.2.....	49
Sequence of, R.12.3(b) .....	50
Amendments to amendments, and amendments to substitute amendments	
Deadlines, R.12.2.....	49
Appropriation	
Appropriations bill, balanced, R.12.5(b).....	51
Implementing and conforming bills, limitation, R.12.5(c) .....	51
Appropriation or tax, affecting, R.6.5(b).....	19
Appropriations bill	
Deadlines, special procedures, R.12.2(c)....	49
Printing requirement, exception, R.12.10 .....	54
Required balancing, R.12.5 .....	51
Appropriations, general bill .....	<i>See also</i>
<b>General appropriations bill</b>	
Conference upon disagreement, J.R.2.1(2). 91	
Approved for filing	
After 55th day, R.12.2(b)(2).....	49
Until 55th day, R.12.2(a)(2).....	49
Bill considered by section or item, R.12.3(c).....	50
Chart, order of consideration, R.12.3(b)(3) ..	50
Committee and subcommittee	
Non-member deadlines, R.7.11 .....	25-26
Reports, R.7.16 .....	27
Special budget procedures, R.7.11(b).....	26
Special reapportionment, redistricting procedures, R.7.11(b).....	26
Conference committee, offered by, R.7.22(a).....	29
Constitutional.....	<i>See</i>
<b>Constitutional amendment</b>	
Division of question, R.11.4 .....	44
Engrossing, R.10.10(b).....	39
Filing and deadlines	
Committee and subcommittee, R.7.11 .....	25-26
Floor amendments, R.12.2 .....	49
Third reading, R.12.4(b).....	51
Fiscal impact, committee removing, R.6.5(a) .....	19
Floor amendments	
Filing deadlines, R.12.2.....	49
Germanity, R.12.8 .....	53
Policy not offered in committee, R.6.6 .....	20
Preparation and filing, R.12.1 .....	49
Third reading, R.12.4(b).....	51
Floor Amendments	
Germanity, R.12.8 .....	53
Submission to Bill Drafting Service Special Order Calendar, R.12.2(a).....	49
Substantially revises the bill, R.6.6 .....	20
Implementing and conforming bills	
Appropriation, limitation, R.12.5(c).....	51
Deadlines, special procedures, R.12.2(c)....	49
Revenue, must balance, R.12.5(d).....	52
Laid on table, effect, R.11.6 .....	44
Late-filed, R.12.1(b).....	49
Meeting notice, R.7.10(g) .....	25

<b>Amendments (cont.)</b>	
Motion	
Consider late-filed, R.12.1(b) .....	49
Consider Senate amendment, to, R.12.6 .....	52
Motion precedence, R.11.2(a)(11) .....	43
Remove enacting or resolving clause, R.12.7 .....	52
Third reading, R.12.4(a) .....	51
Non-member, committee or subcommittee deadline, R.7.11 .....	25-26
Order of consideration	
Priority, generally, R.12.3(a)-(b) .....	50
Senate amendments, R.12.6 .....	52
Speaker recognition, R.12.3(a) .....	50
Out of order, bill substance, R.12.9 .....	54
Pending amendment	
Amendment to, R.12.3(b) .....	50
Defined, R.3.4(f) .....	7
Previous question, R.11.8(c) .....	45
Preparation and filing of Committee reports, R.7.16 .....	27
Floor amendments, R.12.1 .....	49
Presentation and consideration, R.12.3 .....	50
Printed in <i>Journal</i> , R.12.10 .....	54
Reconsideration, R.12.4(c) .....	51
Remove enacting or resolving clause	
Effect, R.12.7 .....	52
Motion to, R.11.2(a)(12) .....	43
Revenue	
Implementing and conforming bills, must balance, R.12.5(d) .....	52
Reviser's bills, R.12.3(e) .....	50
Right to close, R.8.7 .....	32
Second reading, R.12.2 .....	51
Senate amendments, R.12.6 .....	49
Senate bill, R.10.10(b) .....	39
Sequence of, R.12.3 .....	50
Sponsor, recognition, R.12.3(a) .....	50
Substitute amendments	
Deadlines, R.12.2 .....	49
Germanity, R.12.8(a)(3) .....	53
Sequence of, R.12.3(b) .....	50
Tax matters, affected, R.6.5(b) .....	19
Technical, R.12.4(b) .....	51
Third reading	
Deadlines, R.12.4(b) .....	51
Engrossment before, R.10.10(b) .....	39
Proposed on, R.12.4(b) .....	51
Two-thirds vote required, R.12.4(b) .....	51
Title, to, R.12.8(a)(1) .....	53
<b>Appeal</b>	
Lobbying reporting fine, J.R.1.5(5) .....	88
Of committee, subcommittee chair ruling, R.7.3 .....	22
To House, of Speaker ruling, R.2.3(c) .....	3
To Speaker, deciding, R.2.3(b) .....	3
<b>Appropriation amendments</b>	
Generally .....	<i>See under</i>
<b>Amendments</b>	
Appropriations bill .....	<i>See also</i>
<b>General appropriations bill</b>	

<b>Appropriations project</b>	
Amendment restriction, R.5.14(b) .....	16
Definition, R.5.14(a)(1)a.-c. ....	15
Does not include, R.5.14(a)(2)a.-c. ....	15
Generally, R.5.14 .....	15
Definition, Exclusions, R.5.14(b) .....	16
Definition, Project, 5.14(a)(1) .....	16
Nonrecurring funds, R.5.14(b) .....	16
Not amended, R.5.14(b) .....	15
Request form, R.5.14(b) .....	16
<b>Approved for filing</b>	
Bills, member	
Early filing deadline, 2023, R.5.3(a)(1) .....	11
Early filing deadline, 2024, R.5.3(a)(2) .....	11
Filing limits, R.5.3 .....	11
General filing deadline, R.5.2(a) .....	11
Ceremonial resolutions, R.5.2(b) .....	11
Committee or subcommittee bill, introduced, R.7.9 .....	24
Committee or subcommittee substitute, reported, R.7.18(c) .....	28
Floor amendments, R.12.2 .....	49
Third reading amendments, R.12.4(b) .....	51
<b>Archiving of records, R.14.2(a) .....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Attire in Chamber, R.8.1(f) .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Audit requests</b>	
Joint Legislative Auditing Committee receives, J.R.4.5(2) .....	101
<b>Auditor General</b>	
Joint Rule Five .....	105–106
Audit report distribution, J.R.5.3 .....	105–106
Budget and accounting, J.R.5.2 .....	105
Performance review of, J.R.4.5(3) .....	101
Recommendations of, J.R.5.3(5) .....	105–106
Rulemaking authority, J.R.5.1 .....	105
Statutory provisions .....	<i>See</i>
ss.11.42 <i>et seq.</i> , F.S.	
<b>Bill Drafting Service</b>	
Bills filed during interim, R.5.13 .....	15
Notification of similar bill, R.5.15(b) .....	17
Numbering bills, R.5.16 .....	17
Policies and standards, R.5.4 .....	12
Preparation of committee and subcommittee substitutes, R.7.18(b) .....	28
Preparation of floor amendments, R.12.1 .....	49
Requirements for bill introduction, R.5.15 .....	17
Review of bills, R.5.15(a) .....	17
<b>Bills</b>	
Generally, Rule Five .....	11-15
According to Speaker standards	
Tributes, R.5.12(b) .....	15
Amendments .....	<i>See Amendments</i>
Appropriations or tax	
Definitions, amending, R.12.5 .....	51
Reference of measures, R.6.5 .....	19
Ceremonial resolutions <i>See</i>	
<b>Ceremonial resolutions</b>	
Claim bills .....	<i>See Claim Bills</i>

<b>Bills (cont.)</b>	
Committee or subcommittee reports	
Generally, R.7.16.....	27
Abstain from voting, R.3.2(a).....	5
Recommitment, R.11.12.....	47
Unfavorable report, R.7.17.....	28
Committee or subcommittee substitutes....	<i>See</i>
<b>Committee or subcommittee substitutes</b>	
Companion Measures.....	<i>See</i>
<b>Companion measures</b>	
Concurrent resolutions. <i>See</i> <b>Concurrent resolutions</b>	
Conforming bill, defined, R.12.5(a)(3).....	51
Consideration	
After 55th day, R.10.18.....	41
After 58th day, R.10.19.....	41
Bill not on Special Order Calendar,	
R.10.13.....	40
Deferred, R.10.16.....	41
Proposed committee or subcommittee bill,	
R.7.9.....	24
Section by section, R.12.3(c).....	50
Senate amendments, R.12.6.....	52
Senate messages, R.10.5.....	38
Defined as any legislation, R.5.1.....	11
Enacting or resolving clause	
Amendment to remove, R.12.7.....	52
Concurrent resolutions, R.5.9(b).....	14
Conference committee reports, deleting	
everything after enacting	
clause, R.7.22(a).....	29
Memorials, R.5.10.....	14
Resolutions, R.5.11(a).....	14
Enacting or Resolving clause	
Joint Resolutions, R.5.8(b).....	13
Engrossing, R.10.10(b).....	39
Filing	
Approval by sponsor, R.5.2.....	11
Bill Drafting, prepare or review, R.5.15.....	17
Companion measures, R.5.17.....	17
Deadlines.....	<i>See</i> <b>Filing Deadlines</b>
Identification, R.5.16.....	17
Interim, during, R.5.13.....	15
Member bills, R.5.2.....	11
Member limit, Trust R.5.3(a).....	11
Referrals by Speaker, R.6.2(a).....	19
Requirements for introduction, R.5.15.....	17
Serial number, R.5.16.....	17
Filing deadlines	
Generally, R.5.2.....	11
Member limit, early deadline, 2023,	
R.5.3(a)(1).....	11
Member limit, early deadline, 2024,	
R.5.3(a)(2).....	11
Final week	
After 55th day, R.10.18.....	41
After 58th day, R.10.19.....	41
Special Order Calendar, R.10.11(a)(3).....	39
Form of	
Ceremonial resolutions, R.5.11(c).....	14
Concurrent resolutions, R.5.9(b).....	14
Filed during an interim, R.5.13.....	15
Identification, R.5.16.....	17
Implementing bill, defined, R.12.5(a)(2).....	51
Informal deferral, R.10.16.....	41
Joint Resolutions, R.5.8(b).....	13
Limitation, member filing, R.5.3.....	11
Local bills, R.5.5(c).....	12
Memorials, R.5.10.....	14
Numbering, R.5.16.....	17
Placed in the Rules Committee, extended or	
special sessions, R.10.11(b).....	40
Policies and standards, drafting, R.5.4.....	12
Policy Bills	
Point of order, additional reference, R.6.6.....	20
Possession of	
Clerk supervises custody, R.4.1(a)(1).....	9
Transmit to Senate without delay,	
R.11.7(i).....	45
Waiving rules to immediately certify,	
releases, R.11.7(j).....	45
Preparation and review by Bill Drafting	
Service Committee and subcommittee	
substitutes, R.7.18(b).....	28
During an interim, R.5.13.....	15
Floor amendments, R.12.1(a).....	49
Identification of bill, R.5.16.....	17
Policies and standards, R.5.4.....	12
Requirements for introduction, R.5.15.....	17
Proposed committee or subcommittee bills	
Introduction, R.7.9.....	24
Recall from Governor, R.5.15(a).....	17
Reference.....	<i>See</i> <b>Reference</b>
Requirements for introduction, R.5.15.....	17
Resolutions.....	<i>See</i> <b>Resolutions</b>
Retain for reconsideration, R.7.15(b).....	27
Revisers Bills.....	<i>See</i> <b>Revisors Bills</b>
Similar, filed, notification, R.5.15(b).....	17
Speaker signs, R.2.4.....	4
Substantial revision, reference, R.6.6.....	20
Tax matters, R.6.5.....	19
Time certain, consideration, R.10.11(a)(1).....	39
Transmittal to Senate	
Last 14 days of session, R.11.7(k).....	45
Local bills, concurrent resolutions, and	
memorials, R.11.7(i).....	45
Possession during which reconsideration may	
be moved, R.11.7(i).....	45
Waiving rules to immediately certify,	
R.11.7(j).....	45
Trust fund.....	<i>See</i> <b>Trust fund bills</b>
Unfinished business	
Daily order of business, R.10.2(a)(14).....	37
Main question postponed, R.11.10(b).....	46
Special Order Calendar, R.10.11(a)(1).....	39
Veto message, reference, R.6.7.....	20
<b>Budget conference committee rules, J.R.2.3.....</b>	<b>93</b>
Application, J.R.2.3(11).....	96
Information required,	
J.R. 2.3(1)(b) and (2).....	94-95



<b>Business associate, voting conflict,</b>	
<b>R 3.2(b)</b> .....	5
<b>Calendar of the House</b>	
Calendars, generally,	
R.10.11, R.10.15 .....	39, 40
Amendment filing deadlines for bills on	
Special Order, R.12.2.....	49
Third reading, R.12.4(b).....	51
Ceremonial resolutions published in <i>Journal</i> ,	
R.10.17.....	41
Companion bill, R.5.17.....	17
Consent, R.10.14.....	40
Local bills, R.10.11(a)(1).....	39
Notice, R.7.10(h).....	25
Reference, R.6.2(a).....	19
Resolutions, R.10.11(a)(1).....	39
Special Order, generally, R.10.11.....	39-40
Temporarily postponed measures,	
R.11.10(b).....	46
Third reading, R.10.10.....	39
Trust fund bills, R.10.11(a)(1).....	39
<b>Campaign contributions</b>	
Lobbyist restrictions, R.17.1(c).....	69
Member restrictions, R.15.3(c).....	59
Caucus.....	<i>See</i>
<b>Political party conferences</b>	
<b>Ceremonial resolutions</b>	
Adopted by publication, R.10.9(b).....	39
Bill limit exceptions, R.5.3(b)(2).....	11
Filing Deadline, R.5.2(b).....	11
Procedure for adopting, R.10.17.....	41
Publication, notice and objection, R.10.17.....	41
Review and approval, R.5.11(c).....	14
<b>Chamber of the House</b>	
Admittance to, R.8.1.....	31
Attire in, R.8.1(f).....	31
Decorum, R.8.6.....	32
Distribution of materials, R.8.10.....	33
Disturbance, R.4.2.....	9
Food and drink during sessions, R.8.10(b).....	33
Lobbying prohibited, session, R.8.1(e).....	31
Lobbyists not permitted, session, R.17.1(e).....	69
Members' attendance, R.3.3(b)(1).....	6
Privileged guests, R.8.1(b).....	31
Sergeant at Arms	
Attendance during sessions, R.4.2.....	9
Distribution of materials by, R.8.10(a).....	33
Manages access to, R.4.2.....	9
Signs, placards, props, etc., R.14.4.....	58
Speaker's control, R.2.7.....	4
Adopted by publication, R.10.9(b).....	39
Bill limit exceptions, R.5.3(b)(2).....	11
Filing deadline, R.5.2(b).....	11
Procedure for adopting, R.10.17.....	41
Publication, notice and objection, R.10.17.....	41
Review and approval, R.5.11(c).....	14
<b>Chaplain, R.10.3</b> .....	38
<b>Claim bills</b>	
Generally, R.5.6.....	13
Administration of, R.5.6.....	13
Member bill limit, exemption, local,	
R.5.3(b)(9).....	11
Notice requirement, local, R.5.5(c).....	12
Special Master, R.5.6.....	13
<b>Clerk</b>	
Absence or presence of member, R.3.3(b).....	6
Advisory opinions, compiles, R.17.2.....	70
Amendments	
Engrossment before third reading	
R.10.10(b).....	39
Printing in <i>Journal</i> , R.12.10.....	54
Appointment of, R.1.1(c).....	1
Attest to Speaker's signature, R.2.4.....	4
Bills	
Complete record, keeping, R.4.1(a)(2).....	9
Custody of, R.4.1(a)(1).....	9
Engross before third reading, R.10.10(b).....	39
Engrossing, transmitting, enrolling,	
R.4.1(a)(4).....	9
Filing with, R.5.2.....	11
Immediately certified, releases from possession,	
R.11.7(j).....	45
Possession, reconsideration period,	
R.11.7(i).....	44-45
Withdrawal of, by letter to, R.11.11(f)(2).....	47
Committee or subcommittee substitute,	
reading, R.7.18(a).....	28
Contested Seat.1.3.....	1
Designation as Clerk, R.1.1(a)(2).....	1
Disclosure of interest to, R.3.2(c).....	5-6
Distribution	
Communications, R.8.10(a)(2).....	33
General appropriations bills, J.R.2.1(6).....	92
Notice, Joint Legislative Budget Committee,	
J.R.6.3.....	108
Duties generally, R.4.1.....	9
Engrossing, transmitting, enrolling bills,	
R.4.1(a)(4).....	9
Fees for copies, R.14.2(e).....	58
Forms	
Residency affirmation, member, J.R.7.1.....	109
Visitors and guests, recognition, R.8.5.....	32
Vote after roll call, R.9.4.....	35
General appropriations bills, J.R.2.1(6).....	92
House resolution, copies furnished,	
R.5.11(d).....	14
<i>Journal</i>	
Other provisions.....	<i>See Journal</i>
Publishing, R.4.1(a)(3).....	9
Legislation pending, R.3.4(f).....	7
Ministerial attestations, R.4.1(b).....	9
Publications	
Generally, R.4.1.....	9
Committee and subcommittee appointments,	
R.7.2.....	22
<i>Journal</i> , keeping of, R.4.1(a)(3).....	9
<i>Journal</i> , other provisions.....	<i>See Journal</i>
Meeting notices, R.7.10(h).....	25
References, R.6.2(b).....	19
Select committee appointments, R.7.6.....	23

<b>Clerk (cont.)</b>	
Records, House	
Committee records, duties, R.14.2(d).....	57
Complete record of bills, R.4.1(a)(2).....	9
Custody of bills, R.4.1(a)(1).....	9
Duties, maintenance, fees,	
R.14.2(c)(5), (e).....	58
Set fees, R.14.2(e).....	58
Residency affirmation, member	
Filing, J.R.7.1.....	109
Form, J.R.7.1.....	109
Seal, custody of House, R.14.5(d).....	58
Signing of papers, R.4.1(a)(5), 4.1(b).....	9
Sponsorship transactions, R.5.4(b).....	12
Votes	
Disclosures, R.3.2(c).....	5-6
Clerk of the House.....	<i>See Clerk</i>
<b>Collateral matters</b>	
Abandoned after postponement, R.11.10(d).....	46
Reconsideration	
Committee or subcommittee, R.7.15(c).....	27
Session, R.11.7(g).....	44-45
Committee.....	<i>See</i>
<b>Committees or subcommittees</b>	
<b>Committee agenda</b>	
Generally, R.7.3.....	22
<b>Committee and subcommittee meetings</b>	
Agenda, R.7.3.....	22
Amendment deadline for non-members,	
R.7.11.....	25-26
Appearance record, J.R.1.1(5).....	83
Appearance record.....	<i>See Lobbying and</i>
<b>lobbyists</b>	
Attendance by members, R.3.3(a).....	6
Authorization required, R.7.8.....	24
Call of the chair, R.7.8.....	24
Contempt citation, R.16.2(c).....	65
Continuation of, same day, R.7.10(i).....	25
Decorum, R.7.21(b).....	29
During House session, R.7.13.....	26
<i>Ex officio</i> designation, R.7.7.....	23
Extended session, notice, R.7.10(e).....	25
Interim	
Contempt, R.16.2(c).....	65
Notice deadline, R.7.10(d).....	24
Investigative committees	
Subpoena powers, R.16.1.....	65
Motion precedence during consideration,	
R.11.2.....	43
Motions unavailable to withdraw, refer or	
recommit bill, R.11.2(c).....	43
Notice	
Amended to remove bill, R.7.10(g).....	25
Amendment deadlines, R.7.11.....	25
Approved for distribution in Chamber,	
R.8.10(a)(2).....	33
Between sessions, R.7.10(d).....	24
Chair authority to sign, R.7.3.....	22
Conference committees, R.7.22.....	29
Content of, R.7.10(b).....	24
Continuation of meeting, R.7.10(i).....	25
During sessions, R.7.10(e).....	25
During Session, R.7.10.....	25
Form of, R.7.10(b).....	24
Not meeting, R.7.10(f).....	25
Powers of the chair, R.7.3.....	22
Proposed committee or subcommittee bills,	
R.7.9.....	24
Provide to persons subpoenaed,	
R.16.4(b).....	66
Subpoenaed person may be accompanied by	
counsel, R.16.4(c).....	66
Open meetings	
Chair authority, R.7.21(b).....	29
Formal legislative action, R.3.4(a).....	6
Legislation, filed for, R.3.4(f).....	7
Restrictive locations, R.3.4(c).....	6-7
Quorum	
<i>Ex officio</i> members not counted, R.7.12.....	26
Majority constitutes, R.7.12.....	26
Permit testimony or submission,	
R.16.5(b).....	67
Vote after roll call not counted,	
R.7.14(b).....	27
Recessed meetings, R.7.8.....	24
Requirements	
House, R.7.20(a).....	28
Joint Rule, J.R.1.1(5).....	83
Schedule, daily sessions, R.10.1.....	37
Signs, placards, props, etc., R.14.4.....	58
Speaker announces meeting on Senate	
amendment, R.12.6(d).....	52
Special session, notice, R.7.10(e).....	25
Time for, R.7.8.....	24
Witness not "lobbyist", when, J.R.1.1(4)(e).....	83
<b>Committee on Public Counsel Oversight</b>	
Duties, generally, J.R.4.7.....	103
Appointment of Public Counsel,	
J.R.4.7(1).....	103
Chair, vice chair appts., J.R.4.1(4).....	99
Ethics complaint, PSC Commissioner, staff,	
J.R.4.7(2).....	103
<b>Committee or subcommittee substitutes</b>	
Committee, subcommittee amendments,	
R.7.16.....	27
First reading and reference, R.7.18(c).....	28
Introduction, R.7.18(a).....	28
Original bill laid on table, R.7.18(a).....	28
Preparation and filing, R.7.18(b).....	28
Recommendation on bill required, R.7.16.....	27
Recommitment resulting in, R.11.12(c).....	47
Referral, R.7.18(c).....	28
Reporting, R.7.16.....	27
Reports.....	<i>See under Committees or</i>
<b>subcommittees</b>	
<b>Committees or subcommittees</b>	
Generally, Rule Seven.....	21-30
Administrative Assistant	
Amendments filed with, pending,	
R.3.4(f).....	7
Disclosures, filing, R.3.2(c).....	5-6
Records, R.14.2(c)(1).....	57

**Committees or subcommittees (cont.)**

Amendments	
By member not appointed to committee or subcommittee, R.7.11(a) .....	25
Chair to present on floor, R.12.3(a)50	
Deadlines in committee or subcommittee, R.7.11 .....	25
Fiscal impact removed, R.6.5(a) .....	19
Germany, 12.8 .....	53
Reports on bills, R.7.16 .....	27
Senate bills, R.7.16 .....	27
Special budget procedures, R.7.11(b) .....	26
Appeal certified to Speaker, R.2.3(b) .....	3
Appeal of chair's ruling, R.7.3 .....	22
Appointment of members	
Expiration of, R.7.5 .....	23
Speaker appoints, R.7.2 .....	22
Bill Referrals .....	<i>See Reference</i>
Chair or vice chair	
Absence, R.7.4 .....	22
Agenda, R.7.3 .....	22
Amendments, preference for presenting to House, R.12.3(a) .....	50
Appeal of ruling, R.7.3 .....	22
Appointment, R.7.2 .....	22
Authority, R.7.3 .....	22
Conference committees, R.7.22 .....	29
Decides questions of order, R.7.3 .....	22
<i>Ex officio</i> members, R.7.7 .....	23
Excuses members from attendance, R.3.3(a) 6	
Fiscal committee chair, R.6.5 .....	19
Impose time limitations, R.7.21(b) .....	29
Meetings, authority to call, R.7.8 .....	24
Non-recognition of non-member presenters, R.7.3 .....	22
Order and decorum, authority, R.7.21 .....	29
Order of business, R.10.2(d) .....	37
Parliamentary authority, R.7.3 .....	22
Powers, R.7.3 .....	22
Select committees, R.7.6 .....	23
Selection, R.7.2 .....	22
Signature required, R.7.3 .....	22
Term of appointment, R.7.5 .....	23
Combining bills, R.7.18(a) .....	28
Committee or subcommittee substitutes, R.7.18(a) .....	28
Contempt proceedings, R.16.2 .....	65
Definition of, R.16.7 .....	68
<i>Ex officio</i> members, R.7.7(a) .....	23
Immunities, statutory .....	<i>See s.11.135, F.S.</i>
Investigations	
Lobbyists, obligations of, R.17.1(a) .....	69
Oversight, R.7.23(c) .....	30
Legal procedures, R.16 .....	65-68
Legal proceedings, R.16 .....	65-68
Legislative records	
Compliance, R.14.2(c)(1) .....	57
Forwarding after not continued in existence, R.14.2(d) .....	57-58
Majority Leader, <i>ex officio</i> member, R.7.7 .....	23
Maintenance, achieving, R.14.2(a), 14.2(d) .....	57-58
Majority Whip, <i>ex officio</i> , R.7.7 .....	23
Members	
Appointment, R.7.2 .....	22
Attendance obligation, R.3.3(a) .....	6
<i>Ex officio</i> , R.7.7(a) .....	23
Select committees, R.7.6 .....	23
Minority Leader, <i>ex officio</i> member, R.7.7(b) .....	23
Miscellaneous papers, filed with, R.8.11 .....	33
Procedures on complaints, R.18.2 .....	73
Requirements, R.7.9 .....	24
Proposed committee or subcommittee bill (PCB) Notice, R.7.10(c) .....	24
Proposed committee or subcommittee substitutes, R.7.18(a) .....	28
Proxy voting prohibited, R.3.2 .....	5
Questions of order, R.7.3 .....	22
Quorum .....	<i>See under Committee and Subcommittee meetings</i>
Recommittal to Motion, R.11.12 .....	47
Not subject to reconsideration, R.11.7(h) .....	45
Reconsideration, R.7.16 .....	27
Reference .....	<i>See Reference</i>
Reports	
Daily order of business, R.10.2(a)(8) .....	37
Nature and content, R.7.16 .....	27
Recommendations on Senate amendments, R.12.6(c) .....	52
Recommittal, after, R.11.12 .....	47
Signed by chair, R.7.3 .....	22
Unfavorable	
Amendment out of order, substance, R.12.9 .....	54
Effect, laid on table, R.7.17 .....	28
Vote, R.7.14 .....	26
Retain bill for reconsideration, R.7.15(b) .....	27
Rules in committee and subcommittee, R.13.3 .....	55
Select committees	
Creation of, R.7.6 .....	23
Daily order of business, R.10.2(a)(8) .....	37
Responsibilities, R.7.23(b) .....	30
Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> , <i>ex officio</i> member, R.7.7(a) .....	23
Standing committees and subcommittees, R.7.1 .....	21-22
Subpoena .....	<i>See also</i>
Subpoena, legislative	
Authority to issue, R.16.1(a) .....	65
Legal proceedings, R.16.4(b) .....	66
Powers of the chair, R.7.3 .....	22
Voting	
Conference committees, R.7.22 .....	29
Disclosure of interest, R.3.2(c) .....	5-6
<i>Ex officio</i> member, R.7.7 .....	23
Reconsider, prevailing side, R.7.15(a) .....	27
Two members request, R.7.14(a) .....	26
Yeas and nays, when, R.7.14 .....	26

<b>Committees or subcommittees (cont.)</b>	
Witnesses	
Administration of oaths, R.7.20	28
Claim bills, R.5.6	13
Compelling attendance of, R.16.1(a)	65
Enforcement of subpoena, interim,	
R.16.6	67
Open meetings, protecting,	
R.7.21(a)	29
Right of other persons affected, R.16.5(a)	67
<b>Companion measures</b>	
Motion to refer or recommit, R.11.12(d)	47
Paired on same readings, R.6.3	19
Compensation	
Definition of, J.R.1.1(2)(a)	81
Compensation reports, lobbying,	
J.R.1.4–1.5	<i>See also</i>
under <b>Lobbyist registration, reporting</b>	
<b>Complaints</b>	
Against State Affairs Chair, Conflict,	
R.18.4	75
Authority of Rules Committee, Chair,	
R.18.2(f)	74
Complaint Hearing, R.18.2(d)	74
Conducting an investigation, R.18.2(c)	73
Confidentiality of, R.18.3	74
Conflict, Speaker or Rules Committee Chair,	
R.18.4	75
Consent Decree, R.18.2	73
Investigations, R.18.2(a)	73
Impeachment option, R.19.2	78
Procedures	
Lobbyist reports late, J.R.1.5	87–88
Representing respondent is not lobbying,	
J.R.1.1(3)(d)	83
Select Committee, R.18.2(b)	73
Special Master, R.18.2(b)	73
Time limitations, R.18.5	75
Violations, R.18.2(a)	73
<b>Concurrence in Senate amendments</b>	
House bills, R.12.6(a)(2)	52
<b>Concurrent resolutions</b>	
Generally, R.5.9	13-14
After 58th day, R.10.19(c)	41
Bill filing limit exception, R.5.3(b)(4)	11
Bill, defined to include, R.5.1	11
Certified copies, R.5.9(c)	14
Communications, judiciary, R.5.9(a)	13
Consideration after Day 58, R.10.19(c)	41
Consideration without reference, R.6.4	19
Extend session, motion to adopt, R.6.4	19
Filing deadlines, R.5.2(a)	11
Form requirements, R.5.9(b)	14
Immediately certified, R.11.7(k)	45
Ratification of federal constitutional	
amendments, R.5.9(a)	13
Readings, R.10.8	38
Title and resolving clause, R.5.9(b)	14
Transmit to Senate, R.11.7(i)	45
Conduct.... <i>See Member conduct or see</i>	
<b>Lobbying and Lobbyists</b>	
<b>Conference (political party), R.1.2</b>	1

<b>Conference committee</b>	
Appointments, R.7.2	22
Appropriations	
Generally, Joint Rule Two	91-96
Amendment, printing in <i>Journal</i> , R.12.10	54
Budget conference committee rules	
J.R.2.3	93-96
Distribution time entered in <i>Journal</i> ,	
J.R.2.1(7)	91
Established by operation of rule, J.R.2.1(2)	91
Report distribution, J.R.2.1(4)	91
Report review period, J.R.2.1(3)	91
Composition, R.7.22	29-30
Managers unable to agree, R.7.22(d)	30
Organization and reports, R.7.22	29
Procedure, R.7.22	29
Meeting of two groups, R.7.22	29
Recurring funding, R.5.14(d),	
J.R.2.3(5), (6),(7), and (9)	16, 95
Request or insist,	
R.12.6(a)(4), R.12.6(2)(2)	52
Report, R.7.22	29
<b>Conflict of interest</b>	
Member, voting, 3.2	5-6
Speaker, voting, R.9.3	35
<b>Conflicting employment, R.15.4(a)(2)</b>	60
<b>Conforming bill</b>	
24-hour review rule implemented,	
J.R.2.1(8)	92
Definition, R.12.5(a)(3)	51
Appropriation amendment limitation,	
R.12.5(c)	51
Joint Rules definition, J.R.2.2(1)	92
Revenue amendment must balance,	
R.12.5(d)	52
<b>Consent Calendar, R.10.14</b>	40
<b>Consideration limits, R.10.18, 10.19</b>	41
<b>Constitutional amendment</b>	
Concurrent resolution ratifying federal,	
R.5.9(a)	13
Joint resolution	<i>See also</i>
Art. XI, s. 1, Fl. Const.	
Form of, proposing state, R.5.8(b)	13
<b>Contempt of court, R.16.6</b>	67-68
<b>Contempt proceedings, R.16.2</b>	65-66
<b>Contested seat, R.1.3</b>	1
<b>Correction of <i>Journal</i>, R.10.2(a)(5)</b>	37
<b>Cosponsor</b>	
Committee or subcommittee bill requires,	
R.7.9	24
Requests and withdrawal, R.5.4(b)	12
Daily order of business	<i>See</i>
<b>Order of Business</b>	
<b>Days, defined, R.13.8</b>	56
<b>Debate</b>	
Form of question, R.8.8	32
Interruption not allowed, R.8.7(b)	32
Limitation	
Member, time allowed, R.8.7(b)	32
Motion for previous question, R.11.8(b)	45
Motion precedence, R.11.2(a)(7)	43
Motion to limit, R.11.9	46

<b>Debate (cont.)</b>	
Previous question, effect, R.11.8(b).....	45
Right to open and close, R.8.9.....	33
Sponsor may open and close, R.8.9.....	33
Time and form, R.8.7.....	32
<b>Members</b>	
Addressing the House, R.8.2.....	31
Decorum, R.8.6.....	32
Speaking, R.8.7.....	32
To open, to close, R.8.9.....	33
Two members rise, R.8.3.....	31
Miscellaneous papers, reading of	
nondebatable, R.8.11.....	33
<b>Motions</b>	
Lay on table, R.11.6.....	44
Limit debate, R.11.9.....	46
Precedence during consideration, R.11.2.....	43
Previous question, R.11.8(b).....	45
Recess to a time certain, R.11.5.....	44
Recommit, R.11.12(b).....	47
Reconsideration, R.11.7(e).....	44
Refer, R.11.11(e).....	47
Temporarily postpone, R.11.10(a).....	46
Lay on the table, R.11.6.....	44
Previous question, R.11.8(b).....	45
Question of order, R.11.3.....	43
Speaker's recognition, R.8.3.....	31
Temporarily postpone, R.11.10(a).....	46
Personality avoided, R.8.2(a).....	31
Previous question prevailed, R.11.8(b).....	45
Question may not disguise, R.8.8.....	32
Recognition of members by Speaker,	
R.8.4.....	32
Reconsideration	
Any member may move when supermajority	
required, R.11.7(b).....	44
Debatable when, R.11.7(c).....	44
In order on same or succeeding legislative	
day, R.11.7(a).....	44
Remarks confined to subject under,	
R.8.2(a).....	31
Speaking from well, R.8.2(a).....	31
Speaking twice on same subject,	
R.8.7.....	32
Sponsor opens and closes	
Generally, R.8.9.....	33
15 minutes, R.8.7.....	32
Time allowed	
Except as provided in Rule 10.11(c).....	40
Speaking, R.8.7.....	32
To open and close, R.8.9.....	33
Decorum..... <i>See Order and</i>	
<i>decorum</i>	
<b>Dilatory or delaying motions, R.11.13.....</b>	<b>47</b>
Discipline..... <i>See Member</i>	
<b>conduct</b>	
<i>or see Lobbying and lobbyists</i>	
<b>Disclosure, conflicting employment,</b>	
<b>R. 15.4.....</b>	<b>59-60</b>

<b>Disclosure of interest, R.3.2.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Disclosures, Lobbyist.....</b>	<i>see</i>
<i>under Lobbying and</i>	
<b>Lobbyists</b>	
Disclosures, Members.....	<i>see</i>
<i>under Member conduct</i>	
<b>Distribution of documents</b>	
Paper or electronically, J.R. 2.1(5)(a)1.-2.....	91
Paper or electronically, R.14.3.....	58
<b>Distribution of materials in Chamber,</b>	
<b>R.8.10.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Disturbance in Chamber or other areas,</b>	
<b>R.4.2.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Division of question, R.11.4.....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Doctor of the Day, R.8.5.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Documents, bills</b>	
Custody, R.4.1(a)(1).....	9
<b>Documents, papers</b>	
Distribution of, J.R. 2.1(5)(a)-(6).....	91
Distribution of, R.14.3.....	58
Miscellaneous, R.8.11.....	33
Public inspection, R.14.1.....	57
Publication of, R.4.1.....	9
Reading of, R.8.11.....	33
Signing of, R.2.4.....	4
State agency, inspect..... <i>See</i>	
ss.11.143(2), F.S.	
<b>Dress code, Chamber, R.8.1(f).....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Duplication of records, fees, R.14.2(e).....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>EDR, research, forecasting services,</b>	
<b>J.R.3.1(6).....</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Election</b>	
Constitutional officers, R.1.1(a).....	1
Contested seat, R.1.3.....	1
Members, House sole judge, R.3.1.....	5
Other officers, R.1.1(c)1	
Residency affirmation, J.R.7.1.....	109-110
<b>Electronic form for documents</b>	
General Appropriations Act,	
J.R. 2.1(5)(a)2.- (b).....	91-92
Printed or published in, R.14.3.....	58
<b>Employees</b>	
Generally, R.4.3.....	10
Admission to Chamber, R.8.1(c).....	31
Employment discrimination, R.15.2.....	59
Employment terms and conditions	
Joint offices and committees, J.R.3.2(2).....	98
Speaker authority, R.4.3.....	10
Lobbying prohibited, R.4.3.....	9-10
Restrictions, statutory..... <i>See</i> s.11.26,	
F.S. Salary, expenses statutory..... <i>See</i> s. 11.12,	
F.S. Enacting or resolving clause <i>See under</i>	
<b>Bills</b>	
<b>Engrossing bills, R.10.10(b).....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Ethics</b>	
Members	
House sole judge, R.3.1.....	5
Obligations, R.15.1.....	59
Penalties, R.15.9.....	62
Training, R.15.13.....	63
Lobbyist..... <i>see under Lobbying and</i>	
<b>Lobbyists</b>	

<b>Ethics and conduct, R. 17</b>	
Generally, R. 17.....	69-71
Lobbied via electronic communication	
R.17.1(f).....	69
Obligations of a Lobbyist, R. 17.1.....	69-71
<b>Ex officio committee and subcommittee members</b>	
Designated by Minority Leader	
One per committee or subcommittee,	
R.7.7(b).....	23
Designated by Speaker	
One per committee or	
subcommittee, R.7.7(a).....	23
Minority Leader designates,	
Speaker notice, R.7.7(d).....	23
Quorum, not counted, R.7.12.....	26
Speaker designates, Minority Leader notice,	
R.7.7(d).....	23
<b>Excused absences</b>	
Committee and subcommittee meetings,	
R.3.3(a).....	6
Presumed present, R.3.3(b)(2).....	6
Session, R.3.3(b).....	6
Voting, R.9.1.....	35
<b>Expenses and expenditures</b>	
Joint Committee members, J.R.4.4(1).....	101
Protecting House interests, R.2.6.....	4
Speaker signs or delegates, R.2.4.....	4
Vouchers, chairs sign, R.7.3.....	22
Witnesses, reimbursement, R.16.4(a).....	66
<b>Explanation of vote, R.9.6.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Expulsion of member, requirements,</b>	
<b>R.15.9.....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Family, voting conflict, R. 3.2(b).....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Fees for copies, R.14.2(e).....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Final week, procedural limitations</b>	
After 55th day, R.10.18.....	41
After 58th day, R.10.19.....	41
Amendment deadlines, R.12.2(b).....	49
Special Order Calendar, R.10.11(a)(3).....	39
<b>Fine</b>	
For contempt, R.16.2(d).....	65
Lobbying compensation report, late,	
J.R.1.5.....	87-88
Member's conduct, R.15.9.....	62
Non-members, R.16.2.....	65
<b>Fiscal committee</b>	
Additional references, R.6.5(b).....	19
Amendment of appropriations bills, R.12.5.....	51
Chair, bill withdrawal, point of order,	
R.6.5(a).....	19
Point of order, fiscal, by Chair of, R.6.5.....	19
Referral after fiscal impact added, or	
committee, R.6.5(b).....	19
Withdrawal from, or committee, R.6.5(a).....	19
<b>Floor procedures, special</b>	
Generally, R.10.12.....	40
Appropriations, related bills, R.12.2(c).....	49
Reapportionment, redistricting bills,	
R.12.2(c).....	49
<b>Form of</b>	
Amendments, R.12.1.....	49
Notice of committee meeting, R.7.10(b).....	24
<b>Forms</b>	
Residency affirmation, member,	
J.R.7.1.....	109
Visitors and Guests recognition, R.8.5.....	32
Vote after roll call, R.9.4.....	35
<b>Galleries</b>	
Control of House facilities, R.2.7.....	4
Display of signs, R.14.4.....	58
Sergeant responsibilities, R.4.2.....	9
Visitors and Guests, R.8.5.....	32
<b>General appropriations bill</b>	
Joint Rule Two.....	91-96
72-hour rule implemented, J.R.2.1.....	91-92
Amendments.....	<i>See</i> Appropriations,
general bill <i>under</i> .....	<b>Amendments</b>
Conference.....	<i>See</i> Appropriations
<i>under</i> .....	<b>Conference committees</b>
Joint Rules, defined, J.R.2.2(2).....	92
Review period, J.R.2.1.....	91-92
Special floor procedures, R.12.2(c).....	49
<b>General bills</b>	
Amendments to existing provisions, R.5.4(c)12	
Bill limit exception, when, R.5.3(b)(7).....	11
Engrossed before third reading, R.10.10(b).....	39
Filing Deadlines, R.5.2.....	11
First reading of, R.5.2.....	11
Form of, R.5.4.....	12
Requirements for introduction, R.5.15.....	17
Speaker signs, R.2.4.....	4
<b>Governor</b>	
Floor privilege, R.8.1(b).....	31
Furnished general appropriations bill,	
J.R.2.1(4).....	91
Joint Legislative Budget Committee advice to,	
J.R.6.1(2).....	107
Meetings with Speaker open, R.3.4(b).....	6
Recall act from, R.5.15.....	17
Remarks spread upon <i>Journal</i> , R.8.2(b).....	31
<b>Hands, showing of to demand roll call,</b>	
<b>R.9.2.....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>House General Counsel, advisory opinions</b>	
Lobbyists, others, R.17.2.....	70
<b>House resolutions</b>	
Adopted by publication	
Ceremonial, R.10.9(b).....	39
Procedures for, R.10.17.....	41
Bill limit exception, when, R.5.3(b)(2).....	11
Ceremonial resolutions procedure, R.10.17.....	41
Daily order of business, R.10.2(a)(13).....	37
Defined as bills, R.5.1.....	11
Filing deadline, R.5.2.....	11
Form of, R.5.11(a).....	14
Requirements for introduction, R.5.15(a).....	17
Speaker signs, R.2.4.....	4
Special Order Calendar, R.10.11(a)(1).....	39
<b>Identification of bills, R.5.16.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Immediately certify</b>	
Concurrent resolutions, R.11.7(i).....	45
During extended or special session,	
R.11.7(k).....	45
Last 14 days of session, R.11.7(k).....	45

Local bills, R.11.7(i).....	45
Memorials, R.11.7(i).....	45
Transmit to Senate without delay, R.11.7(i).....	45
Waiving rules to, releases, R.11.7(j).....	45
<b>Impeachment, R. 19.....</b>	<b>77-79</b>
Effect of, suspension... <i>See</i> Article III, s. 17(b), FL Constitution	
Impeachment Managers, R. 19.3.....	79
Misdemeanor in office, R. 19.1(a).....	77
Officers subject to..... <i>See</i> Article III, s. 17(b), FL Constitution	
Trial in Senate..... <i>See</i> Article III, s. 17(c), FL Constitution	
Procedure, R. 19.2.....	78
<b>Implementing bill</b>	
24-hour review rule implemented, J.R.2.1(8).....	92
Definition, R.12.5(a)(2).....	51
Appropriation amendment limitation, R.12.5(c).....	51
Joint Rules definition, J.R.2.2(3).....	93
Revenue amendment must balance, R.12.5(d).....	52
<b>Impeachment, R.19.....</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Indivisible motion, R.11.4.....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Informal deferral, sponsor absent, R.10.16.....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Integrity of House, R.15.2.....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Interpretation of Rules</b>	
Advisory opinions, lobbyists, others, R.17.2.....	70
Authority and, R.13.5.....	55
Guiding authorities, R.13.1.....	55
<b>Interrupting during debate, R.8.7.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Introduction of bills</b>	
Acceptable form, R.5.4(a).....	12
Committee substitutes, R.7.18(a).....	28
Daily order of business, R.10.2(a)(15).....	37
First reading, R.5.2.....	11
Numbering for introduction, R.5.16.....	17
Reading..... <i>See</i> Readings of bills	
Reference upon, R.6.2(a).....	19
Requirements for introduction, R.5.15(a).....	17
Resolutions	
Ceremonial, review by Rules Chair, R.5.11(c).....	14
Concurrent, extending session, R.6.4.....	19
Organization, no reference required, R.6.4.....	19
Tributes, for local recognition, standards approved by the Speaker, R.5.12(b).....	15
Withdraw bill prior to, R.11.11(f)(2).....	47

<b>Investigative committees</b>	
Complaints, R.18.2(b)(g).....	73-74
Conducting legal proceedings, R.16.1.....	65
Joint Legislative Auditing Committee, J.R.4.5(2).....	101
Oversight powers of standing committees and subcommittees, R.7.23.....	30
Subpoena powers, R.16.1.....	65
<b>Joint Administrative Procedures Committee</b>	
Administrative rules review, J.R.4.6(1)–(3).....	102
Advise agencies, J.R.4.6(2)–(3).....	102
Ch. 120, APA responsibilities, J.R.4.6(4)–(5).....	102
Chair, vice chair appointments, J.R.4.1(4).....	99
Powers, duties, J.R.4.6.....	102-103
Proposed agency rules	
Agency delegated auth., evaluating, J.R.4.6(10).....	103
Consult with House, Senate Committees, J.R.4.6(7).....	102
Reporting annually, J.R.4.6(6).....	102
Statutory duties, exercising, J.R.4.6(4).....	102
Statutory provisions..... <i>See</i> s.11.143, F.S.	
Statutory rev. of delegations, J.R.4.6(11).....	103
<b>Joint Committee Procedures</b>	
Generally, J.R.4.2.....	99
Interpret, apply rules, J.R.4.2(3).....	100
Meetings	
Authorized by pres. officers, J.R.4.2(2)(a).....	100
Called by Chair, J.R.4.2(2)(b).....	100
Continued after noticed time, J.R.4.2(2)(d).....	100
Convening, Chair absent, J.R.4.2(2)(b).....	100
Notice, J.R.4.2(2)(c).....	100
Temp. chair assigned, J.R.4.2(2)(b).....	100
Questions	
Chair decides, Q. of order, J.R.4.2(3).....	100
Maj. of each house decide, J.R.4.2(4).....	100
Quorum, J.R.4.2(1).....	100
Suppl. rules, adopting, J.R.4.3(2).....	101
<b>Joint Committees</b>	
Administrative Proc. Committee, est., J.R.4.1(1)(a).....	99
Appointments, J.R.4.1(3).....	99
Chair, vice chair, appts., J.R.4.1(4).....	99
Chair, vice chair, vacancy, J.R.4.1(4)(c).....	99
Committee on Public Counsel Oversight, est., J.R.4.1(1)(b).....	99
Director appointment. each biennium, J.R.4.4(2).....	101
Employees, administrative control, J.R.3.2(2).....	98

<b>Joint Committees (cont.)</b>	
Expenses of, J.R.4.4(1) .....	101
Interpret, apply rules, J.R.4.2(3) .....	100
Joint Policies, J.R.3.2 .....	98
Legislative Auditing Committee est., J.R.4.1(1)(c) .....	99
No exec. or judicial control, J.R.3.2(2) .....	98
Procedures .....	<i>See</i>
<b>Joint Committee Procedures</b>	
<b>Joint Rule One</b>	
General Counsel, Office of Legislative Services, J.R.1.8(1) .....	90
House committee role, J.R.1.8 .....	90
Powers of chair, R.7.3 .....	22
Questions of order, R.2.3 .....	3
Rights of Speaker, R.2.2 .....	3
Staff appointment, J.R.4.4(2) .....	101
Staff serve at pleasure of pres. off., J.R.4.4(2) .....	101
Standing Committees, J.R.4.1(1) .....	99
Select Committees, J.R.4.1(2) .....	99
Subcommittee creation restricted, J.R.4.3(3) .....	101
Subpoena powers, J.R.4.3(1) .....	101
Subpoenas approved, attested, J.R.4.3(1) .....	101
Joint Legislative Auditing Committee	
Audit requests, J.R.4.5(2) .....	101
Chair, vice chair appts., J.R.4.1(4) .....	99
Directing audits, reviews, J.R.4.5(1) .....	101
Performance of Auditor General, J.R.4.5(3) .....	101
Joint Legislative Budget Committee	
Generally, Joint Rule Six .....	107-108
Additional Responsibilities, J.R.6.1(5) .....	107
Advising executive, judiciary, J.R.6.1(2) .....	107
Effect of joint rule, J.R.6.4 .....	108
General Responsibilities, J.R.6.1 .....	107
Notice of meeting, J.R.6.3 .....	108
Organizational structure, J.R.6.2 .....	107
Policies and procedures, J.R.6.1(6) .....	107
Staffing, J.R.6.2(2) .....	107
Subcommittees, J.R.6.1(7) .....	107
Statutory provision .....	<i>See</i>
s.11.90, F.S.	
Constitutional provision .....	<i>See</i>
Art. III, s.19(j), Fl. Const.	
<b>Joint Offices</b>	
Budget, expenses, joint policies, J.R.3.1(3) .....	97
Coordinator	
Appointed each biennium, J.R.3.1(2) .....	97
Serve at pleasure of pres. off., J.R.3.1(2) .....	97
Employees, administrative control, J.R.3.2(2) .....	98
Joint Policies, J.R.3.2 .....	98
No exec. or judicial control, J.R.3.2(2) .....	98
<b>Joint Policies, J.R.3.2 .....</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Joint resolutions</b>	
Amendment to State Constitution, R.5.8 .....	13
Bill limit exception, when, R.5.3(b)(7) .....	11
Daily order of business, R.10.2(a)(11) .....	37

Defined as bill, R.5.1 .....	11
Filing deadline, R.5.2(a) .....	11
Filing limitations, R.5.3 .....	11-12
First reading of, R.5.2(a) .....	11
Form of, R.5.8(b) .....	13
Order of business after 45th day, R.10.2(d) .....	37
Requirements for introduction, R.5.15(b) .....	17
Speaker signs, R.2.4 .....	4
<b>Joint Rules .....</b>	<b>81-111</b>
Approval, R.13.4 .....	55
Auditor General, Joint Rule Five .....	105-106
Conforming, implementing bills	
24-hour review, J.R.2.1(8) .....	92-96
Defined, J.R.2.2 .....	92-93
General appropriations bill	
Generally, Joint Rule Two .....	91
Defined, J.R.2.2(2) .....	92
Review period, J.R.2.1 .....	91-92
Joint Legislative Auditing Committee	
Generally, J.R. 4.5 .....	101
Joint Legislative Budget Committee, J.R. 6 .....	107-108
Joint Legislative Offices,	
Joint Rule Three .....	97-98
Lobbyist compensation reporting, Joint Rule One .....	81-90
Lobbyist registration, Joint Rule One .....	81-90
Office of Econ. and Demog. Research, J.R.3.1 .....	97
Office of Legislative Info. Tech. Service, J.R.3.1 .....	97
Office of Legislative Services, J.R.3.1 .....	97
OPPAGA, J.R.3.1(7) .....	97
Qualifications of members, Joint Rule Seven .....	109-110
Question of order, after vote on bill, J.R. 2.1(9) .....	92
Residency of members, J.R.7.1 .....	109-110
Waiver of, R.13.4 .....	55
<b>Journal</b>	
Amendments printed, R.12.10 .....	54
Appropriations bill	
Amendment printing, R.12.10 .....	54
Ceremonial resolutions adopted by publication	
Published, R.10.17 .....	41
Reading of resolutions, R.10.9(b) .....	39
Chamber distribution, R.8.10(a)(2) .....	33
Clerk duties, R.4.1(a)(3) .....	9
Conflict of interest, member disclosure, R.3.2(c) .....	5-6
Correction of, R.10.2(a)(5) .....	37
First reading by publication, R.10.7 .....	38
General appropriations bill	
Distribution time entered, J.R.2.1(7) .....	92
Miscellaneous papers, R.8.11 .....	33
Publication of bill titles, R.10.7 .....	38
References of bills, R.6.2(b) .....	19
Remarks spread upon, R.8.2(b) .....	31
Votes	
Abstention, R.3.2(c) .....	5
After roll call, change of vote, R.9.4 .....	35
Disclosure of interest, R.3.2(c) .....	5-6



**Journal**

**Votes (cont.)**  
Explanation of vote, R.9.6 .....36  
Recorded, R.9.2.....35  
**Last 14 days of regular session**  
All bills immediately certified, R.11.7(k) .....45  
**Last 15 days of regular session**  
Committee and subcommittee notices,  
R.7.10(e).....25  
**Law Enforcement Officer of the Day,**  
**R.8.5.....32**  
**Lay on table**  
Committee or subcommittee substitutes,  
R.7.18(a).....28  
Companion measures, substitution, R.5.17 ...17  
Motion precedence, R.11.2(a)(4).....43  
Motion procedure, R.11.6 .....44  
Motion to report bill unfavorably, R.7.16 .....27  
Unfavorable reports, R.7.17.....28  
**Legal proceedings**  
Expenses..... See Expenses and  
expenditures  
Protecting interest of the House, R.2.6..... 4  
**Legal residence, members, J.R.7.1 ..... 109**  
**Legislative records**  
Clerk  
Bills, keeping complete record, R.4.1(a)(2) ..9  
Custody of bills, R.4.1(a)(1) .....9  
Maintenance duties, R.14.2(c)(5)–(d).....57  
Directors, ancillary offices, R.14.2(c)(4).....57  
Fees for copies, R.14.2(c) .....58  
Maintenance, R.14.2 .....57  
Members, duties, R.14.2(c)(3) .....57  
Officers, duties, R.14.2(c)(2) .....57  
Public inspection, R.14.1 .....57  
**Limits on consideration**  
After Day40, retaining, R.7.15(b).....27  
After Day45, daily order, R.10.2(d) .....37  
After Day55, House bills, R.10.18 .....41  
After Day58, all bills, R.10.19.....41  
**Limits on filing member bills, R.5.3.... 11–12**  
**Lobbying and lobbyists**  
Advisory opinions to lobbyists  
Gifts, ethics, etc., R.17.2 .....70  
Registration and reporting, J.R.1.8 .....90  
Appearance record, committee,  
subcommittee meeting, R.1.1(5).....83  
Campaign contribution, prohibited,  
R.17.1(c) .....69  
Compensation reports ..... See under  
Lobbyist registration, reporting  
Form of, J.R.1.4(3).....86  
Complaints of violations against, R.18.1(b) ..73  
Definitions, J.R.1.1 .....81  
Committee witnesses  
excluded, when, J.R.1.1(4)(e).....83  
Elected officials excluded, J.R.1.1(4)(d) .....83  
Employees forbidden to lobby, R.4.3 .....10  
Expenditures prohibited by law, R.17.1(d) ...69

House Chamber  
Guest may not lobby, R.8.1(e) .....31  
Lobbyist not admitted, R.8.1(b) .....31  
List of registrations  
Publication, J.R.1.6(2).....89  
Removal by principal, J.R.1.2(4).....84  
Penalties  
Late report, lobbying compensation,  
J.R.1.5..... 87–88  
Registration and compensation reporting ...See  
**Lobbyist registration, reporting**  
Request for advisory opinion Office of  
Legislative Services, J.R.1.8 .....90  
Lobbyist Registration and Compensation  
Reporting System (LRCRS).....See  
*under Lobbyist registration, reporting*  
**Lobbyist registration,**  
**reporting**  
Generally, Joint Rule One ..... 81-90  
Compensation reports, J.R.1.4–1.5 .....85–88  
Alternative means, electronic filing inoperable,  
J.R.1.4(6) .....87  
Electronic filing, J.R.1.4(3).....86  
Failure to timely file, J.R.1.5 .....87  
Waived for good cause, J.R.1.5(6).....88  
Definitions, J.R.1.1(2).....81  
List of registrations  
Publication, J.R.1.6(2).....89  
Removal by principal, J.R.1.2(4) .....84  
Lobbying firm, defined, J.R.1.1(2)(d).....81  
Lobbyist Registration and Compensation  
Reporting, System (LRCRS), defined,  
J.R.1.1(2)(f) ..... 82  
**Lobbyist Registration Office**  
Registration with, J.R.1.1(1) .....81  
Responsibilities reassigned, J.R.1.1(6) .....83  
Lobbyist, defined, J.R.1.1(2)(e) .....82  
Obligations from previous biennium, J.R.1.990  
Open records, J.R.1.6(1) .....89  
Principal's authorization, J.R.1.2(2) .....84  
Publication of registrations, reports,  
J.R.1.6(2) .....89  
Records retention, inspection, J.R.1.7.....89  
Registration  
Activities exempt, J.R.1.1(3) .....82  
Fees and costs, J.R.1.3 .....84  
Fee exemptions, J.R.1.3(2)..... 84-85  
Method, online, LRCRS, J.R.1.2 .....83  
Persons exempt, J.R.1.1(4).....83  
Principal's authorization, J.R.1.2(2).....84  
Removal from listing, notice from principal,  
J.R.1.2(4) .....84  
State employee fee exemption, when,  
J.R.1.3(2) ..... 84-85

<b>Local bills</b>	
Bill limit exception, R.5.3(b)(1).....	11
Claim	
Referendum or advertisement proof,	
R.5.5(c).....	12
Constitutional requirements, R.5.5(c) .....	12
Favorable report prohibited when ordinance	
enabled, R.5.5(a) .....	12
Filing deadline, R.5.2(a).....	11
Form	
Ratifying referendum or affidavit of proper	
advertisement required, R.5.5(c).....	12
Standards, R.5.4 .....	12
Immediately certify, R.11.7(i).....	45
Introduction requirements	
Bill Drafting, prepare or review, R.5.11(a). 14	
Ratifying referendum or affidavit of	
advertisement required, R.5.5(c).....	12
Notice, public advertisement	
Proof of advertisement, R.5.5(c) .....	12
Reference of, R.6.1 .....	19
Referendum or advertising proof, R.5.5(c) ...	12
Review by Bill Drafting, R.5.11(a) .....	14
Special Order Calendar	
Exemption from general law, R.5.5(b).....	12
Sequence for consideration, R.10.11(a)(1). 39	
<b>Main question</b>	
Amendment laid on table not affecting,	
R.11.6.....	44
Collateral matter reconsidered	
Effect on main subject, R.11.7(f) .....	44
Only while on main, R.11.7(g) .....	45
Lay on table, R.11.6.....	45
Previous question agreed to	
Debate, R.11.8(b).....	45
Vote on pending amendment, R.11.8(c).....	45
Reconsideration, committee, R.7.15(a).....	27
Reconsideration, motion, R.11.7 .....	44
Temporarily postponed, R.11.10(b) .....	46
<b>Majority Leader</b>	
<i>Ex officio</i> member of committee, R.7.7(a) ...	23
Legislative records, R.14.2(c)(2).....	57
Officer, R.1.1(b) .....	1
Selection, R.1.1(b) .....	1
<b>Majority vote prevails, when,</b>	
<b>R.13.6.....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Majority Whip, <i>ex officio</i> member of</b>	
<b>committee, R.7.7(a).....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Mason's Manual of Legis. Procedure,</b>	
<b>R.13.1.....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Media representatives, R.3.4(e).....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Meetings</b>	
Attendance	
Committees and subcommittees, R.3.3(a).....	6
Session, R.3.3(b).....	6
Vacancy on failure to attend, R.3.3(a).....	6
Chamber, R.3.4(d) .....	7
Decorum	
Chair authority, R.7.21.....	29
House facilities, R.2.7.....	4
Open meetings	
Generally, R.3.4.....	6-7
Decorum, R.7.21(a).....	29
Media representatives, R.3.4(e).....	7
Members' Lounge not open, R.3.4(c).....	6
Other locations not open, R.3.4(c) .....	7
Public access, R.3.4.....	6-7
Session defined as, R.3.4(d) .....	7
Space limited, R.3.4(c).....	7
Speaker with Senate President or Governor,	
R.3.4(b).....	6
Sessions of the House	
Attendance by members, R.3.3(b).....	6
Hour appointed, R.2.1 .....	3
Speaker presiding, R.2.1 .....	3
<b>Member conduct</b>	
Advisory opinions, R.15.8.....	62
Air Travel, prohibited conveyance,	
R.15.3(b).....	59
Campaign contributions, R.15.3(c).....	59
Complaints .....	<i>See Complaints</i>
Code of Conduct, R.15.1-15.7.....	59-61
Employment	
Conflicting Employment, R.15.4 .....	59-60
Discrimination, R.15.2 .....	59
Employer receiving state funds, R.15.4(d) ...	60
Ethics and official conduct, R.15.1 .....	59
Ethics laws, compliance required, R.15.4(a) 59	
Ethics training, R.15.13 .....	63
Expulsion, vote required, R.15.9.....	62
Felony of Member, R.15.10, R.15.12 ....	62, 63
General Counsel opinion, R.15.8 .....	62
Improper influence, R.15.3 .....	59
Information obtained as officeholder,	
R.15.6.....	61
Integrity of the House, R.15.2 .....	59
Investments, R.15.5 .....	60
Local lobbying restricted, R.15.4(e) .....	60
Non Public information, misuse, R.15.6.....	61
Office as trust, R.15.1.....	59
Penalties	
Disciplinary action, R.15.9 .....	62
Requesting vote while absent from chamber,	
R.9.5(c).....	36
Two-thirds vote required, R.15.9 .....	62
Voting for another member, R.9.5(c).....	36
Prior to election, soliciting, R.15.5 .....	60
Professional environment, R.15.2 .....	59
Professional partnerships permitted, R.15.5 .60	
Public confidence, R.15.2 .....	59
Public office position, misuse, R.15.5 .....	60
Punishment, discipline, suspension, or other	
penalties, R.15.9 .....	62
Required Disclosures, R.15.4(a)(2) .....	60
Securities of principal permitted if listed,	
R.15.5.....	60
Solicitation, R.15.3(c) .....	59
Training, ethics, R.15.13 .....	63
Use of official position, R.15.5 .....	60

<b>Members</b>	
Generally, Rule Three.....	5-7
Absence	
Attendance required, R.3.3 .....	6
Chair, R.7.4 .....	22
Committee and subcommittee meetings,	
R.3.3(a).....	6
Excused, R.3.3(b)(1).....	6
Felony indictment or information of a	
member, R.15.10(a).....	62
Informal deferral, R.10.16 .....	41
Members shall vote, R.9.1 .....	35
Presumed present, R.3.3(b)(2).....	6
Requesting another to vote during,	
R.9.5(c).....	36
Session, R.3.3(b).....	6
Voting after roll call, R.7.14(b) .....	27
Voting after roll call, Committee,	
R.7.14(b).....	27
Voting for another, R.9.5(a) .....	36
Attendance obligation	
Committees or subcommittees, R.3.3(a) .....	6
Session, R.3.3(b).....	6
Vacancy on failure to attend, R.3.3(a).....	6
Attire in Chamber, R.8.1(f) .....	31
Call for division of question, R.11.4 .....	44
Campaign contributions	
Lobbyist, R.17.1(c).....	69
Solicitation of, R.15.3(c) .....	59
Code of Conduct, R.15.1-15.7 .....	59-61
Complaints.....	<i>See Complaints</i>
Conflict of interest, R.3.2(a).....	5
Conflicting employment, R.15.4 .....	59-60
Contested seat, R.1.3 .....	1
Discipline of member.. <i>See Penalties under</i>	
<b>Member conduct</b>	
Disclosure of interest, R.3.2(c).....	5
Election, House sole judge, R.3.1.....	5
Employment	
Conflict, R.15.4.....	59-60
Information obtained by reason of office,	
R.15.6 .....	61
Representation before a state agency,	
R.15.7 .....	61
Voting conflicts, R.3.2.....	5-6
Ethics, training, R.15.13 .....	63
Conviction of a member, R.15.12.....	63
Guilty plea of member, R.15.11 .....	63
Request for excusal, R.15.10(a).....	62
General appropriations bill, copy, J.R.2.1(4) 91	
Interruption during debate, R.8.7.....	32
Legislative records, duties, R.14.2(c)(3) .....	57
Limitation on bills filed, R.5.3.....	11
Notice of meetings, sponsor, R.7.10(a) .....	24
Open meetings, R.3.4.....	6-7
Possession of bills, R.4.1(a)(1).....	9
Qualifications, J.R.7.1 .....	109-110
Representation before state agency, R.15.7 .. 61	
Residency affirmation, J.R.7.1 .....	109-110
Seating challenges, R.1.3 .....	1
Similar measure, notification, R.5.11(b).....	14
Temporary chair	
Appointment, R.2.5 .....	4
Speaker appointment, R.7.4 .....	22
Vote of the Speaker, R.9.3 .....	35
Training, ethics, R.15.13 .....	63
Vacancy in office, J.R.7.1(2) .....	109
<b>Members' Lounge, not open meeting,</b>	
<b>R.3.4(c).....</b>	<b>6-7</b>
<b>Memorials</b>	
Bill limit exception, R.5.3(b)(3).....	11
Defined as bill, R.5.1 .....	11
First reading, R.5.2(a) .....	11
Form of, R.5.10 .....	14
Materials approved for general distribution,	
R.8.10(a)(2) .....	33
Purpose of, R.5.10 .....	14
Readings, R.10.8 .....	38
Removing resolving clause, R.12.7.....	52
Speaker to sign, R.2.4.....	4
Transmitted without delay, R.11.7(i).....	45
<b>Messages</b>	
Received from Senate	
Consideration by House, R.10.5.....	38
Daily order of business, R.10.2(a)(7).....	37
Senate amendments and motions, R.12.6....	52
Transmitted to Senate	
Clerk retains possession, R.11.7(i).....	45
Last 14 days, without delay, R.11.7(k) .....	45
Special session, without delay, R.11.7(k) ..	45
Waive rules, immediately certify,	
R.11.7(j).....	45
<b>Minority Leader</b>	
Committee meeting, closing, R.7.21(a) .....	29
Legislative records, R.14.2(c)(2) .....	57
Notice to, <i>ex officio</i> designation, R.7.7 .....	23
Officer, R.1.1(b) .....	1
Ranking member, designating, R.7.2.....	22
Selection, R.1.1(b).....	1
<b>Miscellaneous papers, reading, R.8.11 .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Misconduct by non-member</b>	
Complaints, R.18.1(b).....	73
Contempt proceedings, R.16.2 .....	65
Employee, R.18.1(b) .....	73
Voting for member, R.9.5(d) .....	36
<b>Motions</b>	
Generally, Rule Eleven .....	43-48
Adjourn	
At a time certain, R.11.2(a)(1) .....	43
Daily sessions, R.10.1 .....	37
Formal legislative action, exception,	
R.3.4(f).....	7
Precedence, R.11.2(a)(2).....	43
Adopt without reference, upon, R.6.4.....	19

## Motions

Committee and subcommittee references	
Daily order of business, R.10.2(a)(9).....	37
Motions during debate, R.11.2(a)(10).....	43
Withdraw or refer a bill, R.11.11.....	46-47
Companion measure substituted, R.5.17.....	17
Conference committees, R.7.22.....	29-30
Dilatory or delaying, R.11.13.....	47
Division of question, R.11.4.....	44
Effect of killing bill, R.8.7.....	32
How made, R.11.1.....	43
Immediately certify to Senate, R.11.7(j).....	45
Lay on table	
Cannot be amended, R.11.6(a).....	44
Precedence, R.11.2(a)(4).....	43
Reports bill unfavorably, R.7.17.....	28
Left pending, R.10.10(c).....	39
Limit debate	
Motion procedure, R.11.9.....	46
Precedence, R.11.2(a)(7).....	43
May be required in writing, R.11.1.....	43
Postpone to day or time certain, precedence, R.11.2(a)(9).....	43
Precedence of	
Conference reports, receiving, R.7.22(c).....	29
Offered during debate, R.11.2.....	43
Senate amendments, R.12.6(a).....	52
Previous question	
Precedence, R.11.2(a)(6).....	43
Procedure, R.11.8.....	45
Recess, precedence, R.11.2(a)(3).....	43
Recess, to time certain, R.11.5.....	44
Recommit to committee or subcommittee, R.11.12 Precedence, R.11.2(a)(10).....	47
Procedure on favorable report, R.11.12(c).....	47
Reference of bills	
Daily order of business, R.10.2(a)(9).....	37
Precedence, R.11.2(a)(10).....	43
Withdraw or change, R.11.11.....	46-47
Remove enacting or resolving clause	
Amendment to, R.12.7.....	52
Precedence, R.11.2(a)(12).....	43
Report bill immediately, R.7.15(b).....	27
Resolutions, no reference required, R.6.4.....	19
Right to close, R.8.7.....	32
Spread remarks upon <i>Journal</i> , R.8.2(b).....	31
Temporarily postpone	
Precedence, R.11.2(a)(8).....	43
Procedure, R.11.10(a).....	46
Waive Rules	
Companion measures, R.5.17.....	17
Immediately certify to Senate, R.11.7(j).....	45
Readings requirement, R.10.7.....	38
Two-thirds vote requirement, R.13.2.....	55
Withdrawal of, R.11.14.....	48

## Notice

Amended meeting, R.7.10(g).....	25
Appointments, designation	
Committee and subcommittee appointments, R.7.2.....	22
<i>Ex officio</i> , committee or subcommittee, R.7.7.....	23
Select committees, R.7.6.....	23
Bills	
Amendment deadlines in committee or subcommittee, R.7.11.....	25-26
Committee or subcommittee substitutes, R.7.18(a).....	28
Content of meeting notice, R.7.10(b).....	24
Local bills.....	<i>See Local Bills</i>
Proposed bills, R.7.10(c).....	24
Reconsider, committee or subcommittee, R.7.15(b).....	27
Conference committees, R.7.22.....	29-30
Contested House seat, R.1.3.....	1
Investigative committee meeting	
Service of a subpoena, R.16.4(b).....	66
Subject matter of inquiry, R.16.4(c).....	66
Local bills.....	<i>See Local Bills</i>
Time required	
Continuation noticed meeting, R.7.10(i).....	25
Notice deadline between sessions, R.7.10(d).....	24
Notice deadlines during sessions, R.7.10(e).....	25
Oaths	
Administration of, R.7.20.....	28
Contempt proceedings, R.16.2(b)(1).....	65
Residency affirmation, member, J.R.7.1.....	109-110
Special Master, R.5.6.....	13
Office of Economic & Demographic Research, J.R.3.1(6).....	97
Office of Legislative Info. Tech. Services, J.R.3.1(5).....	97
Office of Legislative Services	
Advisory opinions from, J.R.1.8.....	90
Lobbyist Registration Office, J.R.1.1(1).....	81
Provides support services, J.R.3.1(4).....	97
Revising advisory opinion of, R.17.2.....	70-71
Office of Prog. Pol. Anal. and Gov't Accountability.....	<i>See OPPAGA</i>
Officers of the House.....	1
OLITS, info. tech. support, J.R.3.1(5).....	97
Open records	
Legislative records, R.14.1.....	57
Lobbyist registrations, reports, J.R.1.6(1).....	89
Opening Prayer	
Floor Session, R.10.3.....	38

<b>OPPAGA</b>	
Duties, J.R.3.1(7) .....	97
Independent examinations, J.R.3.1(7)(a).....	97
Recommendations, policy and budget, J.R.3.1(7)(b) .....	97
Statutory provisions..... <i>See</i> s.11.51, F.S.	
<b>Order and decorum</b>	
Authority of the chair, R.7.21 .....	29
Debate, R.8.6.....	32
Open meetings, R.3.4.....	6-7
Recognition of visitors and guests, R.8.5 .....	32
<b>Order of business</b>	
Daily order of business, R.10.2 .....	37
Motion to temporarily postpone, R.11.10(a).....	46
Recognition of visitors and guests, R.8.5 .....	32
Special session, R.10.2(b).....	37
<b>Organization</b>	
Officers, R.1.1.....	1
Rules, Rule 13 .....	55-56
Standing committees, subcommittees, R.7.1 .....	21-22
<b>Organization session</b>	
Bills filed during interim, R.5.13.....	15
Contested seat, R.1.3 .....	1
Continuation of prior penalties, R.17.3 .....	71
Residency affirmation, J.R.7.1 .....	109-110
<b>Parliamentary authorities, guiding, R.13.1.....</b>	<b>55</b>
Parliamentary question .... <i>See</i> <b>Question of order</b>	
<b>Passage of bills</b>	
Clerk attests to, R.4.1(b) .....	9
Employees may not lobby, R.4.3.....	10
Speaker signs, R.2.4.....	4
Tie vote	
Bill fails, R.13.6 .....	56
Reconsideration... <i>See</i> <b>Voice or tie vote under     Reconsideration</b>	
Transmission to Senate, R.11.7(i) .....	45
Vote of presiding officer, R.9.3 .....	35
Vote recorded and entered in <i>Journal</i> Requirement .....	<i>See</i> Art. III, s. 7, Fl. Const.
<b>Physician of the Day, R.8.5 .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Pledge of allegiance, R.10.2(a)(4) .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Political activity by employees, R.4.3.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Political party conferences, R.1.2.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Postpone consideration</b>	
Motion to temporarily postpone, R.11.10 .....	46
<b>Previous question</b>	
Pending amendments, R.11.8(c).....	45
Precedence, R.11.2(a)(6) .....	43
<b>Priority</b>	
Motions	
Motions during consideration, R.11.2 .....	43
Recognition of members, R.8.4 .....	32
Senate amendments, R.12.6(a) .....	52
Senate bill, House amendments, R.12.6(b) .....	52
<b>Privilege of floor</b>	
Lobbying not permitted, R.8.1(c).....	31
<b>Privilege of the House interrupts, R.8.7 .....</b>	<b>32</b>
Probation of member	
Penalty .....	<i>See</i> Penalties <i>under</i> <b>Member conduct</b>
Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, Office of .....	<i>See</i> <b>OPPAGA</b>
<b>Proposed committee or subcommittee bills</b>	
Notice, R.7.10(c) .....	24
Report, R.7.16 .....	27
<b>Proxy voting prohibited, R.3.2.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>State Affairs Committee</b>	
Chair	
Temporary presiding officer, R.2.5.....	4
Special committee and subcommittee procedures Reapportionment, redistricting bills, R.7.11(b).....	26
<b>Public records</b>	
Legislative records maintenance, R.14.2 .....	57
Legislative records, R.14.1 .....	57
Lobbyist registrations, reports, J.R.1.6(1).....	89
Bill limit exception, adhering, R.5.3(b)(6) ...	11
<b>Publication of documents, Clerk, R.4.1.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Qualifications of members, J.R. Seven .109-110</b>	
Question .....	<i>See also</i> <b>Questions, asking</b>
Division of, R.11.4 .....	44
Members vote one each question put, R.9.1 .....	35
Previous .....	<i>See under</i> <b>Motions</b>
<b>Question of order</b>	
Amendment	
Fiscal impact, R.6.5 .....	19
Germanity, R.12.8(a)(2) .....	53
Principal substance of another bill, R.12.9 .....	54
Decided by chair, committee or subcommittee, R.7.3.....	22
Decided without debate, R.11.3 .....	43
Determined by the Speaker, R.2.3(a).....	3
Fiscal impact, R.6.5 .....	19
Rules Committee	
Chair, recommendation of, R.2.3(a).....	3
Speaker may require authority for, R.2.3(a) ...	3
<b>Questions, asking</b>	
Debate in the form of, R.8.8.....	32
Proper purpose of, R.8.8.....	32
<b>Quorum</b>	
Definition, House, R.10.4.....	38
Committees and subcommittees, R.7.12.....	26
<i>Ex officio</i> members not counted, R.7.12 .....	26
Legislative day, requires presence, R.13.8....	56
No member may answer for another, R.9.5(b).....	36
Roll call	
Order of business, R.2.1 .....	3
Session attendance, R.3.3(b)(2).....	6
Voting, R.9.2 .....	35
Testimony only when established, R.16.5(b).....	67
<b>Readings of bills</b>	
By publication	
Ceremonial resolutions .. <i>See below, this topic</i>	
First reading, R.10.7 .....	38
Ceremonial resolutions	
Adoption, R.10.9(b).....	39

<b>Readings of bills (cont.)</b>	
Procedure for, R.10.17 .....	41
Committee or subcommittee	
substitutes, first reading, 7.18(c) .....	28
Companion measures, R.5.17 .....	17
Concurrent resolutions, memorials, R.10.8 ...	38
First reading	
Generally, R.5.2 .....	11
By publication, R.10.7 .....	38
Committee or subcommittee	
substitutes, R.7.18 .....	28
Timely filing required, R.5.2 .....	11
House resolutions, R.10.9 .....	39
Joint resolutions, R.10.7 .....	38
<b>Nullity after recommitment, R.11.10(b) .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Passage after two readings</b>	
Concurrent resolutions, memorials, R.10.8 ...	38
House resolutions, R.10.9 .....	39
<b>Reading defined, R.10.6 .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Second reading</b>	
Bills after 55th day, R.10.18 .....	41
Companion measures, R.5.17 .....	18
Deemed on third reading after, R.10.10(c) ...	39
Deferral, sponsor absent, R.10.16 .....	41
Order on third reading, R.10.10(a) .....	39
Recommitted on third reading, R.11.12(c) ...	47
Special Order Calendar, R.10.11 .....	39
<b>Third reading</b>	
Bills after 58th day, R.10.19 .....	41
Daily order of business, R.10.2(a)(11) .....	37
Deferral of bills, R.10.16 .....	41
Measures on, order of procedure, R.10.10 ...	39
Order of bills on, R.10.10(a) .....	39
Renewal of previous question on, R.11.8(a) ...	45
Waiver of reading requirements, R.10.7 .....	38
<b>Reapportionment, redistricting bills</b>	
Special committee procedures, R.7.11(b) .....	26
Special floor procedures, R.12.2(c) .....	49
<b>Recall of acts from Governor, R.5.15(a) .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Recess</b>	
Motion precedence, R.11.2(a)(3) .....	43
Motion to recess to a time certain, R.11.5 ...	44
Open meetings, exception, R.3.4(d) .....	7
<b>Recognition visitors and guests, R.8.5 .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Recommit</b>	
After reported to calendar, R.11.12(a) .....	47
Amendment, committee or subcommittee	
substitute, after, R.11.12(c) .....	47
Motion, R.11.12 .....	47
On third reading, amended, returns to second	
reading, R.11.12(c) .....	47
Precedence, R.11.2(a)(10) .....	43
Reconsideration barred, R.11.7(h) .....	45
<b>Reconsideration</b>	
After House vote to refer, R.11.7(h) .....	45
Amendment on third reading, R.12.4(b) .....	51
Bills held for period, R.11.7(i) .....	45
Collateral matters, disposing of matter	
During main subject consideration,	
R.7.15(c) .....	27
Out of order after House passes to other	
business, R.11.7(g) .....	44
Committee or subcommittee	
Extended session, R.7.15(b) .....	27
Notice, R.7.10(b) .....	24
Procedure, R.7.16 .....	27
Special session, R.7.15(b) .....	27
Debate, R.11.7(e) .....	44
Disposition of, R.11.7(g) .....	44
House, R.11.7 .....	44-45
Last 14 days of session, R.11.7(k) .....	45
Main question or motion, R.11.7(a) .....	44
Notice to report bill immediately, R.7.15(b) ..	27
Precedence of motion, R.11.2(a)(5) .....	43
Renewal after disposition	
Committee, R.7.15(e) .....	27
Session, R.11.7(d) .....	44
Retain bill in committee or subcommittee,	
R.7.15(d) .....	27
Voice or tie vote, who may move	
Committee and subcommittee, R.7.15(a) ...	27
House, R.11.7(a) .....	44
Vote required, R.11.7(c) .....	44
Who may make motion	
Any member, supermajority vote failed,	
R.11.7(b) .....	44
Any member, tie or voice vote, R.11.7(a) ...	44
Committee or subcommittee, R.7.15(a) .....	27
Member on prevailing side, R.11.7(a) .....	44
<b>Records of House...See also Legislative Records</b>	
Legislative records, R.14.1 .....	57
Transcript required, when, R.16.4(e) .....	67
<b>Reference</b>	
Additional committee or subcommittee	
By motion, upon two-thirds vote,	
R.11.11(d) .....	47
Appropriations or tax matters, R.6.5 .....	19
Calendar, by Speaker to, R.6.2 .....	19
Change of, by motion, R.11.11(b) .....	46
Committee or subcommittee substitutes,	
R.7.18(c) .....	28
Contested seat, R.1.3 .....	1
Different committee or subcommittee,	
R.11.11(b)-(c) .....	46-47
Engrossing before third reading, R.10.10(b) .	39
<i>Journal</i> , R.6.2(b) .....	19
Message, Senate amendment, R.12.6(c) .....	52
Motion for, R.11.11 .....	46
Motion to spread remarks, R.8.2(b) .....	31
Order of reference, R.6.2(a) .....	19
Policy Bills	
Additional committee or subcommittee,	
R.6.6 .....	20
Publication of, R.6.2(b) .....	19
Reconsideration barred, R.11.7(h) .....	45

**Reference (cont.)**

Senate bills	
Generally, R.6.2(a).....	19
With House companion, R.6.3.....	19
Speaker	
Generally, R.6.2(a).....	19
Appropriations or tax matters, R.6.5(b).....	19
Authority, R.6.1.....	19
Order of reference, R.6.2(a).....	19
Referral after floor amendment, R.6.5(b).....	19
Spread remarks upon <i>Journal</i> , ref. to	
Rules Chair, R.8.2(b).....	31
Veto messages, R.6.7.....	20
Withdraw, two-thirds vote, R.11.11(a).....	46
Without, organizational matters, R.6.4.....	19
Refusal to concur, R.12.6.....	52
Refusal to reconsider, R.11.7(d).....	44
Remarks spread upon <i>Journal</i> , R.8.2(b).....	31
Residency of members, J.R.7.1.....	109
<b>Resolutions</b>	
Bill limit exception	
Ceremonial, R.5.3(b)(2).....	11
Concurrent, organizational, R.5.3(b)(4).....	11
First reading, R.5.2.....	11
Transmitted immediately, R.11.7(i).....	45
<b>Retain bill for reconsideration, R.7.15(b) 27</b>	
Revenue amendments.....	<i>See under</i>
<b>Amendments</b>	
<b>Reviser's bills</b>	
Amendment restrictions, R.12.3(e).....	50
Consideration of, R.5.7.....	13
Drafting, R.5.15(a).....	17
Introduced by Rules Committee, R.5.7.....	13
Requirements for introduction, R.5.15(a).....	17
<b>Roll call</b>	
Generally, R.9.2.....	35
Taking the yeas and nays, R.9.2.....	35
Vote after	
Committee or subcommittee, R.7.14(b).....	27
Session, R.9.4.....	35
<b>Rules</b>	
Advisory opinions, R.15.8.....	62
Member requests, R.15.8.....	62
Other provisions, R.15.8.....	<i>See Advisory</i>
<b>opinions</b>	
Amending, R.13.2.....	55
Generally, Rule 13.....	55-56
Mason's Manual of Legis. Procedure, R.13.1.....	55
Parliamentary authorities, R.13.1.....	55
Point of order, citing Rule in support, R.2.3(a)3.....	1
Political party conference, R.1.2.....	1
Preserving inherent authority, R.13.5.....	55
Speaker interprets and applies, R.2.2.....	3
Term, R.13.3.....	55
Waiver of (suspension), R.13.2.....	55
Related topics.....	<i>See Waiver of Rules</i>
<b>Rules Committee</b>	
Generally, R.2.3(a).....	3
Amending Rules of the House, R.13.2.....	55
Bills placed in, when, R.10.11(b).....	39-40
Ceremonial resolutions, procedure,	
R.10.17.....	41

**Chair**

Approval of materials in Chamber,	
R.8.10(a)(1).....	33
Approval of signs, placards, props, R.14.4.....	58
Authorizes use of House seal, R.14.5(a).....	58
Ceremonial House resolutions, R.5.11(c).....	14
Consent Calendar, R.10.14.....	40
Daily order, after 45th day, R.10.2(d).....	37
House seal, use of, R.14.5(a) and (c).....	58
Motion to spread remarks, R.8.2(b).....	31
Questions of order, R.2.3(a).....	3
Special Order requests, R.10.11(a)(2).....	39
Meetings, exception, R.7.10(j).....	25
Motion to spread remarks, R.8.2(b).....	31
Order of business, R.10.2(d).....	37
Point or question of order, R.2.3(a).....	3
Chair may raise after policy amendment,	
R.6.6.....	20
Point or question of order, R.2.3(a).....	3
Referral after policy amendments, R.6.6.....	20
Reviser's bills, R.5.7.....	13
Rules changes, R.13.2.....	55
Special committee and subcommittee	
procedures Appropriations, related bills,	
R.7.11(b).....	26
Special floor procedures	
Generally, R.10.12.....	40
Appropriations, related bills, R.12.2(c).....	49
Reapportionment, redistricting bills,	
R.12.2(c).....	49
Special Order Calendar, R.10.11.....	39-40
Special Session, bills placed in,	
R.10.11(b)(2).....	40
Technical amendments, R.12.4(b).....	51
Vice chair, order of business, R.10.2(d).....	37
<b>Seal, House</b>	
Generally, R.14.5.....	58
Configuration, R.14.5(b).....	58
Custodian, R.14.5(d).....	58
Requirement, R.14.5(a).....	58
Use of, R.14.5.....	58
Official duties, R.14.5(a).....	58
Rules Chair, written exception, R.14.5(a).....	58
Second Reading.....	<i>See under</i>
<b>Reading of bills</b>	
<b>Secondary matters</b>	
Reconsideration of, R.11.7(f).....	44
<b>Select committees</b>	
Contempt citation, R.16.2(c).....	65
Creation of, powers, R.7.6.....	23
Daily order of business, R.10.2(a)(8).....	37
Distribution, reports from, R.8.10(a)(2).....	33
Exercising committee powers, R.7.23(b).....	30
Generally, R.7.6.....	23
Hearing on member's suspension,	
R.15.12(b).....	63
Issuance of subpoena, R.16.1(a).....	65
<b>Senate</b>	
Amendments to House bills, R.12.6(a).....	52
Members of, privilege of the floor, R.8.1(b).....	31

<b>Senate (cont.)</b>	
Messages from	
Consideration, generally, R.10.5 .....	38
Daily order of business, R.10.2(a)(7) .....	37
Senate amendments and motions, R.12.6 .....	52
President, meetings with Speaker open,	
R.3.4(b).....	6
Residency affirmation, J.R.7.1 .....	109
Transmitting bills to <i>See</i> Transmittal to Senate under <b>Bills</b> , Senate bills	
<b>Senate bills</b>	
Amendments to, R.10.10(b).....	39
Companion measure	
Paired, when, R.6.3 .....	19
Recommitment of House bill automatically carries companion, R.11.12(d).....	47
Substantially similar, R.5.17.....	18
House amendments to Committee or subcommittee reports, R.12.3(a).....	50
Engrossing, R.10.10(b).....	39
Favorable committee or subcommittee reports, R.7.16 .....	27
Reference, generally, R.6.2(a) .....	19
Senate refusal to concur with, R.12.6(c) .....	52
Third reading, engrossing, R.10.10(b).....	39
Sequence of amendments, R.12.3 .....	50
<b>Sergeant at Arms</b>	
Appointment, R.1.1(c) .....	1
Duties, generally, R.4.2 .....	9
<b>Sessions</b>	
Adjournment .....	<i>See</i>
<b>Adjournment</b>	
Committee, subcommittee meetings during, R.7.13 .....	26
Concurrent resolution extending	
Adopted without reference, R.6.4.....	19
Bill filing limit, R.5.3(b)(4) .....	11
Exception to filing deadline, R.5.2(a) .....	11
Exempt from reading requirement, R.10.8.38	
Daily order of business, R.10.2 .....	37
Daily, R.10.1.....	37
Extended	
Appointments, expiration of, R.7.5 .....	23
Bills transmitted immediately, R.11.7(k) .....	45
Notice deadlines, R.7.10(e) .....	25
Retaining bills disallowed, R.7.15(b).....	27
Special Order Calendar, R.10.11(a)(3).....	39
Transmittal of bills to Senate, R.11.7(k) .....	45
Organization	
Residency affirmation, J.R.7.1 .....	109
Resolution, introduction, R.5.15(a) .....	17
Resolution, no reference required, R.6.4 .....	19
Seating challenges, R.1.3 .....	1
Regular	
Amendment filing deadlines R.12.2 .....	49
Bills filed during interim, R.5.13.....	15
Committee and subcommittee meeting notices, R.7.10(e).....	25
Consideration limits after day 55, R.10.18.41	
Consideration limits after day 58, R.10.19 .....	41
Contested seat, R.1.3 .....	1
Last 14 days, bills transmitted, R.11.7(k).....	45
Last 20 days, retaining bills disallowed, .7.15(b).....	27
Limitation on member bills filed, R.5.3.....	11
Member bill filing deadline, R.5.2 .....	11
Notice deadline, committee meeting, R.7.10(e).....	25
Omitted if not on desk, R.10.2(e).....	37
Order of business after 45th day, R.10.2(d) .....	38
Prohibition on solicitation, R.15.3(c).....	59
Restriction on lobbyist contribution, R.17.1(c).....	69
Seating challenges, R.1.3 .....	1
Special Order Calendar, R.10.11 .....	39
Statutory provisions .....	<i>See</i> s.11.011,F.S.
Term of appointment, R.7.5 .....	23
Special Appointments, expiration of, R.7.5 .....	23
Bills placed in Rules Committee,	
R.10.11(b)(1) and (2) .....	40
Bills transmitted immediately, R.11.7(k).....	45
Contested seat, R.1.3 .....	1
Notice deadline, committee meeting R.7.10(e) .....	25
Order of business, R.10.2(b) .....	37
Reconsider, committee or subcommittee, R.7.15(b).....	27
Seating challenges, R.1.3 .....	1
Special Order Calendar, R.10.11(b)(3) .....	40
Transmittal of bills to Senate, R.11.7(k).....	45
<b>Sheriffs execute process, orders, R.16.2(e) .66</b>	
<b>Showing of five hands, R.9.2 .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Signs, placards, props, etc., display, R.14.4 .....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Sine die, appointments, effect, R.7.5 .....</b>	<b>23</b>
Single subject rule, constitutional <i>See</i> .....	Art. III, s. 6, Florida Constitution
<b>Speaker</b>	
Absence of, R.2.5 .....	4
Amendments	
Recognizing sponsor of, R.12.3(a).....	50
Appeal decisions of, R.2.3(c) .....	3
Appeal of chair's decisions to, R.2.3(b) .....	3
Appeal of committee chair's ruling, R.7.3 .....	22
Appointment	
Chairs and vice chairs, R.7.5 .....	23
Committees and subcommittees, 7.2.....	22
Conference committees, R.7.2 .....	22
Expiration, R.7.5.....	23
Member suspension, committee, R.15.11 .....	63
Officers, R.1.1(b).....	1
Select committee, creation of, R.7.6 .....	23
Special Master, claim bills, R.5.6(a) and (b).....	13
Temporary chair, committees, R.7.4 .....	22
Temporary chair, preside over House, R.2.5 .....	4
Approves proposed committee or subcommittee bills (PCBs), R.7.9 .....	24
Committee and subcommittee meetings	
Authorization, R.7.8 .....	24
Closing of, R.7.21(a) .....	29
Designates <i>ex officio</i> , R.7.7 .....	23



<b>Speaker (cont.)</b>	
Leave to extend, R.7.10(i).....	25
Committee or subcommittee <i>ex officio</i> members, designates, R.7.7(a) .....	23
Conflict of interest, disclosure, R.9.3 .....	35
Control of Chamber and other facilities, R.2.7.4	
Declares all votes, R.9.2 .....	35
Delegation of administrative authority, R.2.4 .4	
Dilatory motions, R.11.13 .....	47
Discretion of Speaker	
Employees admitted to Chamber, R.8.1(c).....	31
Miscellaneous papers, R.8.11 .....	33
Suspend member convicted, R.15.12(a).....	63
Suspend member who pleads guilty, R.15.11 .....	63
Election of	
Presiding officer, R.1.1(a)(1).....	1
Seating challenges delayed until, R.1.3 .....	1
Employees	
Employed by, at pleasure of, R.4.3 .....	10
Floor privileges, R.8.1(c).....	31
Ethics training, directs, R.15.13.....	63
<i>Ex officio</i>	
Designation, R.7.7.....	23
Notice to Minority Leader, R.7.7.....	23
Excused absence of members	
Committee and subcommittee attendance, R.3.3(a) .....	6
Felony indictment, R.15.10(a) .....	62
Presumed present after roll call, R. 3.3(b)(2) 6	
Session attendance, R.3.3(b)(1) .....	6
Expenditures, generally, R.2.4.....	4
Generally, Rule Two.....	3
Incapacity or inability, R.2.5(c).....	4
Legal proceedings ..... <i>See Legal proceedings</i>	
Legislative records, compliance, R.14.2(c)(2) .....	57
Majority Leader, selection, R.1.1(b).....	1
Meetings with Senate President or Governor open, R.3.4(b) .....	6
Miscellaneous papers, R.8.11 .....	33
Motions received by	
Dilatory determined by, R.11.13 .....	47
During consideration, R.11.2.....	43
Form of, R.11.1 .....	43
Open meetings	
Closing, security, R.7.21(a) .....	29
With Senate President or Governor, R. 3.4(b).....	6
Points of order, decisions, R.2.3(a) .....	3
Policies	
Employees of joint offices and committees, J.R.3.2 .....	98
Employees, directing, R.4.3.....	10
Ethics training, R.15.13 .....	63
Legislative Support Services, J.R.3.2.....	98
Publication of notices, R.7.10(h).....	25
Presiding, R.2.1 .....	3
Privilege of the floor	
Employees' admission, R.8.1(c).....	31
Others' admission, R.8.1(d).....	31
Proposed committee or subcommittee bills (PCBs), R.7.9.....	24
Questions of order, decisions	
Appeal to House, R.2.3(c).....	3
Decided without debate, R.11.3 .....	43
Not appealable, R.2.3(d) .....	3
Presented for Speaker determination, R.2.3(a).....	3
Raised, decided in committee, R.2.3(b).....	3
Reading of bills, determination, R.10.6 .....	38
Recognition, R.8.2(a) .....	31
Addressing the House, R.8.2(a) .....	31
Amendment deemed pending, R.12.3(d).....	50
No appeal, R.8.4 .....	32
Taking up amendments, R.12.3(a).....	50
Visitors and guests, R.8.5.....	32
When two members rise at once, R.8.3 .....	31
Recommit bill	
After fiscal amendment, R.6.5(b).....	19
After policy amendment, substantial or new concept, R.6.6.....	20
Remarks spread upon <i>Journal</i> , R.8.2(b).....	31
Reserve times, authority to, R.7.8.....	24
Resignation or death, R.2.5(d) .....	4
Rules, interpreting, R.2.2 .....	3
Senate amendments, R.12.6(c).....	52
Signature, R.2.4 .....	4
Attested by Clerk, R.2.4.....	4
Delegation of authority, R.2.4.....	4
<b>Speaker pro tempore</b>	
<i>Ex officio</i> member of committee or subcommittee, R.7.7(a).....	23
Officer, R.1.1(b).....	1
Selection, R.1.1(b).....	1
When presiding, R.2.5.....	4
<b>Subpoenas</b>	
Approval, R.16.1(a).....	65
Signing, R.2.4 .....	4
<b>Temporary presiding officer</b>	
Appointed or acting, R.2.5 .....	4
Duty to vote, R.9.3 .....	35
Tributes, R.5.12(b) .....	15
Veto messages, reference, R.6.7 .....	20
Vote, when required by, R.9.3 .....	35
Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> ..... <i>See Speaker</i>	
<b>Special floor procedures</b>	
Generally, R.10.12.....	40
Appropriations, related bills, R.12.2(c).....	49
Reapportionment, redistricting, R.12.2(c) .....	49
<b>Special Order Calendar</b>	
After day 55, R.10.11(a)(3).....	39
Consideration of bills not on, R.10.13 .....	40
Daily order of business, R.10.2(a)(12).....	37
Expedited, R.10.14 .....	40

**Special Order Calendar (cont.)**

Extended or special session,  
R.10.11(b) ..... 40  
Floor procedures to manage  
questions and debate,  
R.10.11(c) ..... 40  
Generally, R.10.11 ..... 39-40  
Local bill expedited on, restrictions  
General law exemptions, R.5.5(b) ..... 12  
Publication  
Extended or special session, R.10.11(b) ..... 40  
Regular session, R.10.11(a)(3) ..... 39-40  
Request for placement on, R.10.11(a)(2) ..... 39  
Requirement for placement on, R.10.15 ..... 40  
Second Reading, R.10.11 ..... 39  
Trust fund bills, R.10.11(a)(1) ..... 39  
Unfinished business, R.10.11(a)(1) ..... 39  
Special session ..... *See Special under Sessions*  
**Sponsor**  
Added or deleted, R.5.4(b) ..... 12  
Amendments  
Committee and subcommittee, R.7.11 ..... 25  
Recognition by Speaker, R.12.3(a) ..... 50  
Committee or subcommittee meeting notice,  
R.7.10(a) ..... 24  
Committee or subcommittee substitutes,  
R.7.18(a) ..... 28  
Cosponsor, R.5.4(b) ..... 12  
Deferral of bills, R.10.16 ..... 41  
First-named  
Adding or deleting sponsors, R.5.4(b) ..... 12  
Bill filing limit, R.5.3 ..... 11  
Informal deferral, temporary  
absence of, R.10.16 ..... 41  
Motion for the previous question, R.11.8(d) ..... 45  
Motion to lay on table, R.11.6(a) ..... 44  
Motion to limit debate, R.11.9 ..... 46  
Notice of meetings, R.7.10(a) ..... 24  
Proposed committee or subcommittee bills,  
R.7.9 ..... 24  
Right to close, R.8.9 ..... 33  
Speaking and debate, R.8.7 ..... 32  
Withdraw by letter prior to introduction,  
R.11.11(f)(2) ..... 47  
Lay on table, R.11.6(a) ..... 44  
Legislative action includes sponsorship,  
J.R.1.1(2)(b) ..... 81  
Limitation on bills filed, R.5.3 ..... 11  
Limited debate, rights of, R.11.9 ..... 46  
Notice of meetings, R.7.10(a) ..... 24  
Notified of similar measures, R.5.17 ..... 17  
Previous question  
First-named sponsor, R.11.8(d) ..... 45  
Motion not in order, R.11.8(d) ..... 45  
Right to debate when adopted, R.11.8(b) ..... 45  
Proposed committee or subcommittee bill,  
first-named, R.7.9 ..... 24  
Right to close, R.8.9 ..... 33  
Similar measure, notified, R.5.17 ..... 17  
Sponsor absent, R.10.16 ..... 41

Time allowed for debate  
Generally, R.8.7 ..... 32  
Motion for the previous question,  
R.11.8(b) ..... 45  
Motion to lay on the table, R.11.6(a) ..... 44  
Motion to limit debate, R.11.9 ..... 46  
Open, close, R.8.9 ..... 33  
Tributes, R.5.12 ..... 15  
Withdrawal of bill  
By letter prior to introduction,  
R.11.11(f)(2) ..... 47  
By motion upon request, R.11.11(f)(1) ..... 47  
**Spread remarks upon Journal**  
Motion referred to Rules Chair, R.8.2(b) ..... 31  
**Standing committees and subcommittees**  
Established, R.7.1 ..... 21-22  
Related topics ..... *See under Committees*  
or subcommittees  
Subcommittee ..... *See various*  
*subtopics under Committees and*  
**subcommittees**  
**Submission to Bill Drafting Service**  
Special Order Calendar, R.12.2(a) ..... 49  
**Subpoena, legislative**  
Attested to by Clerk R.2.4 ..... 4  
Chair signature, R.7.3 ..... 22  
Clerk attests to, R.2.4 ..... 4  
Contempt proceedings, R.16.2(b)(1) ..... 65  
Enforcement out of session, R.16.6 ..... 67-68  
Execution by Speaker, R.2.4 ..... 4  
Issuance  
Speaker, R.16.1(a) ..... 65  
Vote of committee or subcommittee,  
R.16.1(a) ..... 65  
Issuance, R.16.1(a) ..... 65  
Joint Committee, J.R.4.3(1) ..... 101  
Power, R.7.19 ..... 28  
Production of documents, R.16.1(b) ..... 65  
Rights of witnesses, R.16.4 ..... 66-67  
Speaker signature, R.2.4 ..... 4  
**Substituting companion measures, R.5.17.. 17**  
**Suspension of member**  
Felony charge, voluntary, R.15.10 ..... 62-63  
Felony conviction of a member, R.15.12 ..... 63  
Felony conviction, hearing, R.15.12(b) ..... 63  
Felony guilty plea of a member, R.15.11 ..... 63  
**Table measure**  
Bills reported unfavorably, R.7.17 ..... 28  
Committee or subcommittee substitute filed,  
original bill, R.7.18(a) ..... 28  
Companion measures, upon substitution,  
R.5.17 ..... 17  
Reports on bills, R.7.16 ..... 27  
**Tax matters, amendments affecting,**  
**R.6.5(b) ..... 19**  
**Temporarily postpone**  
Motion to, R.11.10 ..... 46  
Precedence of motion to, R.11.2(a)(8) ..... 43  
**Temporary presiding officer**  
Appointment of, R.2.5 ..... 4  
Vote, R.9.3 ..... 35

<b>Title amendments, germanity,</b>	
<b>R.12.8(a)(1)</b> .....	53
<b>Title requirements for bills</b>	
Generally, R.5.15(a).....	17
Local bills, R.5.5(c).....	12
Resolutions, R.5.11(a).....	14
<b>Transmitting bills to Senate</b>	
Bills the Clerk retains, R.11.7(i).....	45
Bills transmitted without delay, R.11.7(i).....	45
Immediately certify, rules waiver, R.11.7(j).....	45
Last 14 days of session, R.11.7(k).....	45
<b>Transparency</b>	
Appropriations projects, R.5.14(b)-(c).....	15-16
Concepts, subjects, not heard in committee,	
R.6.6.....	20
Issue disclosure, Lobbyist, R.17.1(h).....	70
Members, employment disclosures,	
R.15.4(2).....	60
Substantial revision by floor amendment,	
R.6.6.....	20
<b>Travel expenses, witnesses, R.16.4(a)</b> .....	66
<b>Tributes, R.5.12</b> .....	15
<b>Trust fund bills</b>	
Bill limit, exception, R.5.3(b)(5).....	11
Special Order Calendar, R.10.11(a)(1).....	39
<b>Unanimous consent</b>	
Germanity waiver, R.12.8(d).....	53
Reconsideration	
Committee or subcommittee, R.7.15(e).....	27
House, renewal after disposition,	
R.11.7(d).....	44
<b>Unexcused, R.9.4(a)</b> .....	35
<b>Unfavorable report</b>	
Generally, R.7.16.....	27
Out of order amendment, R.12.9(a).....	54
Unfinished business	
Daily order of business, R.10.2(a)(14).....	37
Special Order Calendar, R.10.11(a)(1).....	39
Temporarily postponed, not brought backup,	
R.11.10(b).....	46
<b>Vacancy in office, J.R.7.1(2)</b> .....	109
<b>Validation of bills, R.5.16</b> .....	17
<b>Veto messages, reference, R.6.7</b> .....	20
<b>Voting</b>	
Abstain from, R.3.2(a).....	5
After roll call	
Absent members, R.7.14(b).....	27
Committee or subcommittee, R.7.14(b).....	27
Finality not affected, R.9.4(a).....	35
Session, R.9.4.....	35
Amendments	
Order of consideration, R.12.3(b).....	50
Third reading, two-thirds, R.12.4(a).....	51
Ceremonial resolutions, vote waived,	
R.10.9(b).....	39
Changing vote, R.9.4.....	35
Committee or subcommittee, R.7.14.....	26-27
Concurrent resolutions, voice vote, R.10.8, ..	38
Conference committee report,	
R.7.22(c).....	29-30
Conflict of interest	
Speaker, temporary presiding officer, R.9.3.....	35
Special private gain or loss, R.3.2(a).....	5
Contested seat, R.1.3.....	1
Declaring votes, R.9.2.....	35
Discipline of member, R.15.9.....	62
Disclosure	
Speaker, temporary presiding officer, R.9.3.....	35
Special private gain or loss, R.3.2.....	5
Doubt, showing five hands, R.9.2.....	35
Electronic roll call, R.9.2.....	35
<i>Ex officio</i> members, committees or	
subcommittees, R.7.7(a).....	23
Explanation of vote, R.9.6.....	36
Extraordinary, R.13.7.....	56
Family interest	
Special private gain or loss, R.3.2(b).....	5
Final passage of measure	
Vote of presiding officer, R.9.3.....	35
Generally, Rule Nine.....	35-36
House resolutions, voice vote, R.10.9(a).....	39
Immediately certify to Senate, R.11.7(j).....	45
<i>Journal</i> entry	
Explanation of vote, R.9.6.....	36
Votes after roll call, R.9.4(a).....	35
Yeas and nays, R.9.2.....	35
Majority vote required unless indicated,	
R.13.6.....	56
Mechanical malfunction, R.9.4(b).....	35
Member's interest, abstention, R.3.2(a).....	5
Members vote on each question put, R.9.1.....	35
Memorials, voice vote, R.10.8.....	38
Miscellaneous papers, reading of, R.8.11.....	33
Non-member voting prohibited, R.9.5(d).....	36
Oral roll call, R.9.2.....	35
Principal's interest	
Special private gain or loss, R.3.2(b).....	5
Private gain or loss, disclosure,	
R.3.2(a)-(c).....	5-6
Proxy voting prohibited, R.3.2.....	5
Quorum	
<i>Ex officio</i> members not counted, R.7.12.....	26
<i>Ex officio</i> members not counted, R.7.7(c).....	23
Majority of membership, R.10.4.....	38
Voting for another prohibited, R.9.5(b).....	36
Yeas and nays, R.9.2.....	35
Reconsideration.....	<i>See</i>
<b>Reconsideration</b>	
Recording vote	
Committees or subcommittees, R.7.14(a).....	26
Votes after roll call, R.9.4.....	35
Requesting another member to vote for	
absentee, R.9.5(c).....	36
Showing of hands by five members, R.9.2.....	35
Speaker's vote, R.9.3.....	35
Substituting companion measure, R.5.17.....	17
Taking vote, R.9.2.....	35
Temporary presiding officer's vote, R.9.3.....	35

Tie vote	
Majority action fails, R.13.6 .....	56
Reconsideration after... <i>See</i> Voice or tie vote <i>under</i> <b>Reconsideration</b>	
<b>Unanimous consent</b>	
Germanity waiver, R.12.8(d) .....	53
Reconsideration, committee or subcommittee, R.7.15(e) .....	27
Reconsideration, renewal after disposition R.11.7(d) .....	44
<b>Voice vote</b>	
Concurrent resolutions, memorials, R.10.8 ...	38
House resolutions, R.10.9(a) .....	39
Reconsideration after, R.11.7(a) .....	44
Voting for another member, R.9.5 .....	36
Vouchers .....	<b>See Expenses and expenditures</b>
<b>Waiver of Rules</b>	
Generally, suspending, R.13.2 .....	55
Germanity, R.12.8(d) .....	53
Immediately certify, R.11.7(j) .....	45
Readings of bills, R.10.7 .....	38
Substitute Senate bill, different reading, R.5.17 .....	17
Unanimous consent, R.12.8(d) .....	53
<b>Well of House, use by members, R.8.2(a)....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Withdraw bill from</b>	
Committee or subcommittee	
To a different committee or subcommittee, R.11.11(b)–(c) .....	47
Two-thirds vote requirement, R.11.11(a) .....	46
Further consideration	
Not counted toward bill limit, R.5.3(b)(9) ...	11
Out of order amendment, R.12.9(b) .....	54
Prior to introduction, letter, R.11.11(f)(2) ...	47
<b>Witnesses</b>	
Administration of oath	
Claim bill hearing, R.5.6(a) .....	13
Committee, subcommittee meeting, R.7.20 .....	28
Compelling attendance of, R.16.1(a) .....	65
Enforcement of subpoena	
During session, R.16.2 .....	65
Out of session, R.16.6 .....	67
Member as, judicial proceedings, statutory continuance. .... <i>See</i> s.11.111, F.S.	
Not "lobbyist" when, J.R.1.1(4)(e) .....	83
Protection during meeting, R.7.21(a) .....	29
Reimbursement, R.16.4(a) .....	66
Right of other persons affected, R.16.5(a) ....	67
Rights of, R.16.4 .....	66
Special Master administering oath, R.5.6(a) .....	13
Subpoena. .... <i>See</i> <b>Subpoena,</b> <b>legislative</b>	
Transcript, right to copy of, R.16.4(f) .....	67
<b>Writs</b>	
Clerk attests to, R.4.1(b) .....	9
Execution by Speaker, R.2.4 .....	4
<b>Written motion</b>	
Speaker may require, R.11.1 .....	43
<b>Yeas and nays, taking of, R.9.2 .....</b>	<b>35</b>



**APPENDIX A**  
**FLORIDA STATUTES (2022)**  
**CHAPTER ELEVEN**  
**Legislative Organization, Procedures, and Staffing**  
**(selected sections)**

- 11.011 Special session; convened by Legislature.
- 11.02 Notice of special or local legislation or certain relief acts.
- 11.021 Evidence of publication of notice.
- 11.03 Proof of publication of notice.
- 11.031 Official census.
- 11.0431 Legislative records; intent of legislation; exemption from public disclosure.
- 11.065 Claims against state; limitations; notice.
- 11.07 Method of enrolling bills, etc.
- 11.111 Continuance of certain causes for term of Legislature and period of time prior and subsequent thereto and committee workdays.
- 11.12 Salary, subsistence, and mileage of members and employees; expenses authorized by resolution; appropriation; preaudit.
- 11.13 Compensation of members.
- 11.131 Monetary supplements prohibited.
- 11.135 Legislative committees, units, and offices; expenditures.
- 11.143 Standing or select committees; powers.
- 11.25 Salaries and expenditures not subject to control of executive agencies.
- 11.26 Legislative employees; employment restrictions.
- 11.40 Legislative Auditing Committee.
- 11.42 The Auditor General.
- 11.51 Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.
- 11.62 Legislative review of proposed regulation of unregulated functions.
- 11.90 Legislative Budget Commission.



**11.011 Special session; convened by Legislature.—**

(1) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, by joint proclamation duly filed with the Department of State, may convene the Legislature in special session pursuant to the authority of s. 3, Art. III of the State Constitution.

(2) The Legislature may also be convened in special session in the following manner: When 20 percent of the members of the Legislature shall execute in writing and file with the Department of State their certificates that conditions warrant the convening of the Legislature into special session, the Department of State shall, within 7 days after receiving the requisite number of such certificates, poll the members of the Legislature, and upon the affirmative vote of three-fifths of the members of both houses, shall forthwith fix the day and hour for the convening of such special session. Notice thereof shall be given each member by registered mail within 7 days after receiving the requisite number of said certificates. The time for convening of said session shall not be less than 14 days nor more than 21 days from the date of mailing said notices. In pursuance of said certificates, affirmative vote of the membership, and notice, the Legislature shall convene in special session. Should the Department of State fail to receive the requisite number of said certificates requesting the convening of a special session of the Legislature within a period of 60 days after receipt of the first of said certificates, all certificates previously filed shall be rendered null and void and no special session shall be called, and said certificates shall not be used at any future time for the convening of the Legislature.

(3) During any special session convened pursuant to this section, only such legislative business may be transacted as is within the purview of the purpose or purposes stated in the proclamation, the certificates filed with the Secretary of State, or in a communication from the Governor or as is introduced by consent of two-thirds of the membership of each house.

**11.02 Notice of special or local legislation or certain relief acts.—** The notice required to obtain special or local legislation or any relief act specified in s. 11.065 shall be by publishing the identical notice as provided in chapter 50 or circulated throughout the county or counties where the matter or thing to be affected by such legislation shall be situated one time at least 30 days before introduction of the proposed law into the Legislature or, if the notice is not published on a publicly accessible website as provided in s. 50.0311 and there is no newspaper circulated throughout or published in the county, by posting for at least 30 days at not fewer than three public places in the county or each of the counties, one of which places shall be at the courthouse in the county or counties where the matter or thing to be affected by such legislation shall be situated. Notice of special or local legislation shall state the substance of the contemplated law, as required by s. 10, Art. III of the State Constitution. Notice of any relief act specified in s. 11.065 shall state the name of the claimant, the



nature of the injury or loss for which the claim is made, and the amount of the claim against the affected municipality's revenue-sharing trust fund.

**11.021 Evidence of publication of notice.**—The evidence that such notice has been published shall be established in the Legislature before such bill shall be passed, and such evidence shall be filed or preserved with the bill in the Department of State in such manner as the Legislature shall provide.

**11.03 Proof of publication of notice.**—

(1) Affidavit of proof of publication of such notice of intention to apply therefor, may be made, in substantially the following general form, but such form shall not be exclusive:

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, who on oath does solemnly swear (or affirm) that she or he has knowledge of the matters stated herein; that a notice stating the substance of a contemplated law or proposed bill relating to

(here identify bill)

has been published at least 30 days prior to this date, by being printed in the issues of (here state day, month and year of issue or issues) of the \_\_\_\_\_, a newspaper or newspapers published in \_\_\_\_\_ County or Counties, Florida (or there being no newspaper, by being posted for at least 30 days prior to this date at three public places in \_\_\_\_\_ County or Counties, one of which places was at the courthouse of said county or counties, where the matter or thing to be affected by the contemplated law is situated; that a copy of the notice that has been published as aforesaid and also this affidavit of proof of publication are attached to the proposed bill or contemplated law, and such copy of the notice so attached is by reference made a part of this affidavit.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, (year), by (name of person making statement).

(Signature of Notary Public - State of Florida)

(Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public)

Personally Known \_\_\_\_\_ OR Produced Identification

\_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Identification Produced \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Such affidavit of proof of publication shall be attached to the contemplated law when it is introduced into the Legislature. A true copy of the notice published or posted shall also be attached to the bill when introduced, but it shall not be necessary to enter said published or posted notice, or proof thereof, in the journals. The fact that such notice was established in the

Legislature shall in every case be recited upon the journals of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, and the notice published and affidavit of publication thereof shall accompany the bill throughout the Legislature and be preserved as a part thereof in the Department of State.

**11.031 Official census.—**

(1) All acts of the Florida Legislature based upon population and all constitutional apportionments shall be based upon the last federal decennial statewide census.

(2) No special county or district census shall be effective for any purposes other than to ascertain the population for the purpose of interpreting an existing law relating to additional judges of the circuit court and additional county court judges, but no existing population or apportionment act shall be affected by a special census.

(3) The last federal decennial statewide census shall not be effective for the purpose of affecting acts of the Legislature enacted prior thereto which apply only to counties of the state within a stated population bracket until July 1 of the year following the taking of such census.

**11.0431 Legislative records; intent of legislation; exemption from public disclosure.—**

(1) It is the policy of the Legislature that every person has the right to inspect and copy records of the Senate and the House of Representatives received in connection with the official business of the Legislature as provided for by the constitution of this state. To that end, public records shall be open to personal inspection and copying at reasonable times except when specific public necessity justifies that public records be exempt from such inspection and copying.

(2) The following public records are exempt from inspection and copying:

(a) Records, or information contained therein, held by the legislative branch of government which, if held by an agency as defined in s. 119.011, or any other unit of government, would be confidential or exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1), or otherwise exempt from public disclosure, and records or information of the same type held by the Legislature.

(b) A formal complaint about a member or officer of the Legislature or about a lobbyist and the records relating to the complaint, until the complaint is dismissed, a determination as to probable cause has been made, a determination that there are sufficient grounds for review has been made and no probable cause panel is to be appointed, or the respondent has requested in writing that the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives make public the complaint or other records relating to the complaint, whichever occurs first.

(c) A legislatively produced draft, and a legislative request for a draft, of a bill, resolution, memorial, or legislative rule, and an amendment thereto,

which is not provided to any person other than the member or members who requested the draft, an employee of the Legislature, a member of the Legislature who is a supervisor of the legislative employee, a contract employee or consultant retained by the Legislature, or an officer of the Legislature.

(d) A draft of a bill analysis or fiscal note until the bill analysis or fiscal note is provided to a person other than an employee of the Legislature, a contract employee or consultant retained by the Legislature, or an officer of the Legislature.

(e) A draft, and a request for a draft, of a reapportionment plan or redistricting plan and an amendment thereto. Any supporting documents associated with such plan or amendment until a bill implementing the plan, or the amendment, is filed.

(f) Records prepared for or used in executive sessions of the Senate until 10 years after the date on which the executive session was held.

(g) Portions of records of former legislative investigating committees whose records are sealed or confidential as of June 30, 1993, which may reveal the identity of any witness, any person who was a subject of the inquiry, or any person referred to in testimony, documents, or evidence retained in the committee's records; however, this exemption does not apply to a member of the committee, its staff, or any public official who was not a subject of the inquiry.

(h) Requests by members for an advisory opinion concerning the application of the rules of either house pertaining to ethics, unless the member requesting the opinion authorizes in writing the release of such information. All advisory opinions shall be open to inspection except that the identity of the member shall not be disclosed in the opinion unless the member requesting the opinion authorizes in writing the release of such information.

(i) Portions of correspondence held by the legislative branch which, if disclosed, would reveal: information otherwise exempt from disclosure by law; an individual's medical treatment, history, or condition; the identity or location of an individual if there is a substantial likelihood that releasing such information would jeopardize the health or safety of that individual; or information regarding physical abuse, child abuse, spouse abuse, or abuse of the elderly.

(3) Any record created prior to July 1, 1993, which was not available to the public from the house, commission, committee, or office of the legislative branch that created the record, is exempt from inspection and copying until July 1, 1993. Prior to July 1, 1993, the presiding officer of each house shall determine which records held by that house should remain exempt from inspection and copying. The presiding officers of both houses shall jointly determine which records held by joint committees should remain exempt from inspection and copying. No later than July 1, 1993, the presiding officers shall publish a list of records that remain exempt from inspection and copying.

(4) For purposes of this section, "public record" means all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, tapes, photographs, films, sound recordings, or other material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received pursuant to law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business by the legislative branch.

(5) Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the authority of each house of the Legislature to adopt rules pursuant to Art. I, s. 24 of the State Constitution.

#### **11.065 Claims against state; limitations; notice.—**

(1) No claims against the state shall be presented to the Legislature more than 4 years after the cause for relief accrued. Any claim presented after this time of limitation shall be void and unenforceable.

(2) All relief acts of the Legislature shall be for payment in full. No further claims for relief shall be submitted to the Legislature in the future.

(3) Notice shall be given as provided in s. 11.02 prior to the introduction of any relief act which provides for the payment of the claim from funds scheduled for distribution to a municipality from the revenue-sharing trust fund for municipalities.

#### **11.07 Method of enrolling bills, etc.—**

(1) All bills and joint resolutions passed by the Senate and House of Representatives shall be duly enrolled, on paper, by the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House of Representatives, accordingly as the bills or joint resolutions may have originated in the Senate or House of Representatives, before they shall be presented to the Governor or filed in the Department of State.

(2) Coded indicators of words to be added or deleted from existing sections of the Florida Statutes or the State Constitution, as authorized by the rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, shall not be deleted upon enrolling of the act. However, such indicators are solely for the convenience of those using the pamphlet and session laws and shall not be considered to constitute a part of the act as passed.

(3) The size, style and quality of the paper to be used shall be prescribed by the Department of State and furnished by it, in sufficient quantities, to the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives. The cost of said enrolling paper shall be paid for by the Legislature from the appropriation for legislative expense.

**11.111 Continuance of certain causes for term of Legislature and period of time prior and subsequent thereto and committee workdays.—**Any proceeding before any court, municipality, or agency of government of this state shall stand continued, without the continuance being charged against any party, during any session of the Legislature and for a period of time 15 days prior to any session of the Legislature and 15 days subsequent to the conclusion of any session of the Legislature, and during any period of required committee work

and for a period of time 1 day prior and 1 day subsequent thereto, when either attorney representing the litigants is a legislator or when a member of the Legislature is a party or witness or is scheduled to appear before any municipal government, administrative board, or agency, when notice to that effect is given to the convening authority by such member. The time period for determining the right to a speedy trial shall be tolled during the period of the continuance, but the providing of such a continuance shall not act as a waiver to the right to a speedy trial. The immunity herein granted shall, upon the filing of a notice by the witness, extend to any member not an attorney who is engaged in any proceeding before any court or any state, county, or municipal agency or board in a representative capacity for any individual or group or as a witness in any proceeding. After said notice has been filed by a member of the Legislature called as a witness, the proceeding may proceed notwithstanding such notice if the party calling such member as a witness shall agree.

**11.12 Salary, subsistence, and mileage of members and employees; expenses authorized by resolution; appropriation; preaudit.—**

(1) The Chief Financial Officer is authorized to pay the salary, subsistence, and mileage of the members of the Legislature as the same shall be authorized by law. The Chief Financial Officer may pay the compensation of employees of the Legislature, together with reimbursement for their authorized travel as provided in s. 112.061, and such expense of the Legislature as shall be authorized by law, a concurrent resolution, a resolution of either house, or rules adopted by the respective houses, provided the total amount appropriated to the legislative branch shall not be altered, upon receipt of such warrant therefor. The number, duties, and compensation of the employees of the respective houses and of their committees shall be determined as provided by the rules of the respective house or in this chapter. Each legislator may designate no more than two employees to attend sessions of the Legislature, and those employees who change their places of residence in order to attend the session shall be paid subsistence at a rate to be established by the President of the Senate for Senate employees and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for House employees. Such employees, in addition to subsistence, shall be paid transportation expenses in accordance with s. 112.061(7) and (8) for actual transportation between their homes and the seat of government in order to attend the legislative session and return home, as well as for two round trips during the course of any regular session of the Legislature.

(2) All vouchers covering legislative expenses shall be preaudited by the Chief Financial Officer, and, if found to be correct, state warrants shall be issued therefor.

**11.13 Compensation of members.—**

(1)(a) The annual salaries of members of the Senate and House of Representatives, payable in 12 equal monthly installments, shall be:

1. The President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, \$25,000 each.

2. All other members of the Senate and House of Representatives, \$18,000 each.

(b) Effective July 1, 1986, and each July 1 thereafter, the annual salaries of members of the Senate and House of Representatives shall be adjusted by the average percentage increase in the salaries of state career service employees for the fiscal year just concluded. The Appropriations Committee of each house shall certify to the Office of Legislative Services the average percentage increase in the salaries of state career service employees before July 1 of each year. The Office of Legislative Services shall, as of July 1 of each year, determine the adjusted annual salaries as provided herein.

(2) During the time the Legislature is in session, each legislator shall be paid subsistence at a rate to be established by the President of the Senate for members of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for members of the House. Each legislator, in addition to subsistence, shall be paid travel expenses in accordance with s. 112.061(7) and (8) for actual travel between the legislator's home and the seat of government for not more than one round trip per week or fraction of a week during any regular, special, or extraordinary session of the Legislature or for the convening of either the House or Senate for official business.

(3) Members of any standing or select committee or subcommittee thereof shall receive per diem and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061 from the appropriation for legislative expenses.

(4) Each member of the Legislature shall be entitled to receive a monthly allowance for intradistrict expenses in an amount set annually by the President of the Senate for members of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for members of the House. In setting the amount, the costs of maintaining a legislative district office or offices that provide an appropriate level of constituent services shall be considered. The procedure for disbursement of the monthly intradistrict expense allowed shall be set from time to time by the Office of Legislative Services, with the approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives or their respective designees. Such expenses shall be a proper expense of the Legislature and shall be disbursed from the appropriation for legislative expense. The expenses provided under this subsection shall not include any travel and per diem reimbursed under subsections (2) and (3) or the rules of either house.

(5)(a) All expenditures of the Senate, House of Representatives, and offices, committees, and divisions of the Legislature shall be made pursuant to and, unless changed as provided below, within the limits of budgetary estimates of expenditure for each fiscal year prepared and submitted prior to June 15 by the administrative head of each such house, office, committee, or division and approved by the President of the Senate as to Senate budgets, by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as to House budgets, and by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives acting jointly as to joint committees and other units of the Legislature. Amounts in the approved

estimates of expenditure may be transferred between budgetary units within the Senate, House of Representatives, and joint activities by the original approving authority. Funds may be transferred between items of appropriation to the Legislature when approved by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, provided the total amount appropriated to the legislative branch shall not be altered. The Office of Legislative Services shall formulate and present to each house and office thereof recommendations concerning the form and preparation of such budgets and procedures for their adoption and transmission.

(b) Thirty days prior to the date established by s. 216.023 for submission of legislative budgets by all state agencies to the Governor, all budgetary units required to submit estimates of expenditures as provided by paragraph (a) shall annually submit tentative estimates of their financial needs for the next fiscal year beginning July 1 to the authorities required by that paragraph so that the financial needs of the Legislature for the ensuing fiscal year may be reported to the Governor by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives as required by s. 216.081.

(c) The Office of Legislative Services shall submit on forms prescribed by the Chief Financial Officer requested allotments of appropriations for the fiscal year. It shall be the duty of the Chief Financial Officer to release the funds and authorize the expenditures for the legislative branch to be made from the appropriations on the basis of the requested allotments. However, the aggregate of such allotments shall not exceed the total appropriations available for the fiscal year.

(6) The pay of members of the Senate and House of Representatives shall be only as set by law.

**11.131 Monetary supplements prohibited.**—All laws or parts of laws, both general or local, which provide a monetary supplement to state legislators from county funds, either as a direct salary supplement or as an expense allowance or as reimbursement for expenses, are hereby repealed. This act shall not be construed to repeal any laws or parts of laws which provide for salaries or expenses to legislative aides or assistants or for the maintenance of a legislative delegation office.

**11.135 Legislative committees, units, and offices; expenditures.**—The Legislature hereby declares and determines that its standing and select committees and all units and offices of the legislative branch of government are not agencies of government as expressed in chapter 216; and no power shall rest in the Executive Office of the Governor or its successor to release or withhold funds appropriated to them, nor to affect the lawful expenditure of such appropriated funds as provided by law and the rules or decisions of the Legislature. Agencies of the executive branch shall have no power to determine the number or fix the compensation of the employees of any standing or select committee or any unit or office of the Legislature or to exercise any manner of control over them.

### **11.143 Standing or select committees; powers.—**

(1) Each standing or select committee, or subcommittee thereof, is authorized to invite public officials and employees and private individuals to appear before the committee for the purpose of submitting information to it. Each such committee is authorized to maintain a continuous review of the work of the state agencies concerned with its subject area and the performance of the functions of government within each such subject area and for this purpose to request reports from time to time, in such form as the committee designates, concerning the operation of any state agency and presenting any proposal or recommendation such agency may have with regard to existing laws or proposed legislation in its subject area.

(2) In order to carry out its duties, each such committee is empowered with the right and authority to inspect and investigate the books, records, papers, documents, data, operation, and physical plant of any public agency in this state, including any confidential information.

(3)(a) In order to carry out its duties, each such committee, whenever required, may issue subpoena and other necessary process to compel the attendance of witnesses before such committee, and the chair thereof shall issue the process on behalf of the committee, in accordance with the rules of the respective house. The chair or any other member of such committee may administer all oaths and affirmations in the manner prescribed by law to witnesses who appear before the committee for the purpose of testifying in any matter concerning which the committee desires evidence.

(b) Each such committee, whenever required, may also compel by subpoena duces tecum the production of any books, letters, or other documentary evidence, including any confidential information, it desires to examine in reference to any matter before it.

(c) Either house during the session may punish by fine or imprisonment any person not a member who has been guilty of disorderly or contemptuous conduct in its presence or of a refusal to obey its lawful summons, but such imprisonment must not extend beyond the final adjournment of the session.

(d) The sheriffs in the several counties or a duly constituted agent of a Florida legislative committee 18 years of age or older shall make such service and execute all process or orders when required by such committees. Sheriffs shall be paid as provided for in s. 30.231.

(4)(a) Whoever willfully affirms or swears falsely in regard to any material matter or thing before any such committee is guilty of false swearing, which constitutes a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(b) If a witness fails to respond to the lawful subpoena of any such committee at a time when the Legislature is not in session or, having responded, fails to answer all lawful inquiries or to turn over evidence that has been



subpoenaed, such committee may file a complaint before any circuit court of the state setting up such failure on the part of the witness. On the filing of such complaint, the court shall take jurisdiction of the witness and the subject matter of the complaint and shall direct the witness to respond to all lawful questions and to produce all documentary evidence in the possession of the witness which is lawfully demanded. The failure of a witness to comply with such order of the court constitutes a direct and criminal contempt of court, and the court shall punish the witness accordingly.

(5) All witnesses summoned before any such committee shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses and per diem at the rates provided in s. 112.061. However, the fact that such reimbursement is not tendered at the time the subpoena is served does not excuse the witness from appearing as directed therein.

### **11.25 Salaries and expenditures not subject to control of executive agencies.—**

(1) The Legislature hereby declares and determines that the employees of the several offices, committees, and other divisions of the Legislature are and shall continue to be groups of employees employed by the Legislature to perform such services as may be provided by law, by rule of the respective house, or directed by the joint committee, whichever is applicable. Such offices, committees and divisions are not agencies of government within the intent of the Legislature as expressed in chapters 216 and 287.

(2) Agencies of the executive branch shall have no power to determine the number or fix the compensation of legislative employees or exercise any manner of control over them. The selection of such employees, the determination of their qualifications and compensation, and the establishment of policies relating to their work, including hours of work, leave, and other matters, shall be the sole prerogative of the Legislature.

### **11.26 Legislative employees; employment restrictions.—**No employee of the Legislature shall:

(1) Subject to the provisions of s. 11.0431, reveal to any person outside the area of the employee's direct responsibility the contents or nature of any request for services made by any member of the Legislature, except with the consent of the member making such request.

(2) Give legal advice on any subject to any person, firm, or corporation, except members or staff of the Legislature.

(3) No full-time legislative employee shall be otherwise employed, except with the written permission of the presiding officer of the house by which he or she is employed. Employees of joint committees must have the permission of the presiding officers of both houses.

### **11.40 Legislative Auditing Committee.—**

(1) The Legislative Auditing Committee may take under investigation any matter within the scope of an audit, review, or examination either completed

or then being conducted by the Auditor General or the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, and, in connection with such investigation, may exercise the powers of subpoena by law vested in a standing committee of the Legislature.

(2) Following notification by the Auditor General, the Department of Financial Services, the Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration, the Governor or his or her designee, or the Commissioner of Education or his or her designee of the failure of a local governmental entity, district school board, charter school, or charter technical career center to comply with the applicable provisions within s. 11.45(5)-(7), s. 218.32(1), s. 218.38, or s. 218.503(3), the Legislative Auditing Committee may schedule a hearing to determine if the entity should be subject to further state action. If the committee determines that the entity should be subject to further state action, the committee shall:

(a) In the case of a local governmental entity or district school board, direct the Department of Revenue and the Department of Financial Services to withhold any funds not pledged for bond debt service satisfaction which are payable to such entity until the entity complies with the law. The committee shall specify the date that such action must begin, and the directive must be received by the Department of Revenue and the Department of Financial Services 30 days before the date of the distribution mandated by law. The Department of Revenue and the Department of Financial Services may implement this paragraph.

(b) In the case of a special district created by:

1. A special act, notify the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the standing committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives charged with special district oversight as determined by the presiding officers of each respective chamber, the legislators who represent a portion of the geographical jurisdiction of the special district, and the Department of Economic Opportunity that the special district has failed to comply with the law. Upon receipt of notification, the Department of Economic Opportunity shall proceed pursuant to s. 189.062 or s. 189.067. If the special district remains in noncompliance after the process set forth in s. 189.0651, or if a public hearing is not held, the Legislative Auditing Committee may request the department to proceed pursuant to s. 189.067(3).

2. A local ordinance, notify the chair or equivalent of the local general-purpose government pursuant to s. 189.0652 and the Department of Economic Opportunity that the special district has failed to comply with the law. Upon receipt of notification, the department shall proceed pursuant to s. 189.062 or s. 189.067. If the special district remains in noncompliance after the process set forth in s. 189.0652, or if a public hearing is not held, the Legislative Auditing Committee may request the department to proceed pursuant to s. 189.067(3).

3. Any manner other than a special act or local ordinance, notify the Department of Economic Opportunity that the special district has failed to comply with the law. Upon receipt of notification, the department shall proceed pursuant to s. 189.062 or s. 189.067(3).

(c) In the case of a charter school or charter technical career center, notify the appropriate sponsoring entity, which may terminate the charter pursuant to ss. 1002.33 and 1002.34.

(3)(a) As used in this subsection, “independent contract auditor” means a state-licensed certified public accountant or firm with which a state-licensed certified public accountant is currently employed or associated who is actively engaged in the accounting profession.

(b) Audits specified in this subsection cover the quarterly compensation reports for the previous calendar year for a random sample of 3 percent of all legislative branch lobbying firms and a random sample of 3 percent of all executive branch lobbying firms calculated using as the total number of such lobbying firms those filing a compensation report for the preceding calendar year. The committee shall provide for a system of random selection of the lobbying firms to be audited.

(c) The committee shall create and maintain a list of not less than 10 independent contract auditors approved to conduct the required audits. Each lobbying firm selected for audit in the random audit process may designate one of the independent contract auditors from the committee’s approved list. Upon failure for any reason of a lobbying firm selected in the random selection process to designate an independent contract auditor from the committee’s list within 30 calendar days after being notified by the committee of its selection, the committee shall assign one of the available independent contract auditors from the approved list to perform the required audit. No independent contract auditor, whether designated by the lobbying firm or by the committee, may perform the audit of a lobbying firm where the auditor and lobbying firm have ever had a direct personal relationship or any professional accounting, auditing, tax advisory, or tax preparing relationship with each other. The committee shall obtain a written, sworn certification subject to s. 837.06, both from the randomly selected lobbying firm and from the proposed independent contract auditor, that no such relationship has ever existed.

(d) Each independent contract auditor shall be engaged by and compensated solely by the state for the work performed in accomplishing an audit under this subsection.

(e) Any violations of law, deficiencies, or material misstatements discovered and noted in an audit report shall be clearly identified in the audit report and be determined under the rules of either house of the Legislature or under the joint rules, as applicable.

(f) If any lobbying firm fails to give full, frank, and prompt cooperation and access to books, records, and associated backup documents as

requested in writing by the auditor, that failure shall be clearly noted by the independent contract auditor in the report of audit.

(g) The committee shall establish procedures for the selection of independent contract auditors desiring to enter into audit contracts pursuant to this subsection. Such procedures shall include, but not be limited to, a rating system that takes into account pertinent information, including the independent contract auditor's fee proposals for participating in the process. All contracts under this subsection between an independent contract auditor and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall be terminable by either party at any time upon written notice to the other, and such contracts may contain such other terms and conditions as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate deem appropriate under the circumstances.

(h) The committee shall adopt guidelines that govern random audits and field investigations conducted pursuant to this subsection. The guidelines shall ensure that similarly situated compensation reports are audited in a uniform manner. The guidelines shall also be formulated to encourage compliance and detect violations of the legislative and executive lobbying compensation reporting requirements in ss. 11.045 and 112.3215 and to ensure that each audit is conducted with maximum efficiency in a cost-effective manner. In adopting the guidelines, the committee shall consider relevant guidelines and standards of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants to the extent that such guidelines and standards are applicable and consistent with the purposes set forth in this subsection.

(i) All audit reports of legislative lobbying firms shall, upon completion by an independent contract auditor, be delivered to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for their respective review and handling. All audit reports of executive branch lobbyists, upon completion by an independent contract auditor, shall be delivered by the auditor to the Commission on Ethics.

#### **11.42 The Auditor General.—**

(1) The Auditor General appointed in this section is the auditor that is required by s. 2, Art. III of the State Constitution.

(2) The Auditor General shall be appointed to office to serve at the pleasure of the Legislature, by a majority vote of the members of the Legislative Auditing Committee, subject to confirmation by both houses of the Legislature. At the time of her or his appointment, the Auditor General shall have been certified under the Public Accountancy Law in this state for a period of at least 10 years and shall have had not less than 10 years' experience in an accounting or auditing related field. Vacancies in the office shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(3)(a) To carry out her or his duties the Auditor General shall make all spending decisions within the annual operating budget approved by the

President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Auditor General shall employ qualified persons necessary for the efficient operation of the Auditor General's office and shall fix their duties and compensation and, with the approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall adopt and administer a uniform personnel, job classification, and pay plan for such employees.

(b) No person shall be employed as a financial auditor who does not possess the qualifications to take the examination for a certificate as certified public accountant under the laws of this state, and no person shall be employed or retained as legal adviser, on either a full-time or a part-time basis, who is not a member of The Florida Bar.

(4) The Auditor General, before entering upon the duties of the office, shall take and subscribe the oath of office required of state officers by the State Constitution.

(5) The appointment of the Auditor General may be terminated at any time by a majority vote of both houses of the Legislature.

(6)(a) The headquarters of the Auditor General shall be at the state capital, but to facilitate auditing and to eliminate unnecessary traveling the Auditor General may establish field offices located outside the state capital. The Auditor General shall be provided with adequate quarters to carry out the position's functions in the state capital and in other areas of the state.

(b) All payrolls and vouchers for the operations of the Auditor General's office shall be submitted to the Chief Financial Officer and, if found to be correct, payments shall be issued therefor.

(7) The Auditor General may make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations necessary to facilitate audits which she or he is authorized to perform.

(8) No officer or salaried employee of the Office of the Auditor General shall serve as the representative of any political party or on any executive committee or other governing body thereof; serve as an executive, officer, or employee of any political party committee, organization, or association; or be engaged on behalf of any candidate for public office in the solicitation of votes or other activities in behalf of such candidacy. Neither the Auditor General nor any employee of the Auditor General may become a candidate for election to public office unless she or he first resigns from office or employment. No officer or salaried employee of the Auditor General shall actively engage in any other business or profession or be otherwise employed without the prior written permission of the Auditor General.

(9) Sections 11.25(1) and 11.26 shall not apply to the Auditor General.

### **11.51 Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.—**

(1) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability is authorized to examine all entities and records listed in s. 11.45(3).

(2) At the conclusion of an examination, the designated representative of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall discuss the examination with the official whose office is examined and submit to that official the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability's preliminary findings. If the official is not available for receipt of the preliminary findings, clearly designated as such, delivery thereof is presumed to be made when it is delivered to his or her office. Whenever necessary, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability may request the official to submit his or her written statement of explanation or rebuttal within 15 days after the receipt of the findings. If the response time is not requested to be within 15 days, the official shall submit his or her response within 30 days after receipt of the preliminary findings.

(3) No later than 18 months after the release of a report of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, the agencies that are the subject of that report shall provide data and other information that describes with specificity what the agencies have done to respond to the recommendations contained in the report. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability may verify the data and information provided by the agencies. If the data and information provided by the agencies are deemed sufficient and accurate, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall report to the Legislative Auditing Committee and to the legislative standing committees concerned with the subject areas of the audit. The report shall include a summary of the agencies' responses, the evaluation of those responses, and any recommendations deemed to be appropriate.

(4) Work papers held by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability which relate to an authorized project or a research product are exempt from s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. The exemption applies to work papers held by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability before, on, or after the effective date of the exemption.

### **11.62 Legislative review of proposed regulation of unregulated functions.—**

(1) This section may be cited as the "Sunrise Act."

(2) It is the intent of the Legislature:

(a) That no profession or occupation be subject to regulation by the state unless the regulation is necessary to protect the public health, safety, or welfare from significant and discernible harm or damage and that the police power of the state be exercised only to the extent necessary for that purpose; and

(b) That no profession or occupation be regulated by the state in a manner that unnecessarily restricts entry into the practice of the profession or occupation or adversely affects the availability of the professional or occupational services to the public.

(3) In determining whether to regulate a profession or occupation, the Legislature shall consider the following factors:

(a) Whether the unregulated practice of the profession or occupation will substantially harm or endanger the public health, safety, or welfare, and whether the potential for harm is recognizable and not remote;

(b) Whether the practice of the profession or occupation requires specialized skill or training, and whether that skill or training is readily measurable or quantifiable so that examination or training requirements would reasonably assure initial and continuing professional or occupational ability;

(c) Whether the regulation will have an unreasonable effect on job creation or job retention in the state or will place unreasonable restrictions on the ability of individuals who seek to practice or who are practicing a given profession or occupation to find employment;

(d) Whether the public is or can be effectively protected by other means; and

(e) Whether the overall cost-effectiveness and economic impact of the proposed regulation, including the indirect costs to consumers, will be favorable.

(4) The proponents of legislation that provides for the regulation of a profession or occupation not already expressly subject to state regulation shall provide, upon request, the following information in writing to the state agency that is proposed to have jurisdiction over the regulation and to the legislative committees to which the legislation is referred:

(a) The number of individuals or businesses that would be subject to the regulation;

(b) The name of each association that represents members of the profession or occupation, together with a copy of its codes of ethics or conduct;

(c) Documentation of the nature and extent of the harm to the public caused by the unregulated practice of the profession or occupation, including a description of any complaints that have been lodged against persons who have practiced the profession or occupation in this state during the preceding 3 years;

(d) A list of states that regulate the profession or occupation, and the dates of enactment of each law providing for such regulation and a copy of each law;

(e) A list and description of state and federal laws that have been enacted to protect the public with respect to the profession or occupation and a statement of the reasons why these laws have not proven adequate to protect the public;

(f) A description of the voluntary efforts made by members of the profession or occupation to protect the public and a statement of the reasons why these efforts are not adequate to protect the public;

(g) A copy of any federal legislation mandating regulation;

(h) An explanation of the reasons why other types of less restrictive regulation would not effectively protect the public;

(i) The cost, availability, and appropriateness of training and examination requirements;

(j) The cost of regulation, including the indirect cost to consumers, and the method proposed to finance the regulation;

(k) The cost imposed on applicants or practitioners or on employers of applicants or practitioners as a result of the regulation;

(l) The details of any previous efforts in this state to implement regulation of the profession or occupation; and

(m) Any other information the agency or the committee considers relevant to the analysis of the proposed legislation.

(5) The agency shall provide the Legislature with information concerning the effect of proposed legislation that provides for new regulation of a profession or occupation regarding:

(a) The departmental resources necessary to implement and enforce the proposed regulation;

(b) The technical sufficiency of the proposal for regulation, including its consistency with the regulation of other professions and occupations under existing law; and

(c) If applicable, any alternatives to the proposed regulation which may result in a less restrictive or more cost-effective regulatory scheme.

(6) When making a recommendation concerning proposed legislation providing for new regulation of a profession or occupation, a legislative committee shall determine:

(a) Whether the regulation is justified based on the criteria specified in subsection (3), the information submitted pursuant to request under subsection (4), and the information provided under subsection (5);

(b) The least restrictive and most cost-effective regulatory scheme that will adequately protect the public; and

(c) The technical sufficiency of the proposed legislation, including its consistency with the regulation of other professions and occupations under existing law.

#### **11.90 Legislative Budget Commission.—**

(1) There is created the Legislative Budget Commission, which is the joint Legislative Budget Commission created in s. 19, Art. III of the State Constitution, composed of seven members of the Senate appointed by the



President of the Senate and seven members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Each member shall serve at the pleasure of the officer who appointed the member. A vacancy on the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. From November of each odd-numbered year through October of each even-numbered year, the chairperson of the commission shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and the vice chairperson of the commission shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. From November of each even-numbered year through October of each odd-numbered year, the chairperson of the commission shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the vice chairperson of the commission shall be appointed by the President of the Senate. The terms of members shall be for 2 years and shall run from the organization of one Legislature to the organization of the next Legislature.

(2) The Legislative Budget Commission shall be governed by joint rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives which shall remain in effect until repealed or amended by concurrent resolution.

(3) The commission shall convene at the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives at least quarterly. A majority of the commission members of each house plus one additional member from either house constitutes a quorum. Action by the commission requires a majority vote of the members present of each house.

(4) The commission may conduct its meetings through teleconferences or other similar means.

(5) The commission shall be staffed by legislative staff members, as assigned by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(6) The commission has the power and duty to:

(a) Review and approve or disapprove budget amendments recommended by the Governor or the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as provided in chapter 216.

(b) Develop the long-range financial outlook described in s. 19, Art. III of the State Constitution.

(c) Exercise all other powers and perform any other duties prescribed by the Legislature.

(7) The commission shall review proposed budget amendments associated with information technology that involve more than one agency, that have an outcome that impacts another agency, or that exceed \$500,000 in total cost over a 1-year period.

(8) The commission may convene to transfer or appropriate unappropriated surplus funds to the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund created under s. 252.3711.

## **APPENDIX B**

<b>Constitution of the State of Florida.....</b>	<b>B-1</b>
<b>INDEX—Florida Constitution.....</b>	<b>B-109</b>
<b>Constitution of the United States.....</b>	<b>B-141</b>
<b>INDEX—U.S. Constitution .....</b>	<b>B-149</b>



**CONSTITUTION**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF FLORIDA**

AS REVISED IN 1968 AND SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED

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*The Constitution of the State of Florida as revised in 1968 consisted of certain revised articles as proposed by three joint resolutions which were adopted during the special session of June 24-July 3, 1968, and ratified by the electorate on November 5, 1968, together with one article carried forward from the Constitution of 1885, as amended. The articles proposed in House Joint Resolution 1-2X constituted the entire revised constitution with the exception of Articles V, VI, and VIII. Senate Joint Resolution 4-2X proposed Article VI, relating to suffrage and elections. Senate Joint Resolution 5-2X proposed a new Article VIII, relating to local government. Article V, relating to the judiciary, was carried forward from the Constitution of 1885, as amended.*

Sections composing the 1968 revision have no history notes. Subsequent changes are indicated by notes appended to the affected sections. The indexes appearing at the beginning of each article, notes appearing at the end of various sections, and section and subsection headings are added editorially and are not to be considered as part of the constitution.

PREAMBLE

We, the people of the State of Florida, being grateful to Almighty God for our constitutional liberty, in order to secure its benefits, perfect our government, insure domestic tranquility, maintain public order, and guarantee equal civil and political rights to all, do ordain and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

Sec.

1. Political power.
2. Basic rights.
3. Religious freedom.
4. Freedom of speech and press.
5. Right to assemble.
6. Right to work.
7. Military power.
8. Right to bear arms.
9. Due process.
10. Prohibited laws.
11. Imprisonment for debt.
12. Searches and seizures.
13. Habeas corpus.
14. Pretrial release and detention.
15. Prosecution for crime; offenses committed by children.
16. Rights of accused and of victims.
17. Excessive punishments.
18. Administrative penalties.
19. Costs.
20. Treason.
21. Access to courts.
22. Trial by jury.
23. Right of privacy.
24. Access to public records and meetings.
25. Taxpayers' Bill of Rights.
26. Claimant's right to fair compensation.
27. Marriage defined.

**SECTION 1. Political power.**—All political power is inherent in the people.

The enunciation herein of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or impair others retained by the people.

**SECTION 2. Basic rights.**—All natural persons, female and male alike, are equal before the law and have inalienable rights, among which are the right to enjoy and defend life and liberty, to pursue happiness, to be rewarded for industry, and to acquire, possess and protect property. No person shall be deprived of any right because of race, religion, national origin, or physical disability.

History.—Am. S.J.R. 917, 1974; adopted 1974; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 9, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 6, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**SECTION 3. Religious freedom.** There shall be no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting or penalizing the free exercise thereof. Religious freedom shall not justify practices inconsistent with public morals, peace or safety. No revenue of the state or any political subdivision or agency thereof shall ever be taken from the public treasury directly or indirectly in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or in aid of any sectarian institution.

**SECTION 4. Freedom of speech and press.**—Every person may speak, write and publish sentiments on all subjects but shall be responsible for the abuse of that right. No law shall be

**ARTICLE I      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE I**

passed to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press. In all criminal prosecutions and civil actions for defamation the truth may be given in evidence. If the matter charged as defamatory is true and was published with good motives, the party shall be acquitted or exonerated.

**History.**—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 5. Right to assemble.**

The people shall have the right peaceably to assemble, to instruct their representatives, and to petition for redress of grievances.

**SECTION 6. Right to work.**—The right of persons to work shall not be denied or abridged on account of membership or non-membership in any labor union or labor organization. The right of employees, by and through a labor organization, to bargain collectively shall not be denied or abridged. Public employees shall not have the right to strike.

**SECTION 7. Military power.**—

The military power shall be subordinate to the civil.

**SECTION 8. Right to bear arms.**

(a) The right of the people to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves and of the lawful authority of the state shall not be infringed, except that the manner of bearing arms may be regulated by law.

(b) There shall be a mandatory period of three days, excluding weekends and legal holidays, between the purchase and delivery at retail of any handgun. For the purposes of this section, "purchase" means the transfer of money or other valuable consideration to the retailer, and "handgun" means a firearm capable of being carried and used by one hand, such

as a pistol or revolver. Holders of a concealed weapon permit as prescribed in Florida law shall not be subject to the provisions of this paragraph.

(c) The legislature shall enact legislation implementing subsection (b) of this section, effective no later than December 31, 1991, which shall provide that anyone violating the provisions of subsection (b) shall be guilty of a felony.

(d) This restriction shall not apply to a trade in of another handgun.

**History.**—Am. C.S. for S.J.R. 43, 1989; adopted 1990.

**SECTION 9. Due process.**—No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, or be twice put in jeopardy for the same offense, or be compelled in any criminal matter to be a witness against oneself.

**History.**—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 10. Prohibited laws.**—

No bill of attainder, ex post facto law or law impairing the obligation of contracts shall be passed.

**SECTION 11. Imprisonment for debt.**—No person shall be imprisoned for debt, except in cases of fraud.

**SECTION 12. Searches and seizures.**—The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, and against the unreasonable interception of private communications by any means, shall not be violated. No warrant shall be issued except upon probable cause, supported by affidavit, particularly describing the place or places to be searched, the person or persons, thing or things to be seized, the communication to be intercepted, and the nature of evidence to be obtained. This

right shall be construed in conformity with the 4th Amendment to the United States Constitution, as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court. Articles or information obtained in violation of this right shall not be admissible in evidence if such articles or information would be inadmissible under decisions of the United States Supreme Court construing the 4th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

**History.**—Am. H.J.R. 31-H, 1982; adopted 1982.

**SECTION 13. Habeas corpus.—**

The writ of habeas corpus shall be grantable of right, freely and without cost. It shall be returnable without delay, and shall never be suspended unless, in case of rebellion or invasion, suspension is essential to the public safety.

**SECTION 14. Pretrial release and detention.—**Unless charged with a capital offense or an offense punishable by life imprisonment and the proof of guilt is evident or the presumption is great, every person charged with a crime or violation of municipal or county ordinance shall be entitled to pretrial release on reasonable conditions. If no conditions of release can reasonably protect the community from risk of physical harm to persons, assure the presence of the accused at trial, or assure the integrity of the judicial process, the accused may be detained.

**History.**—Am. H.J.R. 43-H, 1982; adopted 1982.

**SECTION 15. Prosecution for crime; offenses committed by children.—**

(a) No person shall be tried for capital crime without presentment or indictment by a grand jury, or for other felony without such presentment or indictment or an information under oath filed by the prosecuting officer of the court, except persons on active

duty in the militia when tried by courts martial.

(b) When authorized by law, a child as therein defined may be charged with a violation of law as an act of delinquency instead of crime and tried without a jury or other requirements applicable to criminal cases. Any child so charged shall, upon demand made as provided by law before a trial in a juvenile proceeding, be tried in an appropriate court as an adult. A child found delinquent shall be disciplined as provided by law.

**SECTION 16. Rights of accused and of victims.—**

(a) In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall, upon demand, be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, and shall be furnished a copy of the charges, and shall have the right to have compulsory process for witnesses, to confront at trial adverse witnesses, to be heard in person, by counsel or both, and to have a speedy and public trial by impartial jury in the county where the crime was committed. If the county is not known, the indictment or information may charge venue in two or more counties conjunctively and proof that the crime was committed in that area shall be sufficient; but before pleading the accused may elect in which of those counties the trial will take place. Venue for prosecution of crimes committed beyond the boundaries of the state shall be fixed by law.

(b) To preserve and protect the right of crime victims to achieve justice, ensure a meaningful role throughout the criminal and juvenile justice systems for crime victims, and ensure that crime victims' rights and interests are respected and protected by law in a manner no less vigorous than protections afforded to criminal defendants and juvenile delinquents, every victim is

entitled to the following rights, beginning at the time of his or her victimization:

(1) The right to due process and to be treated with fairness and respect for the victim's dignity.

(2) The right to be free from intimidation, harassment, and abuse.

(3) The right, within the judicial process, to be reasonably protected from the accused and any person acting on behalf of the accused. However, nothing contained herein is intended to create a special relationship between the crime victim and any law enforcement agency or office absent a special relationship or duty as defined by Florida law.

(4) The right to have the safety and welfare of the victim and the victim's family considered when setting bail, including setting pretrial release conditions that protect the safety and welfare of the victim and the victim's family.

(5) The right to prevent the disclosure of information or records that could be used to locate or harass the victim or the victim's family, or which could disclose confidential or privileged information of the victim.

(6) A victim shall have the following specific rights upon request:

a. The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of, and to be present at, all public proceedings involving the criminal conduct, including, but not limited to, trial, plea, sentencing, or adjudication, even if the victim will be a witness at the proceeding, notwithstanding any rule to the contrary. A victim shall also be provided reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any release or escape of the defendant or delinquent, and any proceeding during which a right of the victim is implicated.

b. The right to be heard in any public proceeding involving pretrial or other release from any form of legal constraint, plea, sentencing,

adjudication, or parole, and any proceeding during which a right of the victim is implicated.

c. The right to confer with the prosecuting attorney concerning any plea agreements, participation in pretrial diversion programs, release, restitution, sentencing, or any other disposition of the case.

d. The right to provide information regarding the impact of the offender's conduct on the victim and the victim's family to the individual responsible for conducting any presentence investigation or compiling any presentence investigation report, and to have any such information considered in any sentencing recommendations submitted to the court.

e. The right to receive a copy of any presentence report, and any other report or record relevant to the exercise of a victim's right, except for such portions made confidential or exempt by law.

f. The right to be informed of the conviction, sentence, adjudication, place and time of incarceration, or other disposition of the convicted offender, any scheduled release date of the offender, and the release of or the escape of the offender from custody.

g. The right to be informed of all postconviction processes and procedures, to participate in such processes and procedures, to provide information to the release authority to be considered before any release decision is made, and to be notified of any release decision regarding the offender. The parole or early release authority shall extend the right to be heard to any person harmed by the offender.

h. The right to be informed of clemency and expungement procedures, to provide information to the governor, the court, any clemency board, and other authority in these procedures, and to have that



information considered before a clemency or expungement decision is made; and to be notified of such decision in advance of any release of the offender.

(7) The rights of the victim, as provided in subparagraph (6)a., subparagraph (6)b., or subparagraph (6)c., that apply to any first appearance proceeding are satisfied by a reasonable attempt by the appropriate agency to notify the victim and convey the victim's views to the court.

(8) The right to the prompt return of the victim's property when no longer needed as evidence in the case.

(9) The right to full and timely restitution in every case and from each convicted offender for all losses suffered, both directly and indirectly, by the victim as a result of the criminal conduct.

(10) The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay, and to a prompt and final conclusion of the case and any related postjudgment proceedings.

a. The state attorney may file a good faith demand for a speedy trial and the trial court shall hold a calendar call, with notice, within fifteen days of the filing demand, to schedule a trial to commence on a date at least five days but no more than sixty days after the date of the calendar call unless the trial judge enters an order with specific findings of fact justifying a trial date more than sixty days after the calendar call.

b. All state-level appeals and collateral attacks on any judgment must be complete within two years from the date of appeal in non-capital cases and within five years from the date of appeal in capital cases, unless a court enters an order with specific findings as to why the court was unable to comply with this subparagraph and the circumstances causing the delay. Each year, the chief

judge of any district court of appeal or the chief justice of the supreme court shall report on a case-by-case basis to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate all cases where the court entered an order regarding inability to comply with this subparagraph. The legislature may enact legislation to implement this subparagraph.

(11) The right to be informed of these rights, and to be informed that victims can seek the advice of an attorney with respect to their rights. This information shall be made available to the general public and provided to all crime victims in the form of a card or by other means intended to effectively advise the victim of their rights under this section.

(c) The victim, the retained attorney of the victim, a lawful representative of the victim, or the office of the state attorney upon request of the victim, may assert and seek enforcement of the rights enumerated in this section and any other right afforded to a victim by law in any trial or appellate court, or before any other authority with jurisdiction over the case, as a matter of right. The court or other authority with jurisdiction shall act promptly on such a request, affording a remedy by due course of law for the violation of any right. The reasons for any decision regarding the disposition of a victim's right shall be clearly stated on the record.

(d) The granting of the rights enumerated in this section to victims may not be construed to deny or impair any other rights possessed by victims. The provisions of this section apply throughout criminal and juvenile justice processes, are self-executing, and do not require implementing legislation. This section may not be construed to create any cause of action for damages against the state or a political subdivision of the state, or any officer,

employee, or agent of the state or its political subdivisions.

(e) As used in this section, a “victim” is a person who suffers direct or threatened physical, psychological, or financial harm as a result of the commission or attempted commission of a crime or delinquent act or against whom the crime or delinquent act is committed. The term “victim” includes the victim’s lawful representative, the parent or guardian of a minor, or the next of kin of a homicide victim, except upon a showing that the interest of such individual would be in actual or potential conflict with the interests of the victim. The term “victim” does not include the accused. The terms “crime” and “criminal” include delinquent acts and conduct.

**History.**—Am. S.J.R. 135, 1987; adopted 1988; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 1, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**SECTION 17. Excessive punishments.**—Excessive fines, cruel and unusual punishment, attainder, forfeiture of estate, indefinite imprisonment, and unreasonable detention of witnesses are forbidden. The death penalty is an authorized punishment for capital crimes designated by the legislature. The prohibition against cruel or unusual punishment, and the prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment, shall be construed in conformity with decisions of the United States Supreme Court which interpret the prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment provided in the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Any method of execution shall be allowed, unless prohibited by the United States Constitution. Methods of execution may be designated by the legislature, and a change in any method of execution may be applied retroactively. A sentence of death shall not

be reduced on the basis that a method of execution is invalid. In any case in which an execution method is declared invalid, the death sentence shall remain in force until the sentence can be lawfully executed by any valid method. This section shall apply retroactively.

**History.**—Am. H.J.R. 3505, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. H.J.R. 951, 2001; adopted 2002.

**SECTION 18. Administrative penalties.**—No administrative agency, except the Department of Military Affairs in an appropriately convened court-martial action as provided by law, shall impose a sentence of imprisonment, nor shall it impose any other penalty except as provided by law.

**History.**—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 19. Costs.**—No person charged with crime shall be compelled to pay costs before a judgment of conviction has become final.

**SECTION 20. Treason.**—Treason against the state shall consist only in levying war against it, adhering to its enemies, or giving them aid and comfort, and no person shall be convicted of treason except on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act or on confession in open court.

**SECTION 21. Access to courts.** The courts shall be open to every person for redress of any injury, and justice shall be administered without sale, denial or delay.

**SECTION 22. Trial by jury.**—The right of trial by jury shall be secure to all and remain inviolate. The qualifications and the number of jurors, not fewer than six, shall be fixed by law.

**SECTION 23. Right of privacy.**—Every natural person has the right to be let alone and free from governmental

intrusion into the person’s private life except as otherwise provided herein. This section shall not be construed to limit the public’s right of access to public records and meetings as provided by law.

**History.**—Added, C.S. for H.J.R. 387, 1980; adopted 1980; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 24. Access to public records and meetings.—**

(a) Every person has the right to inspect or copy any public record made or received in connection with the official business of any public body, officer, or employee of the state, or persons acting on their behalf, except with respect to records exempted pursuant to this section or specifically made confidential by this Constitution. This section specifically includes the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government and each agency or department created thereunder; counties, municipalities, and districts; and each constitutional officer, board, and commission, or entity created pursuant to law or this Constitution.

(b) All meetings of any collegial public body of the executive branch of state government or of any collegial public body of a county, municipality, school district, or special district, at which official acts are to be taken or at which public business of such body is to be transacted or discussed, shall be open and noticed to the public and meetings of the legislature shall be open and noticed as provided in Article III, Section 4(e), except with respect to meetings exempted pursuant to this section or specifically closed by this Constitution.

(c) This section shall be self-executing. The legislature, however, may provide by general law passed by a two-thirds vote of each house for the exemption of records from the

requirements of subsection (a) and the exemption of meetings from the requirements of subsection (b), provided that such law shall state with specificity the public necessity justifying the exemption and shall be no broader than necessary to accomplish the stated purpose of the law. The legislature shall enact laws governing the enforcement of this section, including the maintenance, control, destruction, disposal, and disposition of records made public by this section, except that each house of the legislature may adopt rules governing the enforcement of this section in relation to records of the legislative branch. Laws enacted pursuant to this subsection shall contain only exemptions from the requirements of subsections (a) or (b) and provisions governing the enforcement of this section, and shall relate to one subject.

(d) All laws that are in effect on July 1, 1993 that limit public access to records or meetings shall remain in force, and such laws apply to records of the legislative and judicial branches, until they are repealed. Rules of court that are in effect on the date of adoption of this section that limit access to records shall remain in effect until they are repealed.

**History.**—Added, C.S. for C.S. for H.J.R.’s 1727, 863, 2035, 1992; adopted 1992; Am. S.J.R. 1284, 2002; adopted 2002.

**SECTION 25. Taxpayers’ Bill of Rights.—**

By general law the legislature shall prescribe and adopt a Taxpayers’ Bill of Rights that, in clear and concise language, sets forth taxpayers’ rights and responsibilities and government’s responsibilities to deal fairly with taxpayers under the laws of this state. This section shall be effective July 1, 1993.

**History.**—Proposed by Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, Revision No. 2, 1992, filed with the Secretary of State May 7, 1992; adopted 1992.

**Note.**—This section, originally designated section 24 by Revision No. 2 of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, 1992, was redesignated section 25 by the

**ARTICLE I      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE II**

editors in order to avoid confusion with section 24 as contained in H.J.R.s 1727, 863, 2035, 1992.

**SECTION 26. Claimant’s right to fair compensation.—**

(a) Article I, Section 26 is created to read “Claimant’s right to fair compensation.” In any medical liability claim involving a contingency fee, the claimant is entitled to receive no less than 70% of the first \$250,000.00 in all damages received by the claimant, exclusive of reasonable and customary costs, whether received by judgment, settlement, or otherwise, and regardless of the number of defendants. The claimant is entitled to 90% of all damages in excess of \$250,000.00, exclusive of reasonable and customary costs and regardless of the number of defendants. This provision is self-executing and does not require implementing legislation.

(b) This Amendment shall take effect on the day following approval by the voters.

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State September 8, 2003; adopted 2004.

**SECTION 27. Marriage defined.**

Inasmuch as marriage is the legal union of only one man and one woman as husband and wife, no other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof shall be valid or recognized.

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State February 9, 2005; adopted 2008.

**ARTICLE II**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Sec.

1. State boundaries.
2. Seat of government.
3. Branches of government.
4. State seal and flag.
5. Public officers.
6. Enemy attack.

Sec.

7. Natural resources and scenic beauty.
8. Ethics in government.
9. English is the official language of Florida.

**SECTION 1. State boundaries.—**

(a) The state boundaries are: Begin at the mouth of the Perdido River, which for the purposes of this description is defined as the point where latitude 30°16’53’’ north and longitude 87°31’06’’ west intersect; thence to the point where latitude 30°17’02’’ north and longitude 87°31’06’’ west intersect; thence to the point where latitude 30°18’00’’ north and longitude 87°27’08’’ west intersect; thence to the point where the center line of the Intracoastal Canal (as the same existed on June 12, 1953) and longitude 87°27’00’’ west intersect; the same being in the middle of the Perdido River; thence up the middle of the Perdido River to the point where it intersects the south boundary of the State of Alabama, being also the point of intersection of the middle of the Perdido River with latitude 31°00’00’’ north; thence east, along the south boundary line of the State of Alabama, the same being latitude 31°00’00’’ north to the middle of the Chattahoochee River; thence down the middle of said river to its confluence with the Flint River; thence in a straight line to the head of the St. Marys River; thence down the middle of said river to the Atlantic Ocean; thence due east to the edge of the Gulf Stream or a distance of three geographic miles whichever is the greater distance; thence in a southerly direction along the edge of the Gulf Stream or along a line three geographic miles from the Atlantic coastline and three leagues distant from the Gulf of Mexico coastline, whichever is greater,

**ARTICLE II      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE II**

to and through the Straits of Florida and westerly, including the Florida reefs, to a point due south of and three leagues from the southernmost point of the Marquesas Keys; thence westerly along a straight line to a point due south of and three leagues from Loggerhead Key, the westernmost of the Dry Tortugas Islands; thence westerly, northerly and easterly along the arc of a curve three leagues distant from Loggerhead Key to a point due north of Loggerhead Key; thence northeast along a straight line to a point three leagues from the coastline of Florida; thence northerly and westerly three leagues distant from the coastline to a point west of the mouth of the Perdido River three leagues from the coastline as measured on a line bearing south 0°01'00" west from the point of beginning; thence northerly along said line to the point of beginning. The State of Florida shall also include any additional territory within the United States adjacent to the Peninsula of Florida lying south of the St. Marys River, east of the Perdido River, and south of the States of Alabama and Georgia.

(b) The coastal boundaries may be extended by statute to the limits permitted by the laws of the United States or international law.

**SECTION 2.    Seat of government.**

The seat of government shall be the City of Tallahassee, in Leon County, where the offices of the governor, lieutenant governor, cabinet members and the supreme court shall be maintained and the sessions of the legislature shall be held; provided that, in time of invasion or grave emergency, the governor by proclamation may for the period of the emergency transfer the seat of government to another place.

**SECTION 3.    Branches of government.—**The powers of the state

government shall be divided into legislative, executive and judicial branches. No person belonging to one branch shall exercise any powers appertaining to either of the other branches unless expressly provided herein.

**SECTION 4.    State seal and flag.**

The design of the great seal and flag of the state shall be prescribed by law.

**SECTION 5.    Public officers.—**

(a) No person holding any office of emolument under any foreign government, or civil office of emolument under the United States or any other state, shall hold any office of honor or of emolument under the government of this state. No person shall hold at the same time more than one office under the government of the state and the counties and municipalities therein, except that a notary public or military officer may hold another office, and any officer may be a member of a constitution revision commission, taxation and budget reform commission, constitutional convention, or statutory body having only advisory powers.

(b) Each state and county officer, before entering upon the duties of the office, shall give bond as required by law, and shall swear or affirm:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the state; and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of           (title of office)           on which I am now about to enter. So help me God."

and thereafter shall devote personal attention to the duties of the office, and continue in office until a successor qualifies.

(c) The powers, duties, compensation and method of payment of state

and county officers shall be fixed by law.

**History.**—Am. H.J.R. 1616, 1988; adopted 1988; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 6. Enemy attack.**—In periods of emergency resulting from enemy attack the legislature shall have power to provide for prompt and temporary succession to the powers and duties of all public offices the incumbents of which may become unavailable to execute the functions of their offices, and to adopt such other measures as may be necessary and appropriate to insure the continuity of governmental operations during the emergency. In exercising these powers, the legislature may depart from other requirements of this constitution, but only to the extent necessary to meet the emergency.

**SECTION 7. Natural resources and scenic beauty.**—

(a) It shall be the policy of the state to conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty. Adequate provision shall be made by law for the abatement of air and water pollution and of excessive and unnecessary noise and for the conservation and protection of natural resources.

(b) Those in the Everglades Agricultural Area who cause water pollution within the Everglades Protection Area or the Everglades Agricultural Area shall be primarily responsible for paying the costs of the abatement of that pollution. For the purposes of this subsection, the terms “Everglades Protection Area” and “Everglades Agricultural Area” shall have the meanings as defined in statutes in effect on January 1, 1996.

(c) To protect the people of Florida and their environment, drilling for exploration or extraction of oil or natural gas is prohibited on lands beneath all

state waters which have not been alienated and that lie between the mean high water line and the outermost boundaries of the state’s territorial seas. This prohibition does not apply to the transportation of oil and gas products produced outside of such waters. This subsection is self-executing.

**History.**—Am. by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State March 26, 1996; adopted 1996; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 5, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 4, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**SECTION 8. Ethics in government.**—A public office is a public trust. The people shall have the right to secure and sustain that trust against abuse. To assure this right:

(a) All elected constitutional officers and candidates for such offices and, as may be determined by law, other public officers, candidates, and employees shall file full and public disclosure of their financial interests.

(b) All elected public officers and candidates for such offices shall file full and public disclosure of their campaign finances.

(c) Any public officer or employee who breaches the public trust for private gain and any person or entity inducing such breach shall be liable to the state for all financial benefits obtained by such actions. The manner of recovery and additional damages may be provided by law.

(d) Any public officer or employee who is convicted of a felony involving a breach of public trust shall be subject to forfeiture of rights and privileges under a public retirement system or pension plan in such manner as may be provided by law.

(e) No member of the legislature or statewide elected officer shall personally represent another person or entity for compensation before the government body or agency of which the

**ARTICLE II      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE II**

individual was an officer or member for a period of two years following vacation of office. No member of the legislature shall personally represent another person or entity for compensation during term of office before any state agency other than judicial tribunals. Similar restrictions on other public officers and employees may be established by law.

(f)(1) For purposes of this subsection, the term "public officer" means a statewide elected officer, a member of the legislature, a county commissioner, a county officer pursuant to Article VIII or county charter, a school board member, a superintendent of schools, an elected municipal officer, an elected special district officer in a special district with ad valorem taxing authority, or a person serving as a secretary, an executive director, or other agency head of a department of the executive branch of state government.

(2) A public officer shall not lobby for compensation on issues of policy, appropriations, or procurement before the federal government, the legislature, any state government body or agency, or any political subdivision of this state, during his or her term of office.

(3) A public officer shall not lobby for compensation on issues of policy, appropriations, or procurement for a period of six years after vacation of public position, as follows:

a. A statewide elected officer or member of the legislature shall not lobby the legislature or any state government body or agency.

b. A person serving as a secretary, an executive director, or other agency head of a department of the executive branch of state government shall not lobby the legislature, the governor, the executive office of the governor, members of the cabinet, a department that is headed by a member of the cabinet, or his or her former department.

c. A county commissioner, a county officer pursuant to Article VIII or county charter, a school board member, a superintendent of schools, an elected municipal officer, or an elected special district officer in a special district with ad valorem taxing authority shall not lobby his or her former agency or governing body.

(4) This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit a public officer from carrying out the duties of his or her public office.

(5) The legislature may enact legislation to implement this subsection, including, but not limited to, defining terms and providing penalties for violations. Any such law shall not contain provisions on any other subject.

(g) There shall be an independent commission to conduct investigations and make public reports on all complaints concerning breach of public trust by public officers or employees not within the jurisdiction of the judicial qualifications commission.

(h)(1) A code of ethics for all state employees and nonjudicial officers prohibiting conflict between public duty and private interests shall be prescribed by law.

(2) A public officer or public employee shall not abuse his or her public position in order to obtain a disproportionate benefit for himself or herself; his or her spouse, children, or employer; or for any business with which he or she contracts; in which he or she is an officer, a partner, a director, or a proprietor; or in which he or she owns an interest. The Florida Commission on Ethics shall, by rule in accordance with statutory procedures governing administrative rulemaking, define the term "disproportionate benefit" and prescribe the requisite intent for finding a violation of this prohibition for purposes of enforcing this paragraph.

**ARTICLE II      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE III**

Appropriate penalties shall be prescribed by law.

(i) This section shall not be construed to limit disclosures and prohibitions which may be established by law to preserve the public trust and avoid conflicts between public duties and private interests.

(j) Schedule—On the effective date of this amendment and until changed by law:

(1) Full and public disclosure of financial interests shall mean filing with the custodian of state records by July 1 of each year a sworn statement showing net worth and identifying each asset and liability in excess of \$1,000 and its value together with one of the following:

a. A copy of the person’s most recent federal income tax return; or

b. A sworn statement which identifies each separate source and amount of income which exceeds \$1,000. The forms for such source disclosure and the rules under which they are to be filed shall be prescribed by the independent commission established in subsection (g), and such rules shall include disclosure of secondary sources of income.

(2) Persons holding statewide elective offices shall also file disclosure of their financial interests pursuant to paragraph (1).

(3) The independent commission provided for in subsection (g) shall mean the Florida Commission on Ethics.

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State July 29, 1976; adopted 1976; Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 8 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 7, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**SECTION 9. English is the official language of Florida.—**

(a) English is the official language of the State of Florida.

(b) The legislature shall have the power to enforce this section by appropriate legislation.

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State August 8, 1988; adopted 1988.

**ARTICLE III**

**LEGISLATURE**

Sec.

1. Composition.
2. Members; officers.
3. Sessions of the legislature.
4. Quorum and procedure.
5. Investigations; witnesses.
6. Laws.
7. Passage of bills.
8. Executive approval and veto.
9. Effective date of laws.
10. Special laws.
11. Prohibited special laws.
12. Appropriation bills.
13. Term of office.
14. Civil service system.
15. Terms and qualifications of legislators.
16. Legislative apportionment.
17. Impeachment.
18. Conflict of Interest.
19. State Budgeting, Planning and Appropriations Processes.
20. Standards for establishing congressional district boundaries.
21. Standards for establishing legislative district boundaries.

**SECTION 1. Composition.**—The legislative power of the state shall be vested in a legislature of the State of Florida, consisting of a senate composed of one senator elected from each senatorial district and a house of representatives composed of one member elected from each representative district.

**SECTION 2. Members; officers.** Each house shall be the sole judge of



**ARTICLE III CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE III**

the qualifications, elections, and returns of its members, and shall biennially choose its officers, including a permanent presiding officer selected from its membership, who shall be designated in the senate as President of the Senate, and in the house as Speaker of the House of Representatives. The senate shall designate a Secretary to serve at its pleasure, and the house of representatives shall designate a Clerk to serve at its pleasure. The legislature shall appoint an auditor to serve at its pleasure who shall audit public records and perform related duties as prescribed by law or concurrent resolution.

**SECTION 3. Sessions of the legislature.—**

(a) ORGANIZATION SESSIONS. On the fourteenth day following each general election the legislature shall convene for the exclusive purpose of organization and selection of officers.

(b) REGULAR SESSIONS. A regular session of the legislature shall convene on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of each odd-numbered year, and on the second Tuesday after the first Monday in January of each even-numbered year.

(c) SPECIAL SESSIONS.

(1) The governor, by proclamation stating the purpose, may convene the legislature in special session during which only such legislative business may be transacted as is within the purview of the proclamation, or of a communication from the governor, or is introduced by consent of two-thirds of the membership of each house.

(2) A special session of the legislature may be convened as provided by law.

(d) LENGTH OF SESSIONS. A regular session of the legislature shall not exceed sixty consecutive days, and

a special session shall not exceed twenty consecutive days, unless extended beyond such limit by a three-fifths vote of each house. During such an extension no new business may be taken up in either house without the consent of two-thirds of its membership.

(e) ADJOURNMENT. Neither house shall adjourn for more than seventy-two consecutive hours except pursuant to concurrent resolution.

(f) ADJOURNMENT BY GOVERNOR. If, during any regular or special session, the two houses cannot agree upon a time for adjournment, the governor may adjourn the session sine die or to any date within the period authorized for such session; provided that, at least twenty-four hours before adjourning the session, and while neither house is in recess, each house shall be given formal written notice of the governor's intention to do so, and agreement reached within that period by both houses on a time for adjournment shall prevail.

History.—Am. C.S. for S.J.R. 380, 1989; adopted 1990; Am. S.J.R. 2606, 1994; adopted 1994; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 5, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**SECTION 4. Quorum and procedure.—**

(a) A majority of the membership of each house shall constitute a quorum, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day and compel the presence of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as it may prescribe. Each house shall determine its rules of procedure.

(b) Sessions of each house shall be public; except sessions of the senate when considering appointment to or removal from public office may be closed.

(c) Each house shall keep and publish a journal of its proceedings;

**ARTICLE III      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE III**

and upon the request of five members present, the vote of each member voting on any question shall be entered on the journal. In any legislative committee or subcommittee, the vote of each member voting on the final passage of any legislation pending before the committee, and upon the request of any two members of the committee or subcommittee, the vote of each member on any other question, shall be recorded.

(d) Each house may punish a member for contempt or disorderly conduct and, by a two-thirds vote of its membership, may expel a member.

(e) The rules of procedure of each house shall provide that all legislative committee and subcommittee meetings of each house, and joint conference committee meetings, shall be open and noticed to the public. The rules of procedure of each house shall further provide that all prearranged gatherings, between more than two members of the legislature, or between the governor, the president of the senate, or the speaker of the house of representatives, the purpose of which is to agree upon formal legislative action that will be taken at a subsequent time, or at which formal legislative action is taken, regarding pending legislation or amendments, shall be reasonably open to the public. All open meetings shall be subject to order and decorum. This section shall be implemented and defined by the rules of each house, and such rules shall control admission to the floor of each legislative chamber and may, where reasonably necessary for security purposes or to protect a witness appearing before a committee, provide for the closure of committee meetings. Each house shall be the sole judge for the interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of this section.

**History.**—Am. S.J.R.'s 1990, 2, 1990; adopted 1990.

**SECTION 5. Investigations; witnesses.**—Each house, when in session, may compel attendance of witnesses and production of documents and other evidence upon any matter under investigation before it or any of its committees, and may punish by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or imprisonment not exceeding ninety days, or both, any person not a member who has been guilty of disorderly or contemptuous conduct in its presence or has refused to obey its lawful summons or to answer lawful questions. Such powers, except the power to punish, may be conferred by law upon committees when the legislature is not in session. Punishment of contempt of an interim legislative committee shall be by judicial proceedings as prescribed by law.

**SECTION 6. Laws.**—Every law shall embrace but one subject and matter properly connected therewith, and the subject shall be briefly expressed in the title. No law shall be revised or amended by reference to its title only. Laws to revise or amend shall set out in full the revised or amended act, section, subsection or paragraph of a subsection. The enacting clause of every law shall read: "Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida."

**SECTION 7. Passage of bills.**—Any bill may originate in either house and after passage in one may be amended in the other. It shall be read in each house on three separate days, unless this rule is waived by two-thirds vote; provided the publication of its title in the journal of a house shall satisfy the requirement for the first reading in that house. On each reading, it shall be read by title only, unless one-third of the members present desire it read in full. On final passage, the vote of each member voting shall be entered on

**ARTICLE III CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE III**

the journal. Passage of a bill shall require a majority vote in each house. Each bill and joint resolution passed in both houses shall be signed by the presiding officers of the respective houses and by the secretary of the senate and the clerk of the house of representatives during the session or as soon as practicable after its adjournment sine die.

**History.**—Am. S.J.R. 1349, 1980; adopted 1980.

**SECTION 8. Executive approval and veto.—**

(a) Every bill passed by the legislature shall be presented to the governor for approval and shall become a law if the governor approves and signs it, or fails to veto it within seven consecutive days after presentation. If during that period or on the seventh day the legislature adjourns sine die or takes a recess of more than thirty days, the governor shall have fifteen consecutive days from the date of presentation to act on the bill. In all cases except general appropriation bills, the veto shall extend to the entire bill. The governor may veto any specific appropriation in a general appropriation bill, but may not veto any qualification or restriction without also vetoing the appropriation to which it relates.

(b) When a bill or any specific appropriation of a general appropriation bill has been vetoed, the governor shall transmit signed objections thereto to the house in which the bill originated if in session. If that house is not in session, the governor shall file them with the custodian of state records, who shall lay them before that house at its next regular or special session, whichever occurs first, and they shall be entered on its journal. If the originating house votes to re-enact a vetoed measure, whether in a regular or special session, and the other house does not consider or fails to re-enact the vetoed measure, no further

consideration by either house at any subsequent session may be taken. If a vetoed measure is presented at a special session and the originating house does not consider it, the measure will be available for consideration at any intervening special session and until the end of the next regular session.

(c) If each house shall, by a two-thirds vote, re-enact the bill or reinstate the vetoed specific appropriation of a general appropriation bill, the vote of each member voting shall be entered on the respective journals, and the bill shall become law or the specific appropriation reinstated, the veto notwithstanding.

**History.**—Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 8 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 9. Effective date of laws.—**

Each law shall take effect on the sixtieth day after adjournment sine die of the session of the legislature in which enacted or as otherwise provided therein. If the law is passed over the veto of the governor it shall take effect on the sixtieth day after adjournment sine die of the session in which the veto is overridden, on a later date fixed in the law, or on a date fixed by resolution passed by both houses of the legislature.

**SECTION 10. Special laws.—**

No special law shall be passed unless notice of intention to seek enactment thereof has been published in the manner provided by general law. Such notice shall not be necessary when the law, except the provision for referendum, is conditioned to become effective only upon approval by vote of the electors of the area affected.

**SECTION 11. Prohibited special laws.—**

**ARTICLE III      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE III**

(a) There shall be no special law or general law of local application pertaining to:

(1) election, jurisdiction or duties of officers, except officers of municipalities, chartered counties, special districts or local governmental agencies;

(2) assessment or collection of taxes for state or county purposes, including extension of time therefor, relief of tax officers from due performance of their duties, and relief of their sureties from liability;

(3) rules of evidence in any court;

(4) punishment for crime;

(5) petit juries, including compensation of jurors, except establishment of jury commissions;

(6) change of civil or criminal venue;

(7) conditions precedent to bringing any civil or criminal proceedings, or limitations of time therefor;

(8) refund of money legally paid or remission of fines, penalties or forfeitures;

(9) creation, enforcement, extension or impairment of liens based on private contracts, or fixing of interest rates on private contracts;

(10) disposal of public property, including any interest therein, for private purposes;

(11) vacation of roads;

(12) private incorporation or grant of privilege to a private corporation;

(13) effectuation of invalid deeds, wills or other instruments, or change in the law of descent;

(14) change of name of any person;

(15) divorce;

(16) legitimation or adoption of persons;

(17) relief of minors from legal disabilities;

(18) transfer of any property interest of persons under legal disabilities or of estates of decedents;

(19) hunting or fresh water fishing;

(20) regulation of occupations which are regulated by a state agency; or

<sup>1</sup>(21) any subject when prohibited by general law passed by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house. Such law may be amended or repealed by like vote.

(b) In the enactment of general laws on other subjects, political subdivisions or other governmental entities may be classified only on a basis reasonably related to the subject of the law.

**Note.**—See the following for prohibited subject matters added under the authority of this paragraph:

s. 112.67, F.S. (Pertaining to protection of public employee retirement benefits).

s. 121.191, F.S. (Pertaining to state-administered or supported retirement systems).

s. 145.16, F.S. (Pertaining to compensation of designated county officials).

s. 189.031(2), F.S. (Pertaining to independent special districts).

s. 190.049, F.S. (Pertaining to the creation of independent special districts having the powers enumerated in two or more of the paragraphs of s. 190.012, F.S.).

s. 215.845, F.S. (Pertaining to the maximum rate of interest on bonds).

s. 298.76(1), F.S. (Pertaining to the grant of authority, power, rights, or privileges to a water control district formed pursuant to ch. 298, F.S.).

s. 373.503(2)(b), F.S. (Pertaining to allocation of millage for water management purposes).

s. 1011.77, F.S. (Pertaining to taxation for school purposes and the Florida Education Finance Program).

s. 1013.37(5), F.S. (Pertaining to the "State Uniform Building Code for Public Educational Facilities Construction").

**SECTION 12. Appropriation bills.**—Laws making appropriations for salaries of public officers and other current expenses of the state shall contain provisions on no other subject.

**SECTION 13. Term of office.**—No office shall be created the term of which shall exceed four years except as provided herein.

**SECTION 14. Civil service system.**—By law there shall be created a civil service system for state employees, except those expressly exempted, and there may be created civil service systems and boards for county, district or municipal employees and for such offices thereof as are not elected or

**ARTICLE III      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE III**

appointed by the governor, and there may be authorized such boards as are necessary to prescribe the qualifications, method of selection and tenure of such employees and officers.

**SECTION 15. Terms and qualifications of legislators.—**

(a) **SENATORS.** Senators shall be elected for terms of four years, those from odd-numbered districts in the years the numbers of which are multiples of four and those from even-numbered districts in even-numbered years the numbers of which are not multiples of four; except, at the election next following a reapportionment, some senators shall be elected for terms of two years when necessary to maintain staggered terms.

(b) **REPRESENTATIVES.** Members of the house of representatives shall be elected for terms of two years in each even-numbered year.

(c) **QUALIFICATIONS.** Each legislator shall be at least twenty-one years of age, an elector and resident of the district from which elected and shall have resided in the state for a period of two years prior to election.

(d) **ASSUMING OFFICE; VACANCIES.** Members of the legislature shall take office upon election. Vacancies in legislative office shall be filled only by election as provided by law.

**SECTION 16. Legislative apportionment.—**

(a) **SENATORIAL AND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS.** The legislature at its regular session in the second year following each decennial census, by joint resolution, shall apportion the state in accordance with the constitution of the state and of the United States into not less than thirty nor more than forty consecutively numbered senatorial districts of either contiguous, overlapping or identical

territory, and into not less than eighty nor more than one hundred twenty consecutively numbered representative districts of either contiguous, overlapping or identical territory. Should that session adjourn without adopting such joint resolution, the governor by proclamation shall reconvene the legislature within thirty days in special apportionment session which shall not exceed thirty consecutive days, during which no other business shall be transacted, and it shall be the mandatory duty of the legislature to adopt a joint resolution of apportionment.

(b) **FAILURE OF LEGISLATURE TO APPORTION; JUDICIAL REAPPORTIONMENT.** In the event a special apportionment session of the legislature finally adjourns without adopting a joint resolution of apportionment, the attorney general shall, within five days, petition the supreme court of the state to make such apportionment. No later than the sixtieth day after the filing of such petition, the supreme court shall file with the custodian of state records an order making such apportionment.

(c) **JUDICIAL REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENT.** Within fifteen days after the passage of the joint resolution of apportionment, the attorney general shall petition the supreme court of the state for a declaratory judgment determining the validity of the apportionment. The supreme court, in accordance with its rules, shall permit adversary interests to present their views and, within thirty days from the filing of the petition, shall enter its judgment.

(d) **EFFECT OF JUDGMENT IN APPORTIONMENT; EXTRAORDINARY APPORTIONMENT SESSION.** A judgment of the supreme court of the state determining the apportionment to be valid shall be binding upon all the citizens of the state. Should the supreme court

**ARTICLE III      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE III**

determine that the apportionment made by the legislature is invalid, the governor by proclamation shall reconvene the legislature within five days thereafter in extraordinary apportionment session which shall not exceed fifteen days, during which the legislature shall adopt a joint resolution of apportionment conforming to the judgment of the supreme court.

(e) **EXTRAORDINARY APPORTIONMENT SESSION; REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENT.** Within fifteen days after the adjournment of an extraordinary apportionment session, the attorney general shall file a petition in the supreme court of the state setting forth the apportionment resolution adopted by the legislature, or if none has been adopted reporting that fact to the court. Consideration of the validity of a joint resolution of apportionment shall be had as provided for in cases of such joint resolution adopted at a regular or special apportionment session.

(f) **JUDICIAL REAPPORTIONMENT.** Should an extraordinary apportionment session fail to adopt a resolution of apportionment or should the supreme court determine that the apportionment made is invalid, the court shall, not later than sixty days after receiving the petition of the attorney general, file with the custodian of state records an order making such apportionment.

**History.**—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 17. Impeachment.—**

(a) The governor, lieutenant governor, members of the cabinet, justices of the supreme court, judges of district courts of appeal, judges of circuit courts, and judges of county courts shall be liable to impeachment for misdemeanor in office. The house of representatives by two-thirds vote

shall have the power to impeach an officer. The speaker of the house of representatives shall have power at any time to appoint a committee to investigate charges against any officer subject to impeachment.

(b) An officer impeached by the house of representatives shall be disqualified from performing any official duties until acquitted by the senate, and, unless impeached, the governor may by appointment fill the office until completion of the trial.

(c) All impeachments by the house of representatives shall be tried by the senate. The chief justice of the supreme court, or another justice designated by the chief justice, shall preside at the trial, except in a trial of the chief justice, in which case the governor shall preside. The senate shall determine the time for the trial of any impeachment and may sit for the trial whether the house of representatives be in session or not. The time fixed for trial shall not be more than six months after the impeachment. During an impeachment trial senators shall be upon their oath or affirmation. No officer shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members of the senate present. Judgment of conviction in cases of impeachment shall remove the offender from office and, in the discretion of the senate, may include disqualification to hold any office of honor, trust or profit. Conviction or acquittal shall not affect the civil or criminal responsibility of the officer.

**History.**—Am. S.J.R. 459, 1987; adopted 1988; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 18. Conflict of Interest.**  
A code of ethics for all state employees and nonjudicial officers prohibiting

conflict between public duty and private interests shall be prescribed by law.

**History.**—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**Note.**—This section was repealed effective January 5, 1999, by Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998. *See* s. 5(e), Art. XI, State Constitution, for constitutional effective date. Identical language to s. 18, Art. III, State Constitution, was enacted in s. 8(h), Art. II, State Constitution, by Revision No. 13, 1998.

**SECTION 19. State Budgeting, Planning and Appropriations Processes.—**

(a) ANNUAL BUDGETING.

(1) General law shall prescribe the adoption of annual state budgetary and planning processes and require that detail reflecting the annualized costs of the state budget and reflecting the nonrecurring costs of the budget requests shall accompany state department and agency legislative budget requests, the governor's recommended budget, and appropriation bills.

(2) Unless approved by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house, appropriations made for recurring purposes from nonrecurring general revenue funds for any fiscal year shall not exceed three percent of the total general revenue funds estimated to be available at the time such appropriation is made.

(3) As prescribed by general law, each state department and agency shall be required to submit a legislative budget request that is based upon and that reflects the long-range financial outlook adopted by the joint legislative budget commission or that specifically explains any variance from the long-range financial outlook contained in the request.

(4) For purposes of this section, the terms department and agency shall include the judicial branch.

(b) APPROPRIATION BILLS FORMAT. Separate sections within the general appropriation bill shall be

used for each major program area of the state budget; major program areas shall include: education enhancement "lottery" trust fund items; education (all other funds); human services; criminal justice and corrections; natural resources, environment, growth management, and transportation; general government; and judicial branch. Each major program area shall include an itemization of expenditures for: state operations; state capital outlay; aid to local governments and nonprofit organizations operations; aid to local governments and nonprofit organizations capital outlay; federal funds and the associated state matching funds; spending authorizations for operations; and spending authorizations for capital outlay. Additionally, appropriation bills passed by the legislature shall include an itemization of specific appropriations that exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) in 1992 dollars. For purposes of this subsection, "specific appropriation," "itemization," and "major program area" shall be defined by law. This itemization threshold shall be adjusted by general law every four years to reflect the rate of inflation or deflation as indicated in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, All Items, or successor reports as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor. Substantive bills containing appropriations shall also be subject to the itemization requirement mandated under this provision and shall be subject to the governor's specific appropriation veto power described in Article III, Section 8.

(c) APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS.

(1) No later than September 15 of each year, the joint legislative budget commission shall issue a long-range financial outlook setting out

**ARTICLE III      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE III**

recommended fiscal strategies for the state and its departments and agencies in order to assist the legislature in making budget decisions. The long-range financial outlook must include major workload and revenue estimates. In order to implement this paragraph, the joint legislative budget commission shall use current official consensus estimates and may request the development of additional official estimates.

(2) The joint legislative budget commission shall seek input from the public and from the executive and judicial branches when developing and recommending the long-range financial outlook.

(3) The legislature shall prescribe by general law conditions under which limited adjustments to the budget, as recommended by the governor or the chief justice of the supreme court, may be approved without the concurrence of the full legislature.

(d) SEVENTY-TWO HOUR PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD. All general appropriation bills shall be furnished to each member of the legislature, each member of the cabinet, the governor, and the chief justice of the supreme court at least seventy-two hours before final passage by either house of the legislature of the bill in the form that will be presented to the governor.

(e) FINAL BUDGET REPORT. A final budget report shall be prepared as prescribed by general law. The final budget report shall be produced no later than the 120th day after the beginning of the fiscal year, and copies of the report shall be furnished to each member of the legislature, the head of each department and agency of the state, the auditor general, and the chief justice of the supreme court.

(f) TRUST FUNDS.

(1) No trust fund of the State of Florida or other public body may be created or re-created by law without a

three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the legislature in a separate bill for that purpose only.

(2) State trust funds shall terminate not more than four years after the effective date of the act authorizing the initial creation of the trust fund. By law the legislature may set a shorter time period for which any trust fund is authorized.

(3) Trust funds required by federal programs or mandates; trust funds established for bond covenants, indentures, or resolutions, whose revenues are legally pledged by the state or public body to meet debt service or other financial requirements of any debt obligations of the state or any public body; the state transportation trust fund; the trust fund containing the net annual proceeds from the Florida Education Lotteries; the Florida retirement trust fund; trust funds for institutions under the management of the Board of Governors, where such trust funds are for auxiliary enterprises and contracts, grants, and donations, as those terms are defined by general law; trust funds that serve as clearing funds or accounts for the chief financial officer or state agencies; trust funds that account for assets held by the state in a trustee capacity as an agent or fiduciary for individuals, private organizations, or other governmental units; and other trust funds authorized by this Constitution, are not subject to the requirements set forth in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(4) All cash balances and income of any trust funds abolished under this subsection shall be deposited into the general revenue fund.

(g) BUDGET STABILIZATION FUND. Subject to the provisions of this subsection, an amount equal to at least 5% of the last completed fiscal year's net revenue collections for the general revenue fund shall be retained



**ARTICLE III      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE III**

in the budget stabilization fund. The budget stabilization fund's principal balance shall not exceed an amount equal to 10% of the last completed fiscal year's net revenue collections for the general revenue fund. The legislature shall provide criteria for withdrawing funds from the budget stabilization fund in a separate bill for that purpose only and only for the purpose of covering revenue shortfalls of the general revenue fund or for the purpose of providing funding for an emergency, as defined by general law. General law shall provide for the restoration of this fund. The budget stabilization fund shall be comprised of funds not otherwise obligated or committed for any purpose.

(h) **LONG-RANGE STATE PLANNING DOCUMENT AND DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY PLANNING DOCUMENT PROCESSES.** General law shall provide for a long-range state planning document. The governor shall recommend to the legislature biennially any revisions to the long-range state planning document, as defined by law. General law shall require a biennial review and revision of the long-range state planning document and shall require all departments and agencies of state government to develop planning documents that identify statewide strategic goals and objectives, consistent with the long-range state planning document. The long-range state planning document and department and agency planning documents shall remain subject to review and revision by the legislature. The long-range state planning document must include projections of future needs and resources of the state which are consistent with the long-range financial outlook. The department and agency planning documents shall include a prioritized listing of planned expenditures for review and possible reduction in the event of

revenue shortfalls, as defined by general law.

(i) **GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY TASK FORCE.** No later than January of 2007, and each fourth year thereafter, the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the governor shall appoint a government efficiency task force, the membership of which shall be established by general law. The task force shall be composed of members of the legislature and representatives from the private and public sectors who shall develop recommendations for improving governmental operations and reducing costs. Staff to assist the task force in performing its duties shall be assigned by general law, and the task force may obtain assistance from the private sector. The task force shall complete its work within one year and shall submit its recommendations to the joint legislative budget commission, the governor, and the chief justice of the supreme court.

(j) **JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET COMMISSION.** There is created within the legislature the joint legislative budget commission composed of equal numbers of senate members appointed by the president of the senate and house members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives. Each member shall serve at the pleasure of the officer who appointed the member. A vacancy on the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. From November of each odd-numbered year through October of each even-numbered year, the chairperson of the joint legislative budget commission shall be appointed by the president of the senate and the vice chairperson of the commission shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives. From November of each even-numbered year through October

**ARTICLE III      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE III**

of each odd-numbered year, the chairperson of the joint legislative budget commission shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and the vice chairperson of the commission shall be appointed by the president of the senate. The joint legislative budget commission shall be governed by the joint rules of the senate and the house of representatives, which shall remain in effect until repealed or amended by concurrent resolution. The commission shall convene at least quarterly and shall convene at the call of the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives. A majority of the commission members of each house plus one additional member from either house constitutes a quorum. Action by the commission requires a majority vote of the commission members present of each house. The commission may conduct its meetings through teleconferences or similar means. In addition to the powers and duties specified in this subsection, the joint legislative budget commission shall exercise all other powers and perform any other duties not in conflict with paragraph (c)(3) and as prescribed by general law or joint rule.

**History.**—Proposed by Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, Revision No. 1, 1992, filed with the Secretary of State May 7, 1992; adopted 1992; Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 8 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. C.S. for S.J.R. 2144, 2005; adopted 2006.

**SECTION 20. Standards for establishing congressional district boundaries.**—In establishing congressional district boundaries:

(a) No apportionment plan or individual district shall be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a political party or an incumbent; and districts shall not be drawn with the intent or result of denying or abridging the equal opportunity of racial or language minorities to participate in the political

process or to diminish their ability to elect representatives of their choice; and districts shall consist of contiguous territory.

(b) Unless compliance with the standards in this subsection conflicts with the standards in subsection <sup>1</sup>(a) or with federal law, districts shall be as nearly equal in population as is practicable; districts shall be compact; and districts shall, where feasible, utilize existing political and geographical boundaries.

(c) The order in which the standards within subsections <sup>1</sup>(a) and (b) of this section are set forth shall not be read to establish any priority of one standard over the other within that subsection.

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State September 28, 2007; adopted 2010.

**Note.**—The subsections of section 20, as it appeared in Amendment No. 6, proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State September 28, 2007, and adopted in 2010, were designated (1)-(3); the editors redesignated them as (a)-(c) to conform to the format of the State Constitution.

**SECTION 21. Standards for establishing legislative district boundaries.**—In establishing legislative district boundaries:

(a) No apportionment plan or district shall be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a political party or an incumbent; and districts shall not be drawn with the intent or result of denying or abridging the equal opportunity of racial or language minorities to participate in the political process or to diminish their ability to elect representatives of their choice; and districts shall consist of contiguous territory.

(b) Unless compliance with the standards in this subsection conflicts with the standards in subsection <sup>1</sup>(a) or with federal law, districts shall be as nearly equal in population as is practicable; districts shall be compact; and districts shall, where feasible, utilize existing political and geographical boundaries.

**ARTICLE III      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE IV**

(c) The order in which the standards within subsections <sup>1</sup>(a) and (b) of this section are set forth shall not be read to establish any priority of one standard over the other within that subsection.

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State September 28, 2007; adopted 2010.

**Note.**—The subsections of section 21, as it appeared in Amendment No. 5, proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State September 28, 2007, and adopted in 2010, were designated (1)-(3); the editors redesignated them as (a)-(c) to conform to the format of the State Constitution.

**ARTICLE IV**

**EXECUTIVE**

Sec.

1. Governor.
2. Lieutenant governor.
3. Succession to office of governor; acting governor.
4. Cabinet.
5. Election of governor, lieutenant governor and cabinet members; qualifications; terms.
6. Executive departments.
7. Suspensions; filling office during suspensions.
8. Clemency.
9. Fish and wildlife conservation commission.
10. Attorney General.
11. Department of Veterans' Affairs.
12. Department of Elderly Affairs.
13. Revenue Shortfalls.

**SECTION 1. Governor.—**

(a) The supreme executive power shall be vested in a governor, who shall be commander-in-chief of all military forces of the state not in active service of the United States. The governor shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed, commission all officers of the state and counties, and transact all necessary business with the officers of government. The governor may require information in writing from all

executive or administrative state, county or municipal officers upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices. The governor shall be the chief administrative officer of the state responsible for the planning and budgeting for the state.

(b) The governor may initiate judicial proceedings in the name of the state against any executive or administrative state, county or municipal officer to enforce compliance with any duty or restrain any unauthorized act.

(c) The governor may request in writing the opinion of the justices of the supreme court as to the interpretation of any portion of this constitution upon any question affecting the governor's executive powers and duties. The justices shall, subject to their rules of procedure, permit interested persons to be heard on the questions presented and shall render their written opinion not earlier than ten days from the filing and docketing of the request, unless in their judgment the delay would cause public injury.

(d) The governor shall have power to call out the militia to preserve the public peace, execute the laws of the state, suppress insurrection, or repel invasion.

(e) The governor shall by message at least once in each regular session inform the legislature concerning the condition of the state, propose such reorganization of the executive department as will promote efficiency and economy, and recommend measures in the public interest.

(f) When not otherwise provided for in this constitution, the governor shall fill by appointment any vacancy in state or county office for the remainder of the term of an appointive office, and for the remainder of the term of an elective office if less than twenty-eight months, otherwise until the first Tuesday after

**ARTICLE IV      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE IV**

the first Monday following the next general election.

**History.**—Am. proposed by Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, Revision No. 1, 1992, filed with the Secretary of State May 7, 1992; adopted 1992; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 2. Lieutenant governor.**—There shall be a lieutenant governor, who shall perform such duties pertaining to the office of governor as shall be assigned by the governor, except when otherwise provided by law, and such other duties as may be prescribed by law.

**History.**—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 3. Succession to office of governor; acting governor.**—

(a) Upon vacancy in the office of governor, the lieutenant governor shall become governor. Further succession to the office of governor shall be prescribed by law. A successor shall serve for the remainder of the term.

(b) Upon impeachment of the governor and until completion of trial thereof, or during the governor’s physical or mental incapacity, the lieutenant governor shall act as governor. Further succession as acting governor shall be prescribed by law. Incapacity to serve as governor may be determined by the supreme court upon due notice after docketing of a written suggestion thereof by three cabinet members, and in such case restoration of capacity shall be similarly determined after docketing of written suggestion thereof by the governor, the legislature or three cabinet members. Incapacity to serve as governor may also be established by certificate filed with the custodian of state records by the governor declaring incapacity for physical reasons to serve as governor, and in such case

restoration of capacity shall be similarly established.

**History.**—Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 8 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 4. Cabinet.**—

(a) There shall be a cabinet composed of an attorney general, a chief financial officer, and a commissioner of agriculture. In addition to the powers and duties specified herein, they shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed by law. In the event of a tie vote of the governor and cabinet, the side on which the governor voted shall be deemed to prevail.

(b) The attorney general shall be the chief state legal officer. There is created in the office of the attorney general the position of statewide prosecutor. The statewide prosecutor shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the state attorneys to prosecute violations of criminal laws occurring or having occurred, in two or more judicial circuits as part of a related transaction, or when any such offense is affecting or has affected two or more judicial circuits as provided by general law. The statewide prosecutor shall be appointed by the attorney general from not less than three persons nominated by the judicial nominating commission for the supreme court, or as otherwise provided by general law.

(c) The chief financial officer shall serve as the chief fiscal officer of the state, and shall settle and approve accounts against the state, and shall keep all state funds and securities.

(d) The commissioner of agriculture shall have supervision of matters pertaining to agriculture except as otherwise provided by law.

(e) The governor as chair, the chief financial officer, and the attorney general shall constitute the state board of administration, which shall succeed to

**ARTICLE IV      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE IV**

all the power, control, and authority of the state board of administration established pursuant to Article IX, Section 16 of the Constitution of 1885, and which shall continue as a body at least for the life of Article XII, Section 9(c).

(f) The governor as chair, the chief financial officer, the attorney general, and the commissioner of agriculture shall constitute the trustees of the internal improvement trust fund and the land acquisition trust fund as provided by law.

(g) The governor as chair, the chief financial officer, the attorney general, and the commissioner of agriculture shall constitute the agency head of the Department of Law Enforcement. The Office of Domestic Security and Counterterrorism is created within the Department of Law Enforcement. The Office of Domestic Security and Counterterrorism shall provide support for prosecutors and federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies that investigate or analyze information relating to attempts or acts of terrorism or that prosecute terrorism, and shall perform any other duties that are provided by law.

**History.**—Am. H.J.R. 435, 1983; adopted 1984; Am. H.J.R. 386, 1985; adopted 1986; Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 8 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 5, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**SECTION 5. Election of governor, lieutenant governor and cabinet members; qualifications; terms.—**

(a) At a state-wide general election in each calendar year the number of which is even but not a multiple of four, the electors shall choose a governor and a lieutenant governor and members of the cabinet each for a term of four years beginning on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the succeeding year. In primary elections, candidates for the office of governor may choose to run without a

lieutenant governor candidate. In the general election, all candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor shall form joint candidacies in a manner prescribed by law so that each voter shall cast a single vote for a candidate for governor and a candidate for lieutenant governor running together.

(b) When elected, the governor, lieutenant governor and each cabinet member must be an elector not less than thirty years of age who has resided in the state for the preceding seven years. The attorney general must have been a member of the bar of Florida for the preceding five years. No person who has, or but for resignation would have, served as governor or acting governor for more than six years in two consecutive terms shall be elected governor for the succeeding term.

**History.**—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 11, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 6. Executive departments.—**

All functions of the executive branch of state government shall be allotted among not more than twenty-five departments, exclusive of those specifically provided for or authorized in this constitution. The administration of each department, unless otherwise provided in this constitution, shall be placed by law under the direct supervision of the governor, the lieutenant governor, the governor and cabinet, a cabinet member, or an officer or board appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the governor, except:

(a) When provided by law, confirmation by the senate or the approval of three members of the cabinet shall be required for appointment to or removal from any designated statutory office.

(b) Boards authorized to grant and revoke licenses to engage in regulated occupations shall be assigned to appropriate departments and their

**ARTICLE IV      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE IV**

members appointed for fixed terms, subject to removal only for cause.

**SECTION 7. Suspensions; filling office during suspensions.—**

(a) By executive order stating the grounds and filed with the custodian of state records, the governor may suspend from office any state officer not subject to impeachment, any officer of the militia not in the active service of the United States, or any county officer, for malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect of duty, drunkenness, incompetence, permanent inability to perform official duties, or commission of a felony, and may fill the office by appointment for the period of suspension. The suspended officer may at any time before removal be reinstated by the governor.

(b) 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.

(c) By order of the governor any elected municipal officer indicted for crime may be suspended from office until acquitted and the office filled by appointment for the period of suspension, not to extend beyond the term, unless these powers are vested elsewhere by law or the municipal charter.

**History.**—Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 8 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 8. Clemency.—**

(a) Except in cases of treason and in cases where impeachment results in conviction, the governor may, by executive order filed with the custodian of state records, suspend collection of fines and forfeitures, grant reprieves not exceeding sixty days and, with the approval of two members of the cabinet, grant full or conditional pardons, restore civil rights, commute

punishment, and remit fines and forfeitures for offenses.

(b) In cases of treason the governor may grant reprieves until adjournment of the regular session of the legislature convening next after the conviction, at which session the legislature may grant a pardon or further reprieve; otherwise the sentence shall be executed.

(c) There may be created by law a parole and probation commission with power to supervise persons on probation and to grant paroles or conditional releases to persons under sentences for crime. The qualifications, method of selection and terms, not to exceed six years, of members of the commission shall be prescribed by law.

**History.**—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 9. Fish and wildlife conservation commission.—**

There shall be a fish and wildlife conservation commission, composed of seven members appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the senate for staggered terms of five years. The commission shall exercise the regulatory and executive powers of the state with respect to wild animal life and fresh water aquatic life, and shall also exercise regulatory and executive powers of the state with respect to marine life, except that all license fees for taking wild animal life, fresh water aquatic life, and marine life and penalties for violating regulations of the commission shall be prescribed by general law. The commission shall establish procedures to ensure adequate due process in the exercise of its regulatory and executive functions. The legislature may enact laws in aid of the commission, not inconsistent with this section, except that there shall be no special law or general law of local application pertaining to hunting or fishing. The commission's exercise of executive powers in

**ARTICLE IV      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE V**

the area of planning, budgeting, personnel management, and purchasing shall be as provided by law. Revenue derived from license fees for the taking of wild animal life and fresh water aquatic life shall be appropriated to the commission by the legislature for the purposes of management, protection, and conservation of wild animal life and fresh water aquatic life. Revenue derived from license fees relating to marine life shall be appropriated by the legislature for the purposes of management, protection, and conservation of marine life as provided by law. The commission shall not be a unit of any other state agency and shall have its own staff, which includes management, research, and enforcement. Unless provided by general law, the commission shall have no authority to regulate matters relating to air and water pollution.

**History.**—Am. C.S. for H.J.R. 637, 1973; adopted 1974; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 5, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 10. Attorney General.**

The attorney general shall, as directed by general law, request the opinion of the justices of the supreme court as to the validity of any initiative petition circulated pursuant to Section 3 of Article XI. The justices shall, subject to their rules of procedure, permit interested persons to be heard on the questions presented and shall render their written opinion no later than April 1 of the year in which the initiative is to be submitted to the voters pursuant to Section 5 of Article XI.

**History.**—Added, H.J.R. 71, 1986; adopted 1986; Am. S.J.R. 2394, 2004; adopted 2004.

**SECTION 11. Department of Veterans’ Affairs.**—The legislature, by general law, shall provide for a Department of Veterans’ Affairs and prescribe

its duties. The head of the department is the governor and cabinet.

**History.**—Added, C.S. for H.J.R. 290, 1988; adopted 1988; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 5, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**SECTION 12. Department of Elderly Affairs.**—The legislature may create a Department of Elderly Affairs and prescribe its duties. The provisions governing the administration of the department must comply with Section 6 of Article IV of the State Constitution.

**History.**—Added, C.S. for H.J.R. 290, 1988; adopted 1988.

**SECTION 13. Revenue Shortfalls.**—In the event of revenue shortfalls, as defined by general law, the governor and cabinet may establish all necessary reductions in the state budget in order to comply with the provisions of Article VII, Section 1(d). The governor and cabinet shall implement all necessary reductions for the executive budget, the chief justice of the supreme court shall implement all necessary reductions for the judicial budget, and the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate shall implement all necessary reductions for the legislative budget. Budget reductions pursuant to this section shall be consistent with the provisions of Article III, Section 19(h).

**History.**—Proposed by Taxation and Budget Reform Commission Revision No. 1, 1992, filed with the Secretary of State May 7, 1992; adopted 1992.

**ARTICLE V**

**JUDICIARY**

Sec.

1. Courts.
2. Administration; practice and procedure.
3. Supreme court.
4. District courts of appeal.
5. Circuit courts.

**ARTICLE V      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE V**

Sec.

Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

- 6. County courts.
- 7. Specialized divisions.
- 8. Eligibility.
- 9. Determination of number of judges.
- 10. Retention; election and terms.
- 11. Vacancies.
- 12. Discipline; removal and retirement.
- 13. Ethics in the judiciary.
- 14. Funding.
- 15. Attorneys; admission and discipline.
- 16. Clerks of the circuit courts.
- 17. State attorneys.
- 18. Public defenders.
- 19. Judicial officers as conservators of the peace.
- 20. Schedule to Article V.
- 21. Judicial interpretation of statutes and rules.

**SECTION 1. Courts.**—The judicial power shall be vested in a supreme court, district courts of appeal, circuit courts and county courts. No other courts may be established by the state, any political subdivision or any municipality. The legislature shall, by general law, divide the state into appellate court districts and judicial circuits following county lines. Commissions established by law, or administrative officers or bodies may be granted quasi-judicial power in matters connected with the functions of their offices. The legislature may establish by general law a civil traffic hearing officer system for the purpose of hearing civil traffic infractions. The legislature may, by general law, authorize a military court-martial to be conducted by military judges of the Florida National Guard, with direct appeal of a decision to the District Court of Appeal, First District.

**History.**—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. H.J.R. 1608, 1988; adopted 1988; Am. proposed by

**SECTION 2. Administration; practice and procedure.**—

(a) The supreme court shall adopt rules for the practice and procedure in all courts including the time for seeking appellate review, the administrative supervision of all courts, the transfer to the court having jurisdiction of any proceeding when the jurisdiction of another court has been improvidently invoked, and a requirement that no cause shall be dismissed because an improper remedy has been sought. The supreme court shall adopt rules to allow the court and the district courts of appeal to submit questions relating to military law to the federal Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for an advisory opinion. Rules of court may be repealed by general law enacted by two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the legislature.

(b) The chief justice of the supreme court shall be chosen by a majority of the members of the court; shall be the chief administrative officer of the judicial system; and shall have the power to assign justices or judges, including consenting retired justices or judges, to temporary duty in any court for which the judge is qualified and to delegate to a chief judge of a judicial circuit the power to assign judges for duty in that circuit.

(c) A chief judge for each district court of appeal shall be chosen by a majority of the judges thereof or, if there is no majority, by the chief justice. The chief judge shall be responsible for the administrative supervision of the court.

(d) A chief judge in each circuit shall be chosen from among the circuit judges as provided by supreme court rule. The chief judge shall be responsible for the administrative supervision



**ARTICLE V      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE V**

of the circuit courts and county courts in his circuit.

**History.**—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 3. Supreme court.—**

(a) **ORGANIZATION.**—The supreme court shall consist of seven justices. Of the seven justices, each appellate district shall have at least one justice elected or appointed from the district to the supreme court who is a resident of the district at the time of the original appointment or election. Five justices shall constitute a quorum. The concurrence of four justices shall be necessary to a decision. When recusals for cause would prohibit the court from convening because of the requirements of this section, judges assigned to temporary duty may be substituted for justices.

(b) **JURISDICTION.**—The supreme court:

(1) Shall hear appeals from final judgments of trial courts imposing the death penalty and from decisions of district courts of appeal declaring invalid a state statute or a provision of the state constitution.

(2) When provided by general law, shall hear appeals from final judgments entered in proceedings for the validation of bonds or certificates of indebtedness and shall review action of statewide agencies relating to rates or service of utilities providing electric, gas, or telephone service.

(3) May review any decision of a district court of appeal that expressly declares valid a state statute, or that expressly construes a provision of the state or federal constitution, or that expressly affects a class of constitutional or state officers, or that expressly and directly conflicts with a decision of another district court of appeal or of the supreme court on the same question of law.

(4) May review any decision of a district court of appeal that passes upon a question certified by it to be of great public importance, or that is certified by it to be in direct conflict with a decision of another district court of appeal.

(5) May review any order or judgment of a trial court certified by the district court of appeal in which an appeal is pending to be of great public importance, or to have a great effect on the proper administration of justice throughout the state, and certified to require immediate resolution by the supreme court.

(6) May review a question of law certified by the Supreme Court of the United States or a United States Court of Appeals which is determinative of the cause and for which there is no controlling precedent of the supreme court of Florida.

(7) May issue writs of prohibition to courts and all writs necessary to the complete exercise of its jurisdiction.

(8) May issue writs of mandamus and quo warranto to state officers and state agencies.

(9) May, or any justice may, issue writs of habeas corpus returnable before the supreme court or any justice, a district court of appeal or any judge thereof, or any circuit judge.

(10) Shall, when requested by the attorney general pursuant to the provisions of Section 10 of Article IV, render an advisory opinion of the justices, addressing issues as provided by general law.

(c) **CLERK AND MARSHAL.**—The supreme court shall appoint a clerk and a marshal who shall hold office during the pleasure of the court and perform such duties as the court directs. Their compensation shall be fixed by general law. The marshal shall have the power to execute the process of the court throughout the state, and in any county

**ARTICLE V      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE V**

may deputize the sheriff or a deputy sheriff for such purpose.

**History.**—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. C.S. for S.J.R.'s 49, 81, 1976; adopted 1976; Am. S.J.R. 20-C, 1979; adopted 1980; Am. H.J.R. 71, 1986; adopted 1986; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 4. District courts of appeal.—**

(a) **ORGANIZATION.**—There shall be a district court of appeal serving each appellate district. Each district court of appeal shall consist of at least three judges. Three judges shall consider each case and the concurrence of two shall be necessary to a decision.

(b) **JURISDICTION.**—

(1) District courts of appeal shall have jurisdiction to hear appeals, that may be taken as a matter of right, from final judgments or orders of trial courts, including those entered on review of administrative action, not directly appealable to the supreme court or a circuit court. They may review interlocutory orders in such cases to the extent provided by rules adopted by the supreme court.

(2) District courts of appeal shall have the power of direct review of administrative action, as prescribed by general law.

(3) A district court of appeal or any judge thereof may issue writs of habeas corpus returnable before the court or any judge thereof or before any circuit judge within the territorial jurisdiction of the court. A district court of appeal may issue writs of mandamus, certiorari, prohibition, quo warranto, and other writs necessary to the complete exercise of its jurisdiction. To the extent necessary to dispose of all issues in a cause properly before it, a district court of appeal may exercise any of the appellate jurisdiction of the circuit courts.

(c) **CLERKS AND MARSHALS.**—Each district court of appeal shall appoint a clerk and a marshal who shall hold office during the pleasure of the court and perform such duties as the court directs. Their compensation shall be fixed by general law. The marshal shall have the power to execute the process of the court throughout the territorial jurisdiction of the court, and in any county may deputize the sheriff or a deputy sheriff for such purpose.

**History.**—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972.

**SECTION 5. Circuit courts.—**

(a) **ORGANIZATION.**—There shall be a circuit court serving each judicial circuit.

(b) **JURISDICTION.**—The circuit courts shall have original jurisdiction not vested in the county courts, and jurisdiction of appeals when provided by general law. They shall have the power to issue writs of mandamus, quo warranto, certiorari, prohibition and habeas corpus, and all writs necessary or proper to the complete exercise of their jurisdiction. Jurisdiction of the circuit court shall be uniform throughout the state. They shall have the power of direct review of administrative action prescribed by general law.

**History.**—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972.

**SECTION 6. County courts.—**

(a) **ORGANIZATION.**—There shall be a county court in each county. There shall be one or more judges for each county court as prescribed by general law.

(b) **JURISDICTION.**—The county courts shall exercise the jurisdiction prescribed by general law. Such jurisdiction shall be uniform throughout the state.

**History.**—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972.

**SECTION 7. Specialized divisions.**—All courts except the supreme

**ARTICLE V      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE V**

court may sit in divisions as may be established by general law. A circuit or county court may hold civil and criminal trials and hearings in any place within the territorial jurisdiction of the court as designated by the chief judge of the circuit.

**History.**—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972.

**SECTION 8. Eligibility.**—No person shall be eligible for office of justice or judge of any court unless the person is an elector of the state and resides in the territorial jurisdiction of the court. No justice or judge shall serve after attaining the age of seventy-five years except upon temporary assignment. No person is eligible for the office of justice of the supreme court or judge of a district court of appeal unless the person is, and has been for the preceding ten years, a member of the bar of Florida. No person is eligible for the office of circuit judge unless the person is, and has been for the preceding five years, a member of the bar of Florida. Unless otherwise provided by general law, no person is eligible for the office of county court judge unless the person is, and has been for the preceding five years, a member of the bar of Florida. Unless otherwise provided by general law, a person shall be eligible for election or appointment to the office of county court judge in a county having a population of 40,000 or less if the person is a member in good standing of the bar of Florida.

**History.**—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. H.J.R. 37, 1984; adopted 1984 (effective July 1, 1985); Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 1, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**SECTION 9. Determination of number of judges.**—The supreme court shall establish by rule uniform criteria for the determination of the need for additional judges except supreme court justices, the necessity for

decreasing the number of judges and for increasing, decreasing or redefining appellate districts and judicial circuits. If the supreme court finds that a need exists for increasing or decreasing the number of judges or increasing, decreasing or redefining appellate districts and judicial circuits, it shall, prior to the next regular session of the legislature, certify to the legislature its findings and recommendations concerning such need. Upon receipt of such certificate, the legislature, at the next regular session, shall consider the findings and recommendations and may reject the recommendations or by law implement the recommendations in whole or in part; provided the legislature may create more judicial offices than are recommended by the supreme court or may decrease the number of judicial offices by a greater number than recommended by the court only upon a finding of two-thirds of the membership of both houses of the legislature, that such a need exists. A decrease in the number of judges shall be effective only after the expiration of a term. If the supreme court fails to make findings as provided above when need exists, the legislature may by concurrent resolution request the court to certify its findings and recommendations and upon the failure of the court to certify its findings for nine consecutive months, the legislature may, upon a finding of two-thirds of the membership of both houses of the legislature that a need exists, increase or decrease the number of judges or increase, decrease or redefine appellate districts and judicial circuits.

**History.**—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972.

**SECTION 10. Retention; election and terms.**—

(a) Any justice or judge may qualify for retention by a vote of the electors in the general election next preceding the expiration of the justice's or judge's

**ARTICLE V      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE V**

term in the manner prescribed by law. If a justice or judge is ineligible or fails to qualify for retention, a vacancy shall exist in that office upon the expiration of the term being served by the justice or judge. When a justice or judge so qualifies, the ballot shall read substantially as follows: "Shall Justice (or Judge) (name of justice or judge) of the (name of the court) be retained in office?"

If a majority of the qualified electors voting within the territorial jurisdiction of the court vote to retain, the justice or judge shall be retained for a term of six years. The term of the justice or judge retained shall commence on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January following the general election. If a majority of the qualified electors voting within the territorial jurisdiction of the court vote to not retain, a vacancy shall exist in that office upon the expiration of the term being served by the justice or judge.

(b)(1) The election of circuit judges shall be preserved notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) unless a majority of those voting in the jurisdiction of that circuit approves a local option to select circuit judges by merit selection and retention rather than by election. The election of circuit judges shall be by a vote of the qualified electors within the territorial jurisdiction of the court.

(2) The election of county court judges shall be preserved notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) unless a majority of those voting in the jurisdiction of that county approves a local option to select county judges by merit selection and retention rather than by election. The election of county court judges shall be by a vote of the qualified electors within the territorial jurisdiction of the court.

(3)a. A vote to exercise a local option to select circuit court judges and county court judges by merit

selection and retention rather than by election shall be held in each circuit and county at the general election in the year 2000. If a vote to exercise this local option fails in a vote of the electors, such option shall not again be put to a vote of the electors of that jurisdiction until the expiration of at least two years.

b. After the year 2000, a circuit may initiate the local option for merit selection and retention or the election of circuit judges, whichever is applicable, by filing with the custodian of state records a petition signed by the number of electors equal to at least ten percent of the votes cast in the circuit in the last preceding election in which presidential electors were chosen.

c. After the year 2000, a county may initiate the local option for merit selection and retention or the election of county court judges, whichever is applicable, by filing with the supervisor of elections a petition signed by the number of electors equal to at least ten percent of the votes cast in the county in the last preceding election in which presidential electors were chosen. The terms of circuit judges and judges of county courts shall be for six years.

**History.**—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. C.S. for S.J.R.'s 49, 81, 1976; adopted 1976; Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 7 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 11. Vacancies.—**

(a) Whenever a vacancy occurs in a judicial office to which election for retention applies, the governor shall fill the vacancy by appointing for a term ending on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the year following the next general election occurring at least one year after the date of appointment, one of not fewer than three persons nor more than six persons nominated by the appropriate judicial nominating commission.

**ARTICLE V      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE V**

(b) The governor shall fill each vacancy on a circuit court or on a county court, wherein the judges are elected by a majority vote of the electors, by appointing for a term ending on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the year following the next primary and general election occurring at least one year after the date of appointment, one of not fewer than three persons nor more than six persons nominated by the appropriate judicial nominating commission. An election shall be held to fill that judicial office for the term of the office beginning at the end of the appointed term.

(c) The nominations shall be made within thirty days from the occurrence of a vacancy unless the period is extended by the governor for a time not to exceed thirty days. The governor shall make the appointment within sixty days after the nominations have been certified to the governor.

(d) There shall be a separate judicial nominating commission as provided by general law for the supreme court, each district court of appeal, and each judicial circuit for all trial courts within the circuit. Uniform rules of procedure shall be established by the judicial nominating commissions at each level of the court system. Such rules, or any part thereof, may be repealed by general law enacted by a majority vote of the membership of each house of the legislature, or by the supreme court, five justices concurring. Except for deliberations of the judicial nominating commissions, the proceedings of the commissions and their records shall be open to the public.

**History.**—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. C.S. for S.J.R.'s 49, 81, 1976; adopted 1976; Am. H.J.R. 1160, 1984; adopted 1984; Am. C.S. for S.J.R. 978, 1996; adopted 1996; Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 7 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 12. Discipline; removal and retirement.—**

(a) **JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION.**—A judicial qualifications commission is created.

(1) There shall be a judicial qualifications commission vested with jurisdiction to investigate and recommend to the Supreme Court of Florida the removal from office of any justice or judge whose conduct, during term of office or otherwise occurring on or after November 1, 1966, (without regard to the effective date of this section) demonstrates a present unfitness to hold office, and to investigate and recommend the discipline of a justice or judge whose conduct, during term of office or otherwise occurring on or after November 1, 1966 (without regard to the effective date of this section), warrants such discipline. For purposes of this section, discipline is defined as any or all of the following: reprimand, fine, suspension with or without pay, or lawyer discipline. The commission shall have jurisdiction over justices and judges regarding allegations that misconduct occurred before or during service as a justice or judge if a complaint is made no later than one year following service as a justice or judge. The commission shall have jurisdiction regarding allegations of incapacity during service as a justice or judge. The commission shall be composed of:

a. Two judges of district courts of appeal selected by the judges of those courts, two circuit judges selected by the judges of the circuit courts and two judges of county courts selected by the judges of those courts;

b. Four electors who reside in the state, who are members of the bar of Florida, and who shall be chosen by the governing body of the bar of Florida; and

c. Five electors who reside in the state, who have never held judicial office or been members of the bar of

**ARTICLE V      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE V**

Florida, and who shall be appointed by the governor.

(2) The members of the judicial qualifications commission shall serve staggered terms, not to exceed six years, as prescribed by general law. No member of the commission except a judge shall be eligible for state judicial office while acting as a member of the commission and for a period of two years thereafter. No member of the commission shall hold office in a political party or participate in any campaign for judicial office or hold public office; provided that a judge may campaign for judicial office and hold that office. The commission shall elect one of its members as its chairperson.

(3) Members of the judicial qualifications commission not subject to impeachment shall be subject to removal from the commission pursuant to the provisions of Article IV, Section 7, Florida Constitution.

(4) The commission shall adopt rules regulating its proceedings, the filling of vacancies by the appointing authorities, the disqualification of members, the rotation of members between the panels, and the temporary replacement of disqualified or incapacitated members. The commission's rules, or any part thereof, may be repealed by general law enacted by a majority vote of the membership of each house of the legislature, or by the supreme court, five justices concurring. The commission shall have power to issue subpoenas. Until formal charges against a justice or judge are filed by the investigative panel with the clerk of the supreme court of Florida all proceedings by or before the commission shall be confidential; provided, however, upon a finding of probable cause and the filing by the investigative panel with said clerk of such formal charges against a justice or judge such charges

and all further proceedings before the commission shall be public.

(5) The commission shall have access to all information from all executive, legislative and judicial agencies, including grand juries, subject to the rules of the commission. At any time, on request of the speaker of the house of representatives or the governor, the commission shall make available all information in the possession of the commission for use in consideration of impeachment or suspension, respectively.

(b) **PANELS.**—The commission shall be divided into an investigative panel and a hearing panel as established by rule of the commission. The investigative panel is vested with the jurisdiction to receive or initiate complaints, conduct investigations, dismiss complaints, and upon a vote of a simple majority of the panel submit formal charges to the hearing panel. The hearing panel is vested with the authority to receive and hear formal charges from the investigative panel and upon a two-thirds vote of the panel recommend to the supreme court the removal of a justice or judge or the involuntary retirement of a justice or judge for any permanent disability that seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties. Upon a simple majority vote of the membership of the hearing panel, the panel may recommend to the supreme court that the justice or judge be subject to appropriate discipline.

(c) **SUPREME COURT.**—The supreme court shall receive recommendations from the judicial qualifications commission's hearing panel.

(1) The supreme court may accept, reject, or modify in whole or in part the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the commission and it may order that the justice or judge be subjected to appropriate discipline, or

**ARTICLE V      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE V**

be removed from office with termination of compensation for willful or persistent failure to perform judicial duties or for other conduct unbecoming a member of the judiciary demonstrating a present unfitness to hold office, or be involuntarily retired for any permanent disability that seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties. Malafides, scienter or moral turpitude on the part of a justice or judge shall not be required for removal from office of a justice or judge whose conduct demonstrates a present unfitness to hold office. After the filing of a formal proceeding and upon request of the investigative panel, the supreme court may suspend the justice or judge from office, with or without compensation, pending final determination of the inquiry.

(2) The supreme court may award costs to the prevailing party.

(d) The power of removal conferred by this section shall be both alternative and cumulative to the power of impeachment.

(e) Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions of this section, if the person who is the subject of proceedings by the judicial qualifications commission is a justice of the supreme court of Florida all justices of such court automatically shall be disqualified to sit as justices of such court with respect to all proceedings therein concerning such person and the supreme court for such purposes shall be composed of a panel consisting of the seven chief judges of the judicial circuits of the state of Florida most senior in tenure of judicial office as circuit judge. For purposes of determining seniority of such circuit judges in the event there be judges of equal tenure in judicial office as circuit judge the judge or judges from the lower numbered circuit or circuits shall be deemed senior. In the event any such chief circuit judge is

under investigation by the judicial qualifications commission or is otherwise disqualified or unable to serve on the panel, the next most senior chief circuit judge or judges shall serve in place of such disqualified or disabled chief circuit judge.

(f) SCHEDULE TO SECTION 12.

(1) Except to the extent inconsistent with the provisions of this section, all provisions of law and rules of court in force on the effective date of this article shall continue in effect until superseded in the manner authorized by the constitution.

(2) After this section becomes effective and until adopted by rule of the commission consistent with it:

a. The commission shall be divided, as determined by the chairperson, into one investigative panel and one hearing panel to meet the responsibilities set forth in this section.

b. The investigative panel shall be composed of:

1. Four judges,
2. Two members of the bar of Florida, and
3. Three non-lawyers.

c. The hearing panel shall be composed of:

1. Two judges,
2. Two members of the bar of Florida, and
3. Two non-lawyers.

d. Membership on the panels may rotate in a manner determined by the rules of the commission provided that no member shall vote as a member of the investigative and hearing panel on the same proceeding.

e. The commission shall hire separate staff for each panel.

f. The members of the commission shall serve for staggered terms of six years.

g. The terms of office of the present members of the judicial

**ARTICLE V      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE V**

qualifications commission shall expire upon the effective date of the amendments to this section approved by the legislature during the regular session of the legislature in 1996 and new members shall be appointed to serve the following staggered terms:

1. Group I.—The terms of five members, composed of two electors as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)c. of Article V, one member of the bar of Florida as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)b. of Article V, one judge from the district courts of appeal and one circuit judge as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)a. of Article V, shall expire on December 31, 1998.

2. Group II.—The terms of five members, composed of one elector as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)c. of Article V, two members of the bar of Florida as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)b. of Article V, one circuit judge and one county judge as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)a. of Article V shall expire on December 31, 2000.

3. Group III.—The terms of five members, composed of two electors as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)c. of Article V, one member of the bar of Florida as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)b., one judge from the district courts of appeal and one county judge as set forth in s. 12(a)(1)a. of Article V, shall expire on December 31, 2002.

h. An appointment to fill a vacancy of the commission shall be for the remainder of the term.

i. Selection of members by district courts of appeal judges, circuit judges, and county court judges, shall be by no less than a majority of the members voting at the respective courts' conferences. Selection of members by the board of governors of the bar of Florida shall be by no less than a majority of the board.

j. The commission shall be entitled to recover the costs of investigation and prosecution, in addition to any penalty levied by the supreme court.

k. The compensation of members and referees shall be the travel expenses or transportation and per diem allowance as provided by general law.

**History.**—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. H.J.R. 3911, 1974; adopted 1974; Am. H.J.R. 1709, 1975; adopted 1976; Am. C.S. for S.J.R. 978, 1996; adopted 1996; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 7, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 13. Ethics in the judiciary.—**

(a) All justices and judges shall devote full time to their judicial duties. A justice or judge shall not engage in the practice of law or hold office in any political party.

(b) A former justice or former judge shall not lobby for compensation on issues of policy, appropriations, or procurement before the legislative or executive branches of state government for a period of six years after he or she vacates his or her judicial position. The legislature may enact legislation to implement this subsection, including, but not limited to, defining terms and providing penalties for violations. Any such law shall not contain provisions on any other subject.

**History.**—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 7, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**SECTION 14. Funding.—**

(a) All justices and judges shall be compensated only by state salaries fixed by general law. Funding for the state courts system, state attorneys' offices, public defenders' offices, and court-appointed counsel, except as otherwise provided in subsection (c), shall be provided from state revenues appropriated by general law.

(b) All funding for the offices of the clerks of the circuit and county courts performing court-related functions, except as otherwise provided in this subsection and subsection (c), shall be provided by adequate and



**ARTICLE V      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE V**

appropriate filing fees for judicial proceedings and service charges and costs for performing court-related functions as required by general law. Selected salaries, costs, and expenses of the state courts system may be funded from appropriate filing fees for judicial proceedings and service charges and costs for performing court-related functions, as provided by general law. Where the requirements of either the United States Constitution or the Constitution of the State of Florida preclude the imposition of filing fees for judicial proceedings and service charges and costs for performing court-related functions sufficient to fund the court-related functions of the offices of the clerks of the circuit and county courts, the state shall provide, as determined by the legislature, adequate and appropriate supplemental funding from state revenues appropriated by general law.

(c) No county or municipality, except as provided in this subsection, shall be required to provide any funding for the state courts system, state attorneys' offices, public defenders' offices, court-appointed counsel or the offices of the clerks of the circuit and county courts performing court-related functions. Counties shall be required to fund the cost of communications services, existing radio systems, existing multi-agency criminal justice information systems, and the cost of construction or lease, maintenance, utilities, and security of facilities for the trial courts, public defenders' offices, state attorneys' offices, and the offices of the clerks of the circuit and county courts performing court-related functions. Counties shall also pay reasonable and necessary salaries, costs, and expenses of the state courts system to meet local requirements as determined by general law.

(d) The judiciary shall have no power to fix appropriations.

**History.**—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 7, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 15. Attorneys; admission and discipline.**—The supreme court shall have exclusive jurisdiction to regulate the admission of persons to the practice of law and the discipline of persons admitted.

**History.**—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972.

**SECTION 16. Clerks of the circuit courts.**—There shall be in each county a clerk of the circuit court who shall be selected pursuant to the provisions of Article VIII section 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of the constitution, the duties of the clerk of the circuit court may be divided by special or general law between two officers, one serving as clerk of court and one serving as ex officio clerk of the board of county commissioners, auditor, recorder, and custodian of all county funds. There may be a clerk of the county court if authorized by general or special law.

**History.**—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972.

**SECTION 17. State attorneys.**—In each judicial circuit a state attorney shall be elected for a term of four years. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution, the state attorney shall be the prosecuting officer of all trial courts in that circuit and shall perform other duties prescribed by general law; provided, however, when authorized by general law, the violations of all municipal ordinances may be prosecuted by municipal prosecutors. A state attorney shall be an elector of the state and reside in the territorial jurisdiction of the circuit; shall be and have been a member of the bar of Florida for the preceding five years; shall devote full time to the duties of the office; and shall not engage in the private practice of

**ARTICLE V      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE V**

law. State attorneys shall appoint such assistant state attorneys as may be authorized by law.

**History.**—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. H.J.R. 386, 1985; adopted 1986; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 18. Public defenders.**

In each judicial circuit a public defender shall be elected for a term of four years, who shall perform duties prescribed by general law. A public defender shall be an elector of the state and reside in the territorial jurisdiction of the circuit and shall be and have been a member of the Bar of Florida for the preceding five years. Public defenders shall appoint such assistant public defenders as may be authorized by law.

**History.**—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 19. Judicial officers as conservators of the peace.**—All judicial officers in this state shall be conservators of the peace.

**History.**—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972.

**SECTION 20. Schedule to Article V.—**

(a) This article shall replace all of Article V of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, which shall then stand repealed.

(b) Except to the extent inconsistent with the provisions of this article, all provisions of law and rules of court in force on the effective date of this article shall continue in effect until superseded in the manner authorized by the constitution.

(c) After this article becomes effective, and until changed by general law consistent with sections 1 through 19 of this article:

(1) The supreme court shall have the jurisdiction immediately theretofore exercised by it, and it shall determine all

proceedings pending before it on the effective date of this article.

(2) The appellate districts shall be those in existence on the date of adoption of this article. There shall be a district court of appeal in each district. The district courts of appeal shall have the jurisdiction immediately theretofore exercised by the district courts of appeal and shall determine all proceedings pending before them on the effective date of this article.

(3) Circuit courts shall have jurisdiction of appeals from county courts and municipal courts, except those appeals which may be taken directly to the supreme court; and they shall have exclusive original jurisdiction in all actions at law not cognizable by the county courts; of proceedings relating to the settlement of the estate of decedents and minors, the granting of letters testamentary, guardianship, involuntary hospitalization, the determination of incompetency, and other jurisdiction usually pertaining to courts of probate; in all cases in equity including all cases relating to juveniles; of all felonies and of all misdemeanors arising out of the same circumstances as a felony which is also charged; in all cases involving legality of any tax assessment or toll; in the action of ejectment; and in all actions involving the titles or boundaries or right of possession of real property. The circuit court may issue injunctions. There shall be judicial circuits which shall be the judicial circuits in existence on the date of adoption of this article. The chief judge of a circuit may authorize a county court judge to order emergency hospitalizations pursuant to Chapter 71-131, Laws of Florida, in the absence from the county of the circuit judge and the county court judge shall have the power to issue all temporary orders and temporary injunctions necessary or

**ARTICLE V      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE V**

proper to the complete exercise of such jurisdiction.

(4) County courts shall have original jurisdiction in all criminal misdemeanor cases not cognizable by the circuit courts, of all violations of municipal and county ordinances, and of all actions at law in which the matter in controversy does not exceed the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) exclusive of interest and costs, except those within the exclusive jurisdiction of the circuit courts. Judges of county courts shall be committing magistrates. The county courts shall have jurisdiction now exercised by the county judge's courts other than that vested in the circuit court by subsection (c)(3) hereof, the jurisdiction now exercised by the county courts, the claims court, the small claims courts, the small claims magistrates courts, magistrates courts, justice of the peace courts, municipal courts and courts of chartered counties, including but not limited to the counties referred to in Article VIII, sections 9, 10, 11 and 24 of the Constitution of 1885.

(5) Each judicial nominating commission shall be composed of the following:

a. Three members appointed by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar from among The Florida Bar members who are actively engaged in the practice of law with offices within the territorial jurisdiction of the affected court, district or circuit;

b. Three electors who reside in the territorial jurisdiction of the court or circuit appointed by the governor; and

c. Three electors who reside in the territorial jurisdiction of the court or circuit and who are not members of the bar of Florida, selected and appointed by a majority vote of the other six members of the commission.

(6) No justice or judge shall be a member of a judicial nominating

commission. A member of a judicial nominating commission may hold public office other than judicial office. No member shall be eligible for appointment to state judicial office so long as that person is a member of a judicial nominating commission and for a period of two years thereafter. All acts of a judicial nominating commission shall be made with a concurrence of a majority of its members.

(7) The members of a judicial nominating commission shall serve for a term of four years except the terms of the initial members of the judicial nominating commissions shall expire as follows:

a. The terms of one member of category a. b. and c. in subsection (c)(5) hereof shall expire on July 1, 1974;

b. The terms of one member of category a. b. and c. in subsection (c)(5) hereof shall expire on July 1, 1975;

c. The terms of one member of category a. b. and c. in subsection (c)(5) hereof shall expire on July 1, 1976;

(8) All fines and forfeitures arising from offenses tried in the county court shall be collected, and accounted for by clerk of the court, and deposited in a special trust account. All fines and forfeitures received from violations of ordinances or misdemeanors committed within a county or municipal ordinances committed within a municipality within the territorial jurisdiction of the county court shall be paid monthly to the county or municipality respectively. If any costs are assessed and collected in connection with offenses tried in county court, all court costs shall be paid into the general revenue fund of the state of Florida and such other funds as prescribed by general law.

**ARTICLE V      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE V**

(9) Any municipality or county may apply to the chief judge of the circuit in which that municipality or county is situated for the county court to sit in a location suitable to the municipality or county and convenient in time and place to its citizens and police officers and upon such application said chief judge shall direct the court to sit in the location unless the chief judge shall determine the request is not justified. If the chief judge does not authorize the county court to sit in the location requested, the county or municipality may apply to the supreme court for an order directing the county court to sit in the location. Any municipality or county which so applies shall be required to provide the appropriate physical facilities in which the county court may hold court.

(10) All courts except the supreme court may sit in divisions as may be established by local rule approved by the supreme court.

(11) A county court judge in any county having a population of 40,000 or less according to the last decennial census, shall not be required to be a member of the bar of Florida.

(12) Municipal prosecutors may prosecute violations of municipal ordinances.

(13) Justice shall mean a justice elected or appointed to the supreme court and shall not include any judge assigned from any court.

(d) When this article becomes effective:

(1) All courts not herein authorized, except as provided by subsection (d)(4) of this section shall cease to exist and jurisdiction to conclude all pending cases and enforce all prior orders and judgments shall vest in the court that would have jurisdiction of the cause if thereafter instituted. All records of and property held by courts abolished hereby shall be transferred to the proper

office of the appropriate court under this article.

(2) Judges of the following courts, if their terms do not expire in 1973 and if they are eligible under subsection (d)(8) hereof, shall become additional judges of the circuit court for each of the counties of their respective circuits, and shall serve as such circuit judges for the remainder of the terms to which they were elected and shall be eligible for election as circuit judges thereafter. These courts are: civil court of record of Dade county, all criminal courts of record, the felony courts of record of Alachua, Leon and Volusia Counties, the courts of record of Broward, Brevard, Escambia, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee and Sarasota Counties, the civil and criminal court of record of Pinellas County, and county judge's courts and separate juvenile courts in counties having a population in excess of 100,000 according to the 1970 federal census. On the effective date of this article, there shall be an additional number of positions of circuit judges equal to the number of existing circuit judges and the number of judges of the above named courts whose term expires in 1973. Elections to such offices shall take place at the same time and manner as elections to other state judicial offices in 1972 and the terms of such offices shall be for a term of six years. Unless changed pursuant to section nine of this article, the number of circuit judges presently existing and created by this subsection shall not be changed.

(3) In all counties having a population of less than 100,000 according to the 1970 federal census and having more than one county judge on the date of the adoption of this article, there shall be the same number of judges of the county court as there are county judges existing on that date unless changed pursuant to section 9 of this article.

**ARTICLE V      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE V**

(4) Municipal courts shall continue with their same jurisdiction until amended or terminated in a manner prescribed by special or general law or ordinances, or until January 3, 1977, whichever occurs first. On that date all municipal courts not previously abolished shall cease to exist. Judges of municipal courts shall remain in office and be subject to reappointment or reelection in the manner prescribed by law until said courts are terminated pursuant to the provisions of this subsection. Upon municipal courts being terminated or abolished in accordance with the provisions of this subsection, the judges thereof who are not members of the bar of Florida, shall be eligible to seek election as judges of county courts of their respective counties.

(5) Judges, holding elective office in all other courts abolished by this article, whose terms do not expire in 1973 including judges established pursuant to Article VIII, sections 9 and 11 of the Constitution of 1885 shall serve as judges of the county court for the remainder of the term to which they were elected. Unless created pursuant to section 9, of this Article V such judicial office shall not continue to exist thereafter.

(6) By March 21, 1972, the supreme court shall certify the need for additional circuit and county judges. The legislature in the 1972 regular session may by general law create additional offices of judge, the terms of which shall begin on the effective date of this article. Elections to such offices shall take place at the same time and manner as election to other state judicial offices in 1972.

(7) County judges of existing county judge's courts and justices of the peace and magistrates' court who are not members of bar of Florida shall be eligible to seek election as county

court judges of their respective counties.

(8) No judge of a court abolished by this article shall become or be eligible to become a judge of the circuit court unless the judge has been a member of bar of Florida for the preceding five years.

(9) The office of judges of all other courts abolished by this article shall be abolished as of the effective date of this article.

(10) The offices of county solicitor and prosecuting attorney shall stand abolished, and all county solicitors and prosecuting attorneys holding such offices upon the effective date of this article shall become and serve as assistant state attorneys for the circuits in which their counties are situate for the remainder of their terms, with compensation not less than that received immediately before the effective date of this article.

**(e) LIMITED OPERATION OF SOME PROVISIONS.—**

(1) All justices of the supreme court, judges of the district courts of appeal and circuit judges in office upon the effective date of this article shall retain their offices for the remainder of their respective terms. All members of the judicial qualifications commission in office upon the effective date of this article shall retain their offices for the remainder of their respective terms. Each state attorney in office on the effective date of this article shall retain the office for the remainder of the term.

(2) No justice or judge holding office immediately after this article becomes effective who held judicial office on July 1, 1957, shall be subject to retirement from judicial office because of age pursuant to section 8 of this article.

(f) Until otherwise provided by law, the nonjudicial duties required of county judges shall be performed by the judges of the county court.

<sup>1</sup>(g) All provisions of Article V of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, not embraced herein which are not inconsistent with this revision shall become statutes subject to modification or repeal as are other statutes.

(h) The requirements of section 14 relative to all county court judges or any judge of a municipal court who continues to hold office pursuant to subsection (d)(4) hereof being compensated by state salaries shall not apply prior to January 3, 1977, unless otherwise provided by general law.

(i) **DELETION OF OBSOLETE SCHEDULE ITEMS.**—The legislature shall have power, by concurrent resolution, to delete from this article any subsection of this section 20 including this subsection, when all events to which the subsection to be deleted is or could become applicable have occurred. A legislative determination of fact made as a basis for application of this subsection shall be subject to judicial review.

(j) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Unless otherwise provided herein, this article shall become effective at 11:59 o'clock P.M., Eastern Standard Time, January 1, 1973.

**History.**—S.J.R. 52-D, 1971; adopted 1972; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

<sup>1</sup>**Note.**—All provisions of Art. V of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, considered as statutory law, were repealed by ch. 73-303, Laws of Florida.

**SECTION 21. Judicial interpretation of statutes and rules.**—In interpreting a state statute or rule, a state court or an officer hearing an administrative action pursuant to general law may not defer to an administrative agency's interpretation of such statute or rule, and must instead interpret such statute or rule de novo.

**History.**—Proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 1, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**ARTICLE VI**

**SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS**

Sec.

1. Regulation of elections.
2. Electors.
3. Oath.
4. Disqualifications.
5. Primary, general, and special elections.
6. Municipal and district elections.
7. Campaign spending limits and funding of campaigns for elective state-wide office.

**SECTION 1. Regulation of elections.**—All elections by the people shall be by direct and secret vote. General elections shall be determined by a plurality of votes cast. Registration and elections shall, and political party functions may, be regulated by law; however, the requirements for a candidate with no party affiliation or for a candidate of a minor party for placement of the candidate's name on the ballot shall be no greater than the requirements for a candidate of the party having the largest number of registered voters.

**History.**—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 11, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 2. Electors.**—Only a citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen years of age and who is a permanent resident of the state, if registered as provided by law, shall be an elector of the county where registered.

**History.**—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 11, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State November 28, 2018; adopted 2020.

**SECTION 3. Oath.**—Each eligible citizen upon registering shall subscribe the following: "I do solemnly swear (or

affirm) that I will protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Florida, and that I am qualified to register as an elector under the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida.”

**SECTION 4. Disqualifications.—**

(a) No person convicted of a felony, or adjudicated in this or any other state to be mentally incompetent, shall be qualified to vote or hold office until restoration of civil rights or removal of disability. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, any disqualification from voting arising from a felony conviction shall terminate and voting rights shall be restored upon completion of all terms of sentence including parole or probation.

(b) No person convicted of murder or a felony sexual offense shall be qualified to vote until restoration of civil rights.

(c) No person may appear on the ballot for re-election to any of the following offices:

- (1) Florida representative,
- (2) Florida senator,
- (3) Florida Lieutenant governor,
- (4) any office of the Florida cabinet,
- (5) U.S. Representative from Florida, or
- (6) U.S. Senator from Florida

if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in that office for eight consecutive years.

**History.**—Am. by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State July 23, 1992; adopted 1992; Am. by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State October 31, 2014; adopted 2018.

**SECTION 5. Primary, general, and special elections.—**

(a) A general election shall be held in each county on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year to choose a

successor to each elective state and county officer whose term will expire before the next general election and, except as provided herein, to fill each vacancy in elective office for the unexpired portion of the term. A general election may be suspended or delayed due to a state of emergency or impending emergency pursuant to general law. Special elections and referenda shall be held as provided by law.

(b) If all candidates for an office have the same party affiliation and the winner will have no opposition in the general election, all qualified electors, regardless of party affiliation, may vote in the primary elections for that office.

**History.**—Am. S.J.R. 162, 1992; adopted 1992; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 11, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 6. Municipal and district elections.—**

Registration and elections in municipalities shall, and in other governmental entities created by statute may, be provided by law.

**SECTION 7. Campaign spending limits and funding of campaigns for elective state-wide office.—**

It is the policy of this state to provide for state-wide elections in which all qualified candidates may compete effectively. A method of public financing for campaigns for state-wide office shall be established by law. Spending limits shall be established for such campaigns for candidates who use public funds in their campaigns. The legislature shall provide funding for this provision. General law implementing this paragraph shall be at least as protective of effective competition by a candidate who uses public funds as the general law in effect on January 1, 1998.

**History.**—Proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 11, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**ARTICLE VII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE VII**

**ARTICLE VII**

**FINANCE AND TAXATION**

Sec.

1. Taxation; appropriations; state expenses; state revenue limitation.
2. Taxes; rate.
3. Taxes; exemptions.
4. Taxation; assessments.
5. Estate, inheritance and income taxes.
6. Homestead exemptions.
7. Allocation of pari-mutuel taxes.
8. Aid to local governments.
9. Local taxes.
10. Pledging credit.
11. State bonds; revenue bonds.
12. Local bonds.
13. Relief from illegal taxes.
14. Bonds for pollution control and abatement and other water facilities.
15. Revenue bonds for scholarship loans.
16. Bonds for housing and related facilities.
17. Bonds for acquiring transportation right-of-way or for constructing bridges.
18. Laws requiring counties or municipalities to spend funds or limiting their ability to raise revenue or receive state tax revenue.
19. Supermajority vote required to impose, authorize, or raise state taxes or fees.

**SECTION 1. Taxation; appropriations; state expenses; state revenue limitation.—**

(a) No tax shall be levied except in pursuance of law. No state ad valorem taxes shall be levied upon real estate or tangible personal property. All other forms of taxation shall be preempted

to the state except as provided by general law.

(b) Motor vehicles, boats, airplanes, trailers, trailer coaches and mobile homes, as defined by law, shall be subject to a license tax for their operation in the amounts and for the purposes prescribed by law, but shall not be subject to ad valorem taxes.

(c) No money shall be drawn from the treasury except in pursuance of appropriation made by law.

(d) Provision shall be made by law for raising sufficient revenue to defray the expenses of the state for each fiscal period.

(e) Except as provided herein, state revenues collected for any fiscal year shall be limited to state revenues allowed under this subsection for the prior fiscal year plus an adjustment for growth. As used in this subsection, "growth" means an amount equal to the average annual rate of growth in Florida personal income over the most recent twenty quarters times the state revenues allowed under this subsection for the prior fiscal year. For the 1995-1996 fiscal year, the state revenues allowed under this subsection for the prior fiscal year shall equal the state revenues collected for the 1994-1995 fiscal year. Florida personal income shall be determined by the legislature, from information available from the United States Department of Commerce or its successor on the first day of February prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. State revenues collected for any fiscal year in excess of this limitation shall be transferred to the budget stabilization fund until the fund reaches the maximum balance specified in Section 19(g) of Article III, and thereafter shall be refunded to taxpayers as provided by general law. State revenues allowed under this subsection for any fiscal year may be increased by a two-thirds vote of the



## **ARTICLE VII    CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE VII**

membership of each house of the legislature in a separate bill that contains no other subject and that sets forth the dollar amount by which the state revenues allowed will be increased. The vote may not be taken less than seventy-two hours after the third reading of the bill. For purposes of this subsection, "state revenues" means taxes, fees, licenses, and charges for services imposed by the legislature on individuals, businesses, or agencies outside state government. However, "state revenues" does not include: revenues that are necessary to meet the requirements set forth in documents authorizing the issuance of bonds by the state; revenues that are used to provide matching funds for the federal Medicaid program with the exception of the revenues used to support the Public Medical Assistance Trust Fund or its successor program and with the exception of state matching funds used to fund elective expansions made after July 1, 1994; proceeds from the state lottery returned as prizes; receipts of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund; balances carried forward from prior fiscal years; taxes, licenses, fees, and charges for services imposed by local, regional, or school district governing bodies; or revenue from taxes, licenses, fees, and charges for services required to be imposed by any amendment or revision to this constitution after July 1, 1994. An adjustment to the revenue limitation shall be made by general law to reflect the fiscal impact of transfers of responsibility for the funding of governmental functions between the state and other levels of government. The legislature shall, by general law, prescribe procedures necessary to administer this subsection.

**History.**—Am. H.J.R. 2053, 1994; adopted 1994.

**SECTION 2. Taxes; rate.**—All ad valorem taxation shall be at a uniform rate within each taxing unit, except the

taxes on intangible personal property may be at different rates but shall never exceed two mills on the dollar of assessed value; provided, as to any obligations secured by mortgage, deed of trust, or other lien on real estate wherever located, an intangible tax of not more than two mills on the dollar may be levied by law to be in lieu of all other intangible assessments on such obligations.

### **SECTION 3. Taxes; exemptions.**

(a) All property owned by a municipality and used exclusively by it for municipal or public purposes shall be exempt from taxation. A municipality, owning property outside the municipality, may be required by general law to make payment to the taxing unit in which the property is located. Such portions of property as are used predominantly for educational, literary, scientific, religious or charitable purposes may be exempted by general law from taxation.

(b) There shall be exempt from taxation, cumulatively, to every head of a family residing in this state, household goods and personal effects to the value fixed by general law, not less than one thousand dollars, and to every widow or widower or person who is blind or totally and permanently disabled, property to the value fixed by general law not less than five hundred dollars.

(c) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this subsection and general law, grant community and economic development ad valorem tax exemptions to new businesses and expansions of existing businesses, as defined by general law. Such an exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county or municipality, and only after the electors of the county or municipality

**ARTICLE VII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE VII**

voting on such question in a referendum authorize the county or municipality to adopt such ordinances. An exemption so granted shall apply to improvements to real property made by or for the use of a new business and improvements to real property related to the expansion of an existing business and shall also apply to tangible personal property of such new business and tangible personal property related to the expansion of an existing business. The amount or limits of the amount of such exemption shall be specified by general law. The period of time for which such exemption may be granted to a new business or expansion of an existing business shall be determined by general law. The authority to grant such exemption shall expire ten years from the date of approval by the electors of the county or municipality, and may be renewable by referendum as provided by general law.

(d) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this subsection and general law, grant historic preservation ad valorem tax exemptions to owners of historic properties. This exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county or municipality. The amount or limits of the amount of this exemption and the requirements for eligible properties must be specified by general law. The period of time for which this exemption may be granted to a property owner shall be determined by general law.

<sup>1</sup>(e) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein:

(1) Twenty-five thousand dollars of the assessed value of property subject to tangible personal property tax shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation.

(2) The assessed value of solar devices or renewable energy source devices subject to tangible personal

property tax may be exempt from ad valorem taxation, subject to limitations provided by general law.

<sup>2</sup>(f) There shall be granted an ad valorem tax exemption for real property dedicated in perpetuity for conservation purposes, including real property encumbered by perpetual conservation easements or by other perpetual conservation protections, as defined by general law.

(g) By general law and subject to the conditions specified therein, each person who receives a homestead exemption as provided in section 6 of this article; who was a member of the United States military or military reserves, the United States Coast Guard or its reserves, or the Florida National Guard; and who was deployed during the preceding calendar year on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by the legislature shall receive an additional exemption equal to a percentage of the taxable value of his or her homestead property. The applicable percentage shall be calculated as the number of days during the preceding calendar year the person was deployed on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by the legislature divided by the number of days in that year.

**History.**—Am. S.J.R.'s 9-E, 15-E, 1980; adopted 1980; Am. C.S. for S.J.R.'s 318, 356, 1988; adopted 1988; Am. S.J.R. 152, 1992; adopted 1992; Am. H.J.R. 969, 1997; adopted 1998; Am. C.S. for S.J.R. 2-D, 2007; adopted 2008; Ams. proposed by Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, Revision Nos. 3 and 4, 2008, filed with the Secretary of State April 28, 2008; adopted 2008; Am. H.J.R. 833, 2009; adopted 2010; Am. C.S. for H.J.R. 193, 2016; adopted 2016.

**Note.**—Section 34, Art. XII, State Constitution, provides in part that “the amendment to subsection (e) of Section 3 of Article VII authorizing the legislature, subject to limitations set forth in general law, to exempt the assessed value of solar devices or renewable energy source devices subject to tangible personal property tax from ad valorem taxation . . . shall take effect on January 1, 2018, and shall expire on December 31, 2037. Upon expiration, this section shall be repealed and the text of subsection (e) of Section 3 of Article VII . . . shall revert to that in existence on December 31, 2017, except that any amendments to

## ARTICLE VII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE VII

such text otherwise adopted shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the portions of text which expire pursuant to this section." Effective December 31, 2037, s. 3(e), Art. VII, State Constitution, will read:

(e) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, twenty-five thousand dollars of the assessed value of property subject to tangible personal property tax shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation.

<sup>2</sup>**Note.**—This subsection, originally designated (g) by Revision No. 4 of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, 2008, was redesignated (f) by the editors to conform to the redesignation of subsections by Revision No. 3 of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, 2008.

**SECTION 4. Taxation; assessments.**—By general law regulations shall be prescribed which shall secure a just valuation of all property for ad valorem taxation, provided:

(a) Agricultural land, land producing high water recharge to Florida's aquifers, or land used exclusively for non-commercial recreational purposes may be classified by general law and assessed solely on the basis of character or use.

(b) As provided by general law and subject to conditions, limitations, and reasonable definitions specified therein, land used for conservation purposes shall be classified by general law and assessed solely on the basis of character or use.

(c) Pursuant to general law tangible personal property held for sale as stock in trade and livestock may be valued for taxation at a specified percentage of its value, may be classified for tax purposes, or may be exempted from taxation.

(d) All persons entitled to a homestead exemption under Section 6 of this Article shall have their homestead assessed at just value as of January 1 of the year following the effective date of this amendment. This assessment shall change only as provided in this subsection.

(1) Assessments subject to this subsection shall be changed annually on January 1st of each year; but those

changes in assessments shall not exceed the lower of the following:

a. Three percent (3%) of the assessment for the prior year.

b. The percent change in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(2) No assessment shall exceed just value.

(3) After any change of ownership, as provided by general law, homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of January 1 of the following year, unless the provisions of paragraph (8) apply. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(4) New homestead property shall be assessed at just value as of January 1st of the year following the establishment of the homestead, unless the provisions of paragraph (8) apply. That assessment shall only change as provided in this subsection.

(5) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to homestead property shall be assessed as provided for by general law; provided, however, after the adjustment for any change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(6) In the event of a termination of homestead status, the property shall be assessed as provided by general law.

(7) The provisions of this amendment are severable. If any of the provisions of this amendment shall be held unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of such court shall not affect or impair any remaining provisions of this amendment.

**ARTICLE VII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE VII**

(8)a. A person who establishes a new homestead as of January 1 and who has received a homestead exemption pursuant to Section 6 of this Article as of January 1 of any of the three years immediately preceding the establishment of the new homestead is entitled to have the new homestead assessed at less than just value. The assessed value of the newly established homestead shall be determined as follows:

1. If the just value of the new homestead is greater than or equal to the just value of the prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the prior homestead was abandoned, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be the just value of the new homestead minus an amount equal to the lesser of \$500,000 or the difference between the just value and the assessed value of the prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the prior homestead was abandoned. Thereafter, the homestead shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

2. If the just value of the new homestead is less than the just value of the prior homestead as of January 1 of the year in which the prior homestead was abandoned, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be equal to the just value of the new homestead divided by the just value of the prior homestead and multiplied by the assessed value of the prior homestead. However, if the difference between the just value of the new homestead and the assessed value of the new homestead calculated pursuant to this sub-subparagraph is greater than \$500,000, the assessed value of the new homestead shall be increased so that the difference between the just value and the assessed value equals \$500,000. Thereafter, the

homestead shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

b. By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the legislature shall provide for application of this paragraph to property owned by more than one person.

(e) The legislature may, by general law, for assessment purposes and subject to the provisions of this subsection, allow counties and municipalities to authorize by ordinance that historic property may be assessed solely on the basis of character or use. Such character or use assessment shall apply only to the jurisdiction adopting the ordinance. The requirements for eligible properties must be specified by general law.

(f) A county may, in the manner prescribed by general law, provide for a reduction in the assessed value of homestead property to the extent of any increase in the assessed value of that property which results from the construction or reconstruction of the property for the purpose of providing living quarters for one or more natural or adoptive grandparents or parents of the owner of the property or of the owner's spouse if at least one of the grandparents or parents for whom the living quarters are provided is 62 years of age or older. Such a reduction may not exceed the lesser of the following:

(1) The increase in assessed value resulting from construction or reconstruction of the property.

(2) Twenty percent of the total assessed value of the property as improved.

(g) For all levies other than school district levies, assessments of residential real property, as defined by general law, which contains nine units or fewer and which is not subject to the assessment limitations set forth in subsections (a) through (d) shall change only as provided in this subsection.

**ARTICLE VII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE VII**

(1) Assessments subject to this subsection shall be changed annually on the date of assessment provided by law; but those changes in assessments shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the assessment for the prior year.

(2) No assessment shall exceed just value.

(3) After a change of ownership or control, as defined by general law, including any change of ownership of a legal entity that owns the property, such property shall be assessed at just value as of the next assessment date. Thereafter, such property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(4) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to such property shall be assessed as provided for by general law; however, after the adjustment for any change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(h) For all levies other than school district levies, assessments of real property that is not subject to the assessment limitations set forth in subsections (a) through (d) and (g) shall change only as provided in this subsection.

(1) Assessments subject to this subsection shall be changed annually on the date of assessment provided by law; but those changes in assessments shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the assessment for the prior year.

(2) No assessment shall exceed just value.

(3) The legislature must provide that such property shall be assessed at just value as of the next assessment date after a qualifying improvement, as defined by general law, is made to such property. Thereafter, such property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(4) The legislature may provide that such property shall be assessed at just

value as of the next assessment date after a change of ownership or control, as defined by general law, including any change of ownership of the legal entity that owns the property. Thereafter, such property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

(5) Changes, additions, reductions, or improvements to such property shall be assessed as provided for by general law; however, after the adjustment for any change, addition, reduction, or improvement, the property shall be assessed as provided in this subsection.

<sup>1</sup>(i) The legislature, by general law and subject to conditions specified therein, may prohibit the consideration of the following in the determination of the assessed value of real property:

(1) Any change or improvement to real property used for residential purposes made to improve the property's resistance to wind damage.

(2) The installation of a solar or renewable energy source device.

<sup>2</sup>(j)(1) The assessment of the following working waterfront properties shall be based upon the current use of the property:

a. Land used predominantly for commercial fishing purposes.

b. Land that is accessible to the public and used for vessel launches into waters that are navigable.

c. Marinas and drystacks that are open to the public.

d. Water-dependent marine manufacturing facilities, commercial fishing facilities, and marine vessel construction and repair facilities and their support activities.

(2) The assessment benefit provided by this subsection is subject to conditions and limitations and reasonable definitions as specified by the legislature by general law.

**History.**—Am. S.J.R. 12-E, 1980; adopted 1980; Am. H.J.R. 214, 1987; adopted 1988; Am. by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State August 3, 1992; adopted 1992; Am. H.J.R. 969, 1997; adopted 1998; Am. proposed

## ARTICLE VII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE VII

by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. C.S. for H.J.R. 317, 2002; adopted 2002; Am. C.S. for S.J.R. 2-D, 2007; adopted 2008; Ams. Proposed by Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, Revision Nos. 3, 4, and 6, 2008, filed with the Secretary of State April 28, 2008; adopted 2008; Am. C.S. for H.J.R. 193, 2016; adopted 2016; Am. H.J.R. 369, 2020; adopted 2020.

<sup>1</sup>Note.—

A. This subsection, originally designated (h) by Revision No. 3 of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, 2008, was redesignated (i) by the editors to conform to the redesignation of subsections by Revision No. 4 of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, 2008.

B. Section 34, Art. XII, State Constitution, provides in part that "the amendment to subsection (i) of Section 4 of Article VII authorizing the legislature, by general law, to prohibit the consideration of the installation of a solar device or a renewable energy source device in determining the assessed value of real property for the purpose of ad valorem taxation shall take effect on January 1, 2018, and shall expire on December 31, 2037. Upon expiration, this section shall be repealed and the text of . . . subsection (i) of Section 4 of Article VII shall revert to that in existence on December 31, 2017, except that any amendments to such text otherwise adopted shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the portions of text which expire pursuant to this section." Effective December 31, 2037, s. 4(i), Art. VII, State Constitution, will read:

(i) The legislature, by general law and subject to conditions specified therein, may prohibit the consideration of the following in the determination of the assessed value of real property used for residential purposes:

(1) Any change or improvement made for the purpose of improving the property's resistance to wind damage.

(2) The installation of a renewable energy source device.

<sup>2</sup>Note.—This subsection, originally designated (h) by Revision No. 6 of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, 2008, was redesignated (j) by the editors to conform to the redesignation of subsections by Revision No. 4 of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, 2008, and the creation of a new (h) by Revision No. 3 of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, 2008.

### SECTION 5. Estate, inheritance and income taxes.—

(a) NATURAL PERSONS. No tax upon estates or inheritances or upon the income of natural persons who are residents or citizens of the state shall be levied by the state, or under its authority, in excess of the aggregate of amounts which may be allowed to be credited upon or deducted from any similar tax levied by the United States or any state.

(b) OTHERS. No tax upon the income of residents and citizens other than natural persons shall be levied by the state, or under its authority, in excess of 5% of net income, as defined

by law, or at such greater rate as is authorized by a three-fifths (3/5) vote of the membership of each house of the legislature or as will provide for the state the maximum amount which may be allowed to be credited against income taxes levied by the United States and other states. There shall be exempt from taxation not less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) of the excess of net income subject to tax over the maximum amount allowed to be credited against income taxes levied by the United States and other states.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE. This section shall become effective immediately upon approval by the electors of Florida.

History.—Am. H.J.R. 7-B, 1971; adopted 1971.

### SECTION 6. Homestead exemptions.—

(a) Every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, up to the assessed valuation of twenty-five thousand dollars and, for all levies other than school district levies, on the assessed valuation greater than fifty thousand dollars and up to seventy-five thousand dollars, upon establishment of right thereto in the manner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entireties, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of ninety-eight years. The exemption shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the provisions of section 4 by a state agency designated by general law.

**ARTICLE VII    CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE VII**

This exemption is repealed on the effective date of any amendment to this Article which provides for the assessment of homestead property at less than just value.

(b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit or with respect to any residential unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion which the interest in the corporation bears to the assessed value of the property.

(c) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the Legislature may provide to renters, who are permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and amount established by general law.

(d) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant either or both of the following additional homestead tax exemptions:

(1) An exemption not exceeding fifty thousand dollars to a person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, who has attained age sixty-five, and whose household income, as defined by general law, does not exceed twenty thousand dollars; or

(2) An exemption equal to the assessed value of the property to a person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate with a just value less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, as determined in the first tax year that the owner applies and is eligible for the exemption, and who has maintained thereon the permanent

residence of the owner for not less than twenty-five years, who has attained age sixty-five, and whose household income does not exceed the income limitation prescribed in paragraph (1).

The general law must allow counties and municipalities to grant these additional exemptions, within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living.

(e)(1) Each veteran who is age 65 or older who is partially or totally permanently disabled shall receive a discount from the amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property the veteran owns and resides in if the disability was combat related and the veteran was honorably discharged upon separation from military service. The discount shall be in a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for the discount granted by this paragraph, an applicant must submit to the county property appraiser, by March 1, an official letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating the percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability and such evidence that reasonably identifies the disability as combat related and a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge. If the property appraiser denies the request for a discount, the appraiser must notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the denial, and the veteran may re-apply. The Legislature may, by general law, waive the annual application requirement in subsequent years.

(2) If a veteran who receives the discount described in paragraph (1) predeceases his or her spouse, and

**ARTICLE VII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE VII**

if, upon the death of the veteran, the surviving spouse holds the legal or beneficial title to the homestead property and permanently resides thereon, the discount carries over to the surviving spouse until he or she remarries or sells or otherwise disposes of the homestead property. If the surviving spouse sells or otherwise disposes of the property, a discount not to exceed the dollar amount granted from the most recent ad valorem tax roll may be transferred to the surviving spouse's new homestead property, if used as his or her permanent residence and he or she has not remarried.

(3) This subsection is self-executing and does not require implementing legislation.

(f) By general law and subject to conditions and limitations specified therein, the Legislature may provide ad valorem tax relief equal to the total amount or a portion of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property to:

(1) The surviving spouse of a veteran who died from service-connected causes while on active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces.

(2) The surviving spouse of a first responder who died in the line of duty.

(3) A first responder who is totally and permanently disabled as a result of an injury or injuries sustained in the line of duty. Causal connection between a disability and service in the line of duty shall not be presumed but must be determined as provided by general law. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "disability" does not include a chronic condition or chronic disease, unless the injury sustained in the line of duty was the sole cause of the chronic condition or chronic disease.

As used in this subsection and as further defined by general law, the term "first responder" means a law

enforcement officer, a correctional officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, or a paramedic, and the term "in the line of duty" means arising out of and in the actual performance of duty required by employment as a first responder.

**History.**—Am. S.J.R. 1-B, 1979; adopted 1980; Am. S.J.R. 4-E, 1980; adopted 1980; Am. H.J.R. 3151, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. H.J.R. 353, 2006; adopted 2006; Am. H.J.R. 631, 2006; adopted 2006; Am. C.S. for S.J.R. 2-D, 2007; adopted 2008; Am. S.J.R. 592, 2011; adopted 2012; Am. H.J.R. 93, 2012; adopted 2012; Am. H.J.R. 169, 2012; adopted 2012; Am. C.S. for H.J.R. 275, 2016; adopted 2016; Am. C.S. for H.J.R. 1009, 2016; adopted 2016; Am. H.J.R. 877, 2020; adopted 2020.

**SECTION 7. Allocation of pari-mutuel taxes.**—Taxes upon the operation of pari-mutuel pools may be preempted to the state or allocated in whole or in part to the counties. When allocated to the counties, the distribution shall be in equal amounts to the several counties.

**SECTION 8. Aid to local governments.**—State funds may be appropriated to the several counties, school districts, municipalities or special districts upon such conditions as may be provided by general law. These conditions may include the use of relative ad valorem assessment levels determined by a state agency designated by general law.

**History.**—Am. S.J.R. 4-E, 1980; adopted 1980.

**SECTION 9. Local taxes.**—

(a) Counties, school districts, and municipalities shall, and special districts may, be authorized by law to levy ad valorem taxes and may be authorized by general law to levy other taxes, for their respective purposes, except ad valorem taxes on intangible personal property and taxes prohibited by this constitution.

(b) Ad valorem taxes, exclusive of taxes levied for the payment of bonds and taxes levied for periods not longer



## ARTICLE VII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE VII

than two years when authorized by vote of the electors who are the owners of freeholds therein not wholly exempt from taxation, shall not be levied in excess of the following millages upon the assessed value of real estate and tangible personal property: for all county purposes, ten mills; for all municipal purposes, ten mills; for all school purposes, ten mills; for water management purposes for the north-west portion of the state lying west of the line between ranges two and three east, 0.05 mill; for water management purposes for the remaining portions of the state, 1.0 mill; and for all other special districts a millage authorized by law approved by vote of the electors who are owners of freeholds therein not wholly exempt from taxation. A county furnishing municipal services may, to the extent authorized by law, levy additional taxes within the limits fixed for municipal purposes.

**History.**—Am. S.J.R. 1061, 1975; adopted 1976.

### SECTION 10. Pledging credit.—

Neither the state nor any county, school district, municipality, special district, or agency of any of them, shall become a joint owner with, or stockholder of, or give, lend or use its taxing power or credit to aid any corporation, association, partnership or person; but this shall not prohibit laws authorizing:

(a) the investment of public trust funds;

(b) the investment of other public funds in obligations of, or insured by, the United States or any of its instrumentalities;

(c) the issuance and sale by any county, municipality, special district or other local governmental body of (1) revenue bonds to finance or refinance the cost of capital projects for airports or port facilities, or (2) revenue bonds to finance or refinance the cost of capital projects for industrial or manufacturing plants to the extent that the interest

thereon is exempt from income taxes under the then existing laws of the United States, when, in either case, the revenue bonds are payable solely from revenue derived from the sale, operation or leasing of the projects. If any project so financed, or any part thereof, is occupied or operated by any private corporation, association, partnership or person pursuant to contract or lease with the issuing body, the property interest created by such contract or lease shall be subject to taxation to the same extent as other privately owned property.

(d) a municipality, county, special district, or agency of any of them, being a joint owner of, giving, or lending or using its taxing power or credit for the joint ownership, construction and operation of electrical energy generating or transmission facilities with any corporation, association, partnership or person.

**History.**—Am. H.J.R. 1424, 1973; adopted 1974.

### SECTION 11. State bonds; revenue bonds.—

(a) State bonds pledging the full faith and credit of the state may be issued only to finance or refinance the cost of state fixed capital outlay projects authorized by law, and purposes incidental thereto, upon approval by a vote of the electors; provided state bonds issued pursuant to this subsection may be refunded without a vote of the electors at a lower net average interest cost rate. The total outstanding principal of state bonds issued pursuant to this subsection shall never exceed fifty percent of the total tax revenues of the state for the two preceding fiscal years, excluding any tax revenues held in trust under the provisions of this constitution.

(b) Moneys sufficient to pay debt service on state bonds as the same becomes due shall be appropriated by law.

**ARTICLE VII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE VII**

(c) Any state bonds pledging the full faith and credit of the state issued under this section or any other section of this constitution may be combined for the purposes of sale.

(d) Revenue bonds may be issued by the state or its agencies without a vote of the electors to finance or refinance the cost of state fixed capital outlay projects authorized by law, and purposes incidental thereto, and shall be payable solely from funds derived directly from sources other than state tax revenues.

(e) Bonds pledging all or part of a dedicated state tax revenue may be issued by the state in the manner provided by general law to finance or refinance the acquisition and improvement of land, water areas, and related property interests and resources for the purposes of conservation, outdoor recreation, water resource development, restoration of natural systems, and historic preservation.

(f) Each project, building, or facility to be financed or refinanced with revenue bonds issued under this section shall first be approved by the Legislature by an act relating to appropriations or by general law.

**History.**—Am. C.S. for C.S. for S.J.R. 612, 1984; adopted 1984; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 5, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 12. Local bonds.—**

Counties, school districts, municipalities, special districts and local governmental bodies with taxing powers may issue bonds, certificates of indebtedness or any form of tax anticipation certificates, payable from ad valorem taxation and maturing more than twelve months after issuance only:

(a) to finance or refinance capital projects authorized by law and only when approved by vote of the electors who are owners of freeholds therein not wholly exempt from taxation; or

(b) to refund outstanding bonds and interest and redemption premium thereon at a lower net average interest cost rate.

**SECTION 13. Relief from illegal taxes.—**Until payment of all taxes which have been legally assessed upon the property of the same owner, no court shall grant relief from the payment of any tax that may be illegal or illegally assessed.

**SECTION 14. Bonds for pollution control and abatement and other water facilities.—**

(a) When authorized by law, state bonds pledging the full faith and credit of the state may be issued without an election to finance the construction of air and water pollution control and abatement and solid waste disposal facilities and other water facilities authorized by general law (herein referred to as “facilities”) to be operated by any municipality, county, district or authority, or any agency thereof (herein referred to as “local governmental agencies”), or by any agency of the State of Florida. Such bonds shall be secured by a pledge of and shall be payable primarily from all or any part of revenues to be derived from operation of such facilities, special assessments, rentals to be received under lease-purchase agreements herein provided for, any other revenues that may be legally available for such purpose, including revenues from other facilities, or any combination thereof (herein collectively referred to as “pledged revenues”), and shall be additionally secured by the full faith and credit of the State of Florida.

(b) No such bonds shall be issued unless a state fiscal agency, created by law, has made a determination that in no state fiscal year will the debt service requirements of the bonds proposed to

## ARTICLE VII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE VII

be issued and all other bonds secured by the pledged revenues exceed seventy-five per cent of the pledged revenues.

(c) The state may lease any of such facilities to any local governmental agency, under lease-purchase agreements for such periods and under such other terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon. The local governmental agencies may pledge the revenues derived from such leased facilities or any other available funds for the payment of rentals thereunder; and, in addition, the full faith and credit and taxing power of such local governmental agencies may be pledged for the payment of such rentals without any election of freeholder electors or qualified electors.

(d) The state may also issue such bonds for the purpose of loaning money to local governmental agencies, for the construction of such facilities to be owned or operated by any of such local governmental agencies. Such loans shall bear interest at not more than one-half of one per cent per annum greater than the last preceding issue of state bonds pursuant to this section, shall be secured by the pledged revenues, and may be additionally secured by the full faith and credit of the local governmental agencies.

(e) The total outstanding principal of state bonds issued pursuant to this section 14 shall never exceed fifty per cent of the total tax revenues of the state for the two preceding fiscal years.

**History.**—C.S. for H.J.R.'s 3853, 4040, 1970; adopted 1970; Am. H.J.R. 1471, 1980; adopted 1980.

### **SECTION 15. Revenue bonds for scholarship loans.—**

(a) When authorized by law, revenue bonds may be issued to establish a fund to make loans to students determined eligible as prescribed by law and who have been admitted to attend any

public or private institutions of higher learning, junior colleges, health related training institutions, or vocational training centers, which are recognized or accredited under terms and conditions prescribed by law. Revenue bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be secured by a pledge of and shall be payable primarily from payments of interest, principal, and handling charges to such fund from the recipients of the loans and, if authorized by law, may be additionally secured by student fees and by any other moneys in such fund. There shall be established from the proceeds of each issue of revenue bonds a reserve account in an amount equal to and sufficient to pay the greatest amount of principal, interest, and handling charges to become due on such issue in any ensuing state fiscal year.

(b) Interest moneys in the fund established pursuant to this section, not required in any fiscal year for payment of debt service on then outstanding revenue bonds or for maintenance of the reserve account, may be used for educational loans to students determined to be eligible therefor in the manner provided by law, or for such other related purposes as may be provided by law.

**History.**—Added, H.J.R. 46-D, 1971; adopted 1972.

### **SECTION 16. Bonds for housing and related facilities.—**

(a) When authorized by law, revenue bonds may be issued without an election to finance or refinance housing and related facilities in Florida, herein referred to as "facilities."

(b) The bonds shall be secured by a pledge of and shall be payable primarily from all or any part of revenues to be derived from the financing, operation or sale of such facilities, mortgage or loan payments, and any other revenues or assets that may be legally available for such purposes derived from sources

**ARTICLE VII      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE VII**

other than ad valorem taxation, including revenues from other facilities, or any combination thereof, herein collectively referred to as “pledged revenues,” provided that in no event shall the full faith and credit of the state be pledged to secure such revenue bonds.

(c) No bonds shall be issued unless a state fiscal agency, created by law, has made a determination that in no state fiscal year will the debt service requirements of the bonds proposed to be issued and all other bonds secured by the same pledged revenues exceed the pledged revenues available for payment of such debt service requirements, as defined by law.

*History.*—Added, S.J.R. 6-E, 1980; adopted 1980.

**SECTION 17. Bonds for acquiring transportation right-of-way or for constructing bridges.—**

(a) When authorized by law, state bonds pledging the full faith and credit of the state may be issued, without a vote of the electors, to finance or refinance the cost of acquiring real property or the rights to real property for state roads as defined by law, or to finance or refinance the cost of state bridge construction, and purposes incidental to such property acquisition or state bridge construction.

(b) Bonds issued under this section shall be secured by a pledge of and shall be payable primarily from motor fuel or special fuel taxes, except those defined in Section 9(c) of Article XII, as provided by law, and shall additionally be secured by the full faith and credit of the state.

(c) No bonds shall be issued under this section unless a state fiscal agency, created by law, has made a determination that in no state fiscal year will the debt service requirements of the bonds proposed to be issued and all other bonds secured by the same pledged revenues exceed ninety percent of the pledged revenues available

for payment of such debt service requirements, as defined by law. For the purposes of this subsection, the term “pledged revenues” means all revenues pledged to the payment of debt service, excluding any pledge of the full faith and credit of the state.

*History.*—Added, C.S. for C.S. for S.J.R. 391, 1988; adopted 1988.

**SECTION 18. Laws requiring counties or municipalities to spend funds or limiting their ability to raise revenue or receive state tax revenue.**

(a) No county or municipality shall be bound by any general law requiring such county or municipality to spend funds or to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds unless the legislature has determined that such law fulfills an important state interest and unless: funds have been appropriated that have been estimated at the time of enactment to be sufficient to fund such expenditure; the legislature authorizes or has authorized a county or municipality to enact a funding source not available for such county or municipality on February 1, 1989, that can be used to generate the amount of funds estimated to be sufficient to fund such expenditure by a simple majority vote of the governing body of such county or municipality; the law requiring such expenditure is approved by two-thirds of the membership in each house of the legislature; the expenditure is required to comply with a law that applies to all persons similarly situated, including the state and local governments; or the law is either required to comply with a federal requirement or required for eligibility for a federal entitlement, which federal requirement specifically contemplates actions by counties or municipalities for compliance.

(b) Except upon approval of each house of the legislature by two-thirds of the membership, the legislature may not enact, amend, or repeal any

**ARTICLE VII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE VII**

general law if the anticipated effect of doing so would be to reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate, as such authority exists on February 1, 1989.

(c) Except upon approval of each house of the legislature by two-thirds of the membership, the legislature may not enact, amend, or repeal any general law if the anticipated effect of doing so would be to reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties and municipalities as an aggregate on February 1, 1989. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to enhancements enacted after February 1, 1989, to state tax sources, or during a fiscal emergency declared in a written joint proclamation issued by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives, or where the legislature provides additional state-shared revenues which are anticipated to be sufficient to replace the anticipated aggregate loss of state-shared revenues resulting from the reduction of the percentage of the state tax shared with counties and municipalities, which source of replacement revenues shall be subject to the same requirements for repeal or modification as provided herein for a state-shared tax source existing on February 1, 1989.

(d) Laws adopted to require funding of pension benefits existing on the effective date of this section, criminal laws, election laws, the general appropriations act, special appropriations acts, laws reauthorizing but not expanding then-existing statutory authority, laws having insignificant fiscal impact, and laws creating, modifying, or repealing noncriminal infractions, are exempt from the requirements of this section.

(e) The legislature may enact laws to assist in the implementation and enforcement of this section.

History.—Added, C.S. for C.S. for C.S. for C.S. for H.J.R.'s 139, 40, 1989; adopted 1990.

**SECTION 19. Supermajority vote required to impose, authorize, or raise state taxes or fees.—**

(a) SUPERMAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED TO IMPOSE OR AUTHORIZE NEW STATE TAX OR FEE. No new state tax or fee may be imposed or authorized by the legislature except through legislation approved by two-thirds of the membership of each house of the legislature and presented to the Governor for approval pursuant to Article III, Section 8.

(b) SUPERMAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED TO RAISE STATE TAXES OR FEES. No state tax or fee may be raised by the legislature except through legislation approved by two-thirds of the membership of each house of the legislature and presented to the Governor for approval pursuant to Article III, Section 8.

(c) APPLICABILITY. This section does not authorize the imposition of any state tax or fee otherwise prohibited by this Constitution, and does not apply to any tax or fee imposed by, or authorized to be imposed by, a county, municipality, school board, or special district.

(d) DEFINITIONS. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Fee" means any charge or payment required by law, including any fee for service, fee or cost for licenses, and charge for service.

(2) "Raise" means:

a. To increase or authorize an increase in the rate of a state tax or fee imposed on a percentage or per mill basis;

b. To increase or authorize an increase in the amount of a state tax

**ARTICLE VII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDAARTICLE VIII**

or fee imposed on a flat or fixed amount basis; or

c. To decrease or eliminate a state tax or fee exemption or credit.

(e) SINGLE-SUBJECT. A state tax or fee imposed, authorized, or raised under this section must be contained in a separate bill that contains no other subject.

*History.*—Added, H.J.R. 7001, 2018; adopted 2018.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Sec.

1. Counties.
2. Municipalities.
3. Consolidation.
4. Transfer of powers.
5. Local option.
6. Schedule to Article VIII.

**SECTION 1. Counties.—**

(a) **POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.**

The state shall be divided by law into political subdivisions called counties. Counties may be created, abolished or changed by law, with provision for payment or apportionment of the public debt.

(b) **COUNTY FUNDS.** The care, custody and method of disbursing county funds shall be provided by general law.

(c) **GOVERNMENT.** Pursuant to general or special law, a county government may be established by charter which shall be adopted, amended or repealed only upon vote of the electors of the county in a special election called for that purpose.

<sup>1</sup>(d) **COUNTY OFFICERS.** There shall be elected by the electors of each county, for terms of four years, a sheriff, a tax collector, a property appraiser, a supervisor of elections, and a clerk of the circuit court. Unless otherwise provided by special law

approved by vote of the electors or pursuant to Article V, section 16, the clerk of the circuit court shall be ex officio clerk of the board of county commissioners, auditor, recorder and custodian of all county funds. Notwithstanding subsection 6(e) of this article, a county charter may not abolish the office of a sheriff, a tax collector, a property appraiser, a supervisor of elections, or a clerk of the circuit court; transfer the duties of those officers to another officer or office; change the length of the four-year term of office; or establish any manner of selection other than by election by the electors of the county.

(e) **COMMISSIONERS.** Except when otherwise provided by county charter, the governing body of each county shall be a board of county commissioners composed of five or seven members serving staggered terms of four years. After each decennial census the board of county commissioners shall divide the county into districts of contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as practicable. One commissioner residing in each district shall be elected as provided by law.

(f) **NON-CHARTER GOVERNMENT.** Counties not operating under county charters shall have such power of self-government as is provided by general or special law. The board of county commissioners of a county not operating under a charter may enact, in a manner prescribed by general law, county ordinances not inconsistent with general or special law, but an ordinance in conflict with a municipal ordinance shall not be effective within the municipality to the extent of such conflict.

(g) **CHARTER GOVERNMENT.** Counties operating under county charters shall have all powers of local self-government not inconsistent with general law, or with special law approved

## ARTICLE VIII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDAARTICLE VIII

by vote of the electors. The governing body of a county operating under a charter may enact county ordinances not inconsistent with general law. The charter shall provide which shall prevail in the event of conflict between county and municipal ordinances.

(h) **TAXES; LIMITATION.** Property situate within municipalities shall not be subject to taxation for services rendered by the county exclusively for the benefit of the property or residents in unincorporated areas.

(i) **COUNTY ORDINANCES.** Each county ordinance shall be filed with the custodian of state records and shall become effective at such time thereafter as is provided by general law.

(j) **VIOLATION OF ORDINANCES.** Persons violating county ordinances shall be prosecuted and punished as provided by law.

(k) **COUNTY SEAT.** In every county there shall be a county seat at which shall be located the principal offices and permanent records of all county officers. The county seat may not be moved except as provided by general law. Branch offices for the conduct of county business may be established elsewhere in the county by resolution of the governing body of the county in the manner prescribed by law. No instrument shall be deemed recorded until filed at the county seat, or a branch office designated by the governing body of the county for the recording of instruments, according to law.

**History.**—Am. H.J.R. 1907, 1973; adopted 1974; Am. H.J.R. 452, 1984; adopted 1984; Am. H.J.R. 125, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 5, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**Note.**—Section 6(g), Art. VIII, State Constitution, provides that:

(g) **SELECTION AND DUTIES OF COUNTY OFFICERS.**

(1) Except as provided in this subsection, the amendment to Section 1 of this article, relating to the selection and

duties of county officers, shall take effect January 5, 2021, but shall govern with respect to the qualifying for and the holding of the primary and general elections for county constitutional officers in 2020.

(2) For Miami-Dade County and Broward County, the amendment to Section 1 of this article, relating to the selection and duties of county officers, shall take effect January 7, 2025, but shall govern with respect to the qualifying for and the holding of the primary and general elections for county constitutional officers in 2024.

Prior to the amendment of s. 1, Art. VIII, State Constitution, by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 5 (2018), s. 1(d), Art. VIII, read:

(d) **COUNTY OFFICERS.** There shall be elected by the electors of each county, for terms of four years, a sheriff, a tax collector, a property appraiser, a supervisor of elections, and a clerk of the circuit court; except, when provided by county charter or special law approved by vote of the electors of the county, any county officer may be chosen in another manner therein specified, or any county office may be abolished when all the duties of the office prescribed by general law are transferred to another office. When not otherwise provided by county charter or special law approved by vote of the electors, the clerk of the circuit court shall be ex officio clerk of the board of county commissioners, auditor, recorder and custodian of all county funds.

### SECTION 2. Municipalities.—

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.** Municipalities may be established or abolished and their charters amended pursuant to general or special law. When any municipality is abolished, provision shall be made for the protection of its creditors.

(b) **POWERS.** Municipalities shall have governmental, corporate and proprietary powers to enable them to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions and render municipal services, and may exercise any power for municipal purposes except as otherwise provided by law. Each municipal legislative body shall be elective.

(c) **ANNEXATION.** Municipal annexation of unincorporated territory, merger of municipalities, and exercise of extra-territorial powers by municipalities shall be as provided by general or special law.

### SECTION 3. Consolidation.—

The government of a county and the government of one or more municipalities located therein may be consolidated into a single government which

**ARTICLE VIII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDAARTICLE VIII**

may exercise any and all powers of the county and the several municipalities. The consolidation plan may be proposed only by special law, which shall become effective if approved by vote of the electors of the county, or of the county and municipalities affected, as may be provided in the plan. Consolidation shall not extend the territorial scope of taxation for the payment of pre-existing debt except to areas whose residents receive a benefit from the facility or service for which the indebtedness was incurred.

**SECTION 4. Transfer of powers.**

By law or by resolution of the governing bodies of each of the governments affected, any function or power of a county, municipality or special district may be transferred to or contracted to be performed by another county, municipality or special district, after approval by vote of the electors of the transferor and approval by vote of the electors of the transferee, or as otherwise provided by law.

**SECTION 5. Local option.—**

(a) Local option on the legality or prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors, wines or beers shall be preserved to each county. The status of a county with respect thereto shall be changed only by vote of the electors in a special election called upon the petition of twenty-five per cent of the electors of the county, and not sooner than two years after an earlier election on the same question. Where legal, the sale of intoxicating liquors, wines and beers shall be regulated by law.

(b) Each county shall have the authority to require a criminal history records check and a 3 to 5-day waiting period, excluding weekends and legal holidays, in connection with the sale of any firearm occurring within such county. For purposes of this

subsection, the term “sale” means the transfer of money or other valuable consideration for any firearm when any part of the transaction is conducted on property to which the public has the right of access. Holders of a concealed weapons permit as prescribed by general law shall not be subject to the provisions of this subsection when purchasing a firearm.

**History.**—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 12, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 6. Schedule to Article VIII.—**

(a) This article shall replace all of Article VIII of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, except those sections expressly retained and made a part of this article by reference.

(b) COUNTIES; COUNTY SEATS; MUNICIPALITIES; DISTRICTS. The status of the following items as they exist on the date this article becomes effective is recognized and shall be continued until changed in accordance with law: the counties of the state; their status with respect to the legality of the sale of intoxicating liquors, wines and beers; the method of selection of county officers; the performance of municipal functions by county officers; the county seats; and the municipalities and special districts of the state, their powers, jurisdiction and government.

(c) OFFICERS TO CONTINUE IN OFFICE. Every person holding office when this article becomes effective shall continue in office for the remainder of the term if that office is not abolished. If the office is abolished the incumbent shall be paid adequate compensation, to be fixed by law, for the loss of emoluments for the remainder of the term.

(d) ORDINANCES. Local laws relating only to unincorporated areas of a county on the effective date of this



**ARTICLE VIII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDAARTICLE VIII**

article may be amended or repealed by county ordinance.

(e) **CONSOLIDATION AND HOME RULE.** Article VIII, Sections 19, 210, 311 and 424, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, shall remain in full force and effect as to each county affected, as if this article had not been adopted, until that county shall expressly adopt a charter or home rule plan pursuant to this article. All provisions of the Metropolitan Dade County Home Rule Charter, heretofore or hereafter adopted by the electors of Dade County pursuant to 3Article VIII, Section 11, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, shall be valid, and any amendments to such charter shall be valid; provided that the said provisions of such charter and the said amendments thereto are authorized under said 3Article VIII, Section 11, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended.

(f) **DADE COUNTY; POWERS CONFERRED UPON MUNICIPALITIES.** To the extent not inconsistent with the powers of existing municipalities or general law, the Metropolitan Government of Dade County may exercise all the powers conferred now or hereafter by general law upon municipalities.

(g) **SELECTION AND DUTIES OF COUNTY OFFICERS.—**

(1) Except as provided in this subsection, the amendment to Section 1 of this article, relating to the selection and duties of county officers, shall take effect January 5, 2021, but shall govern with respect to the qualifying for and the holding of the primary and general elections for county constitutional officers in 2020.

(2) For Miami-Dade County and Broward County, the amendment to Section 1 of this article, relating to the selection and duties of county officers, shall take effect January 7, 2025, but shall govern with respect to the

qualifying for and the holding of the primary and general elections for county constitutional officers in 2024.

(h) **DELETION OF OBSOLETE SCHEDULE ITEMS.** The legislature shall have power, by joint resolution, to delete from this article any subsection of this Section 6, including this subsection, when all events to which the subsection to be deleted is or could become applicable have occurred. A legislative determination of fact made as a basis for application of this subsection shall be subject to judicial review.

**History.**—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 5, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**Note.**—Section 9 of Art. VIII of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, reads as follows:

**SECTION 9.** Legislative power over city of Jacksonville and Duval County.—The Legislature shall have power to establish, alter or abolish, a Municipal corporation to be known as the City of Jacksonville, extending territorially throughout the present limits of Duval County, in the place of any or all county, district, municipal and local governments, boards, bodies and officers, constitutional or statutory, legislative, executive, judicial, or administrative, and shall prescribe the jurisdiction, powers, duties and functions of such municipal corporation, its legislative, executive, judicial and administrative departments and its boards, bodies and officers; to divide the territory included in such municipality into subordinate districts, and to prescribe a just and reasonable system of taxation for such municipality and districts; and to fix the liability of such municipality and districts. Bonded and other indebtedness, existing at the time of the establishment of such municipality, shall be enforceable only against property theretofore taxable therefor. The Legislature shall, from time to time, determine what portion of said municipality is a rural area, and a homestead in such rural area shall not be limited as if in a city or town. Such municipality may exercise all the powers of a municipal corporation and shall also be recognized as one of the legal political divisions of the State with the duties and obligations of a county and shall be entitled to all the powers, rights and privileges, including representation in the State Legislature, which would accrue to it if it were a county. All property of Duval County and of the municipalities in said county shall vest in such municipal corporation when established as herein provided. The offices of Clerk of the Circuit Court and Sheriff shall not be abolished but the Legislature may prescribe the time when, and the method by which, such offices shall be filled and the compensation to be paid to such officers and may vest in them additional powers and duties. No county office shall be abolished or consolidated with another office without making provision for the performance of all State duties now or hereafter prescribed by law to be performed by such county officer. Nothing contained herein shall affect Section 20 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Florida, except as to such provisions therein as relate to regulating the jurisdiction and duties of any class of officers, to summoning and impaneling grand and petit jurors, to assessing and collecting taxes for county purposes and to regulating the fees and compensation of county officers. No law authorizing the

## ARTICLE VIII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDAARTICLE VIII

establishing or abolishing of such Municipal corporation pursuant to this Section, shall become operative or effective until approved by a majority of the qualified electors participating in an election held in said County, but so long as such Municipal corporation exists under this Section the Legislature may amend or extend the law authorizing the same without referendum to the qualified voters unless the Legislative act providing for such amendment or extension shall provide for such referendum.

**History.**—Added, S.J.R. 113, 1933; adopted 1934.

**Note.**—Section 10, Art. VIII of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, reads as follows:

**SECTION 10.** Legislative power over city of Key West and Monroe county.—The Legislature shall have power to establish, alter or abolish, a Municipal corporation to be known as the City of Key West, extending territorially throughout the present limits of Monroe County, in the place of any or all county, district, municipal and local governments, boards, bodies and officers, constitutional or statutory, legislative, executive, judicial, or administrative, and shall prescribe the jurisdiction, powers, duties and functions of such municipal corporation, its legislative, executive, judicial and administrative departments and its boards, bodies and officers; to divide the territory included in such municipality into subordinate districts, and to prescribe a just and reasonable system of taxation for such municipality and districts; and to fix the liability of such municipality and districts. Bonded and other indebtedness, existing at the time of the establishment of such municipality, shall be enforceable only against property therefore taxable therefor. The Legislature shall, from time to time, determine what portion of said municipality is a rural area, and a homestead in such rural area shall not be limited as if in a city or town. Such municipality may exercise all the powers of a municipal corporation and shall also be recognized as one of the legal political divisions of the State with the duties and obligations of a county and shall be entitled to all the powers, rights and privileges, including representation in the State Legislature, which would accrue to it if it were a county. All property of Monroe County and of the municipality in said county shall vest in such municipal corporation when established as herein provided. The offices of Clerk of the Circuit Court and Sheriff shall not be abolished but the Legislature may prescribe the time when, and the method by which, such offices shall be filled and the compensation to be paid to such officers and may vest in them additional powers and duties. No county office shall be abolished or consolidated with another office without making provision for the performance of all State duties now or hereafter prescribed by law to be performed by such county officer. Nothing contained herein shall affect Section 20 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Florida, except as to such provisions therein as relate to regulating the jurisdiction and duties of any class of officers, to summoning and impaneling grand and petit juries, to assessing and collecting taxes for county purposes and to regulating the fees and compensation of county officers. No law authorizing the establishing or abolishing of such Municipal corporation pursuant to this Section shall become operative or effective until approved by a majority of the qualified electors participating in an election held in said County, but so long as such Municipal corporation exists under this Section the Legislature may amend or extend the law authorizing the same without referendum to the qualified voters unless the Legislative Act providing for such amendment or extension shall provide for such referendum.

**History.**—Added, S.J.R. 429, 1935; adopted 1936.

**Note.**—Section 11 of Art. VIII of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, reads as follows:

**SECTION 11.** Dade County, home rule charter.—

(1) The electors of Dade County, Florida, are granted

power to adopt, revise, and amend from time to time a home rule charter of government for Dade County, Florida, under which the Board of County Commissioners of Dade County shall be the governing body. This charter:

(a) Shall fix the boundaries of each county commission district, provide a method for changing them from time to time, and fix the number, terms and compensation of the commissioners, and their method of election.

(b) May grant full power and authority to the Board of County Commissioners of Dade County to pass ordinances relating to the affairs, property and government of Dade County and provide suitable penalties for the violation thereof; to levy and collect such taxes as may be authorized by general law and no other taxes, and to do everything necessary to carry on a central metropolitan government in Dade County.

(c) May change the boundaries of, merge, consolidate, and abolish and may provide a method for changing the boundaries of, merging, consolidating and abolishing from time to time all municipal corporations, county or district governments, special taxing districts, authorities, boards, or other governmental units whose jurisdiction lies wholly within Dade County, whether such governmental units are created by the Constitution or the Legislature or otherwise, except the Dade County Board of County Commissioners as it may be provided for from time to time by this home rule charter and the Board of Public Instruction of Dade County.

(d) May provide a method by which any and all of the functions or powers of any municipal corporation or other governmental unit in Dade County may be transferred to the Board of County Commissioners of Dade County.

(e) May provide a method for establishing new municipal corporations, special taxing districts, and other governmental units in Dade County from time to time and provide for their government and prescribe their jurisdiction and powers.

(f) May abolish and may provide a method for abolishing from time to time all offices provided for by Article VIII, Section 6, of the Constitution or by the Legislature, except the Superintendent of Public Instruction and may provide for the consolidation and transfer of the functions of such offices, provided, however, that there shall be no power to abolish or impair the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court or to abolish any other court provided for by this Constitution or by general law, or the judges or clerks thereof although such charter may create new courts and judges and clerks thereof with jurisdiction to try all offenses against ordinances passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Dade County and none of the other courts provided for by this Constitution or by general law shall have original jurisdiction to try such offenses, although the charter may confer appellate jurisdiction on such courts, and provided further that if said home rule charter shall abolish any county office or offices as authorized herein, that said charter shall contain adequate provision for the carrying on of all functions of said office or offices as are now or may hereafter be prescribed by general law.

(g) Shall provide a method by which each municipal corporation in Dade County shall have the power to make, amend or repeal its own charter. Upon adoption of this home rule charter by the electors this method shall be exclusive and the Legislature shall have no power to amend or repeal the charter of any municipal corporation in Dade County.

(h) May change the name of Dade County.

(i) Shall provide a method for the recall of any commissioner and a method for initiative and referendum, including the initiation of and referendum on ordinances and the amendment or revision of the home rule charter, provided, however, that the power of the Governor and Senate relating to the suspension and removal of officers provided for in this Constitution shall not be impaired, but

## ARTICLE VIII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDAARTICLE VIII

shall extend to all officers provided for in said home rule charter.

(2) Provision shall be made for the protection of the creditors of any governmental unit which is merged, consolidated, or abolished or whose boundaries are changed or functions or powers transferred.

(3) This home rule charter shall be prepared by a Metropolitan Charter Board created by the Legislature and shall be presented to the electors of Dade County for ratification or rejection in the manner provided by the Legislature. Until a home rule charter is adopted the Legislature may from time to time create additional Charter Boards to prepare charters to be presented to the electors of Dade County for ratification or rejection in the manner provided by the Legislature. Such Charter, once adopted by the electors, may be amended only by the electors of Dade County and this charter shall provide a method for submitting future charter revisions and amendments to the electors of Dade County.

(4) The County Commission shall continue to receive its pro rata share of all revenues payable by the state from whatever source to the several counties and the state of Florida shall pay to the Commission all revenues which would have been paid to any municipality in Dade County which may be abolished by or in the method provided by this home rule charter; provided, however, the Commission shall reimburse the comptroller of Florida for the expense incurred if any, in the keeping of separate records to determine the amounts of money which would have been payable to any such municipality.

(5) Nothing in this section shall limit or restrict the power of the Legislature to enact general laws which shall relate to Dade County and any other one or more counties in the state of Florida or to any municipality in Dade County and any other one or more municipalities of the State of Florida, and the home rule charter provided for herein shall not conflict with any provision of this Constitution nor of any applicable general laws now applying to Dade County and any other one or more counties of the State of Florida except as expressly authorized in this section nor shall any ordinance enacted in pursuance to said home rule charter conflict with this Constitution or any such applicable general law except as expressly authorized herein, nor shall the charter of any municipality in Dade County conflict with this Constitution or any such applicable general law except as expressly authorized herein, provided however that said charter and said ordinances enacted in pursuance thereof may conflict with, modify or nullify any existing local, special or general law applicable only to Dade County.

(6) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or restrict the power of the Legislature to enact general laws which shall relate to Dade County and any other one or more counties of the state of Florida or to any municipality in Dade County and any other one or more municipalities of the State of Florida relating to county or municipal affairs and all such general laws shall apply to Dade County and to all municipalities therein to the same extent as if this section had not been adopted and such general laws shall supersede any part or portion of the home rule charter provided for herein in conflict therewith and shall supersede any provision of any ordinance enacted pursuant to said charter and in conflict therewith, and shall supersede any provision of any charter of any municipality in Dade County in conflict therewith.

(7) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or restrict the power and jurisdiction of the Railroad and Public Utilities Commission or of any other state agency, bureau or commission now or hereafter provided for in this Constitution or by general law and said state agencies, bureaus and commissions shall have the same powers in Dade County as shall be conferred upon them in regard to other counties.

(8) If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or provisions of this section is held invalid as violative of the

provisions of Section 1 Article XVII of this Constitution the remainder of this section shall not be affected by such invalidity.

(9) It is declared to be the intent of the Legislature and of the electors of the State of Florida to provide by this section home rule for the people of Dade County in local affairs and this section shall be liberally construed to carry out such purpose, and it is further declared to be the intent of the Legislature and of the electors of the State of Florida that the provisions of this Constitution and general laws which shall relate to Dade County and any other one or more counties of the State of Florida or to any municipality in Dade County and any other one or more municipalities of the State of Florida enacted pursuant thereto by the Legislature shall be the supreme law in Dade County, Florida, except as expressly provided herein and this section shall be strictly construed to maintain such supremacy of this Constitution and of the Legislature in the enactment of general laws pursuant to this Constitution.

**History.**—Added, H.J.R. 858, 1941; adopted 1942; Am. S.J.R. 1046, 1955; adopted 1956.

**Note.**—Section 24 of Art. VIII of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, reads as follows:

SECTION 24. Hillsborough County, home rule charter.—

(1) The electors of Hillsborough county are hereby granted the power to adopt a charter for a government which shall exercise any and all powers for county and municipal purposes which this constitution or the legislature, by general, special or local law, has conferred upon Hillsborough county or any municipality therein. Such government shall exercise these powers by the enactment of ordinances which relate to government of Hillsborough county and provide suitable penalties for the violation thereof. Such government shall have no power to create or abolish any municipality, except as otherwise provided herein.

(2) The method and manner by which the electors of Hillsborough county shall exercise this power shall be set forth in a charter for the government of Hillsborough county which charter shall be presented to said electors by any charter commission established by the legislature. The legislature may provide for the continuing existence of any charter commission or may establish a charter commission or commissions subsequent to any initial commission without regard to any election or elections held upon any charter or charters theretofore presented. A charter shall become effective only upon ratification by a majority of the electors of Hillsborough county voting in a general or special election as provided by law.

(3) The number, qualifications, terms of office and method of filling vacancies in the membership of any charter commission established pursuant to this section and the powers, functions and duties of any such commission shall be provided by law.

(4) A charter prepared by any commission established pursuant to this section shall provide that:

(a) The governments of the city of Tampa and the county of Hillsborough shall be consolidated, and the structure of the new local government shall include:

1. An executive branch, the chief officer of which shall be responsible for the administration of government.

2. An elected legislative branch, the election to membership, powers and duties of which shall be as provided by the charter.

3. A judicial branch, which shall only have jurisdiction in the enforcement of ordinances enacted by the legislative branch created by this section.

(b) Should the electors of the municipalities of Plant City or Temple Terrace wish to consolidate their governments with the government hereinabove created, they may

**ARTICLE VIII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE IX**

do so by majority vote of the electors of said municipality voting in an election upon said issue.

(c) The creditors of any governmental unit consolidated or abolished under this section shall be protected. Bonded or other indebtedness existing at the effective date of any government established hereunder shall be enforceable only against the real and personal property theretofore taxable for such purposes.

(d) Such other provisions as might be required by law.

(5) The provisions of such charter and ordinances enacted pursuant thereto shall not conflict with any provision of this constitution nor with general, special or local laws now or hereafter applying to Hillsborough county.

(6) The government established hereunder shall be recognized as a county, that is one of the legal political subdivisions of the state with the powers, rights, privileges, duties and obligations of a county, and may also exercise all the powers of a municipality. Said government shall have the right to sue and be sued.

(7) Any government established hereunder shall be entitled to receive from the state of Florida or from the United States or from any other agency, public or private, funds and revenues to which a county is, or may hereafter be entitled, and also all funds and revenues to which an incorporated municipality is or may hereafter be entitled, and to receive the same without diminution or loss by reason of any such government as may be established. Nothing herein contained shall preclude such government as may be established hereunder from receiving all funds and revenues from whatever source now received, or hereinafter received provided by law.

(8) The board of county commissioners of Hillsborough county shall be abolished when the functions, duties, powers and responsibilities of said board shall be transferred in the manner to be provided by the charter to the government established pursuant to this section. No other office provided for by this constitution shall be abolished or by pursuant to this section.

(9) This section shall not restrict or limit the legislature in the enactment of general, special or local laws as otherwise provided in this constitution.

**History.**—Added, C.S. for H.J.R. 1987, 1965; adopted 1966.

**ARTICLE IX  
EDUCATION**

Sec.

1. Public education.
2. State board of education.
3. Terms of appointive board members.
4. School districts; school boards.
5. Superintendent of schools.
6. State school fund.
7. State University System.
8. State College System.

**SECTION 1. Public education.—**

(a) The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the

State of Florida. It is, therefore, a paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education of all children residing within its borders. Adequate provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high quality education and for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of institutions of higher learning and other public education programs that the needs of the people may require. To assure that children attending public schools obtain a high quality education, the legislature shall make adequate provision to ensure that, by the beginning of the 2010 school year, there are a sufficient number of classrooms so that:

(1) The maximum number of students who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for prekindergarten through grade 3 does not exceed 18 students;

(2) The maximum number of students who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for grades 4 through 8 does not exceed 22 students; and

(3) The maximum number of students who are assigned to each teacher who is teaching in public school classrooms for grades 9 through 12 does not exceed 25 students.

The class size requirements of this subsection do not apply to extracurricular classes. Payment of the costs associated with reducing class size to meet these requirements is the responsibility of the state and not of local schools districts. Beginning with the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the legislature shall provide sufficient funds to reduce the average number of students in each classroom by at least two students per year until the maximum number of students per classroom does not

**ARTICLE IX CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE IX**

exceed the requirements of this subsection.

(b) Every four-year old child in Florida shall be provided by the State a high quality pre-kindergarten learning opportunity in the form of an early childhood development and education program which shall be voluntary, high quality, free, and delivered according to professionally accepted standards. An early childhood development and education program means an organized program designed to address and enhance each child's ability to make age appropriate progress in an appropriate range of settings in the development of language and cognitive capabilities and emotional, social, regulatory and moral capacities through education in basic skills and such other skills as the Legislature may determine to be appropriate.

(c) The early childhood education and development programs provided by reason of subparagraph (b) shall be implemented no later than the beginning of the 2005 school year through funds generated in addition to those used for existing education, health, and development programs. Existing education, health, and development programs are those funded by the State as of January 1, 2002 that provided for child or adult education, health care, or development.

**History.**—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 6, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998; Ams. by Initiative Petitions filed with the Secretary of State April 13, 2001, and January 25, 2002; adopted 2002.

**SECTION 2. State board of education.**—The state board of education shall be a body corporate and have such supervision of the system of free public education as is provided by law. The state board of education shall consist of seven members appointed by the governor to staggered 4-year terms, subject to confirmation by the senate. The state board of education

shall appoint the commissioner of education.

**History.**—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 3. Terms of appointive board members.**—Members of any appointive board dealing with education may serve terms in excess of four years as provided by law.

**SECTION 4. School districts; school boards.**—

(a) Each county shall constitute a school district; provided, two or more contiguous counties, upon vote of the electors of each county pursuant to law, may be combined into one school district. In each school district there shall be a school board composed of five or more members chosen by vote of the electors in a nonpartisan election for appropriately staggered terms of four years, as provided by law.

(b) The school board shall operate, control and supervise all free public schools within the school district and determine the rate of school district taxes within the limits prescribed herein. Two or more school districts may operate and finance joint educational programs.

**History.**—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 11, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 5. Superintendent of schools.**—In each school district there shall be a superintendent of schools who shall be elected at the general election in each year the number of which is a multiple of four for a term of four years; or, when provided by resolution of the district school board, or by special law, approved by vote of the electors, the district school superintendent in any school district shall be employed by the district school board as provided by general law. The resolution or special law may be rescinded or

**ARTICLE IX      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE IX**

repealed by either procedure after four years.

**History.**—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 6. State school fund.**

The income derived from the state school fund shall, and the principal of the fund may, be appropriated, but only to the support and maintenance of free public schools.

**SECTION 7. State University System.—**

(a) **PURPOSES.** In order to achieve excellence through teaching students, advancing research and providing public service for the benefit of Florida's citizens, their communities and economies, the people hereby establish a system of governance for the state university system of Florida.

(b) **STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.** There shall be a single state university system comprised of all public universities. A board of trustees shall administer each public university and a board of governors shall govern the state university system.

(c) **LOCAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES.** Each local constituent university shall be administered by a board of trustees consisting of thirteen members dedicated to the purposes of the state university system. The board of governors shall establish the powers and duties of the boards of trustees. Each board of trustees shall consist of six citizen members appointed by the governor and five citizen members appointed by the board of governors. The appointed members shall be confirmed by the senate and serve staggered terms of five years as provided by law. The chair of the faculty senate, or the equivalent, and the president of the student body of the university shall also be members.

(d) **STATEWIDE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.** The board of governors shall be a body corporate consisting of seventeen members. The board shall operate, regulate, control, and be fully responsible for the management of the whole university system. These responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, defining the distinctive mission of each constituent university and its articulation with free public schools and community colleges, ensuring the well-planned coordination and operation of the system, and avoiding wasteful duplication of facilities or programs. The board's management shall be subject to the powers of the legislature to appropriate for the expenditure of funds, and the board shall account for such expenditures as provided by law. The governor shall appoint to the board fourteen citizens dedicated to the purposes of the state university system. The appointed members shall be confirmed by the senate and serve staggered terms of seven years as provided by law. The commissioner of education, the chair of the advisory council of faculty senates, or the equivalent, and the president of the Florida student association, or the equivalent, shall also be members of the board.

(e) **FEES.** Any proposal or action of a constituent university to raise, impose, or authorize any fee, as authorized by law, must be approved by at least nine affirmative votes of the members of the board of trustees of the constituent university, if approval by the board of trustees is required by general law, and at least twelve affirmative votes of the members of the board of governors, if approval by the board of governors is required by general law, in order to take effect. A fee under this subsection shall not include tuition.

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State September 28, 2001; adopted 2002; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision

**ARTICLE IX CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE X**

No. 2, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**ARTICLE X**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**SECTION 8. State College System.—**

(a) **PURPOSES.** In order to achieve excellence and to provide access to undergraduate education to the students of this state; to originate articulated pathways to a baccalaureate degree; to ensure superior commitment to teaching and learning; and to respond quickly and efficiently to meet the demand of communities by aligning certificate and degree programs with local and regional workforce needs, the people hereby establish a system of governance for the state college system of Florida.

(b) **STATE COLLEGE SYSTEM.** There shall be a single state college system comprised of all public community and state colleges. A local board of trustees shall govern each state college system institution and the state board of education shall supervise the state college system.

(c) **LOCAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES.** Each state college system institution shall be governed by a local board of trustees dedicated to the purposes of the state college system. A member of a board of trustees must be a resident of the service delivery area of the college. The powers and duties of the boards of trustees shall be provided by law. Each member shall be appointed by the governor to staggered 4-year terms, subject to confirmation by the senate.

(d) **ROLE OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.** The state board of education shall supervise the state college system as provided by law.

**History.**—Proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 2, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

Sec.

1. Amendments to United States Constitution.
2. Militia.
3. Vacancy in office.
4. Homestead; exemptions.
5. Coverture and property.
6. Eminent domain.
7. Lotteries.
8. Census.
9. Repeal of criminal statutes.
10. Felony; definition.
11. Sovereignty lands.
12. Rules of construction.
13. Suits against the state.
14. State retirement systems benefit changes.
15. State operated lotteries.
16. Limiting marine net fishing.
17. Everglades Trust Fund.
18. Disposition of conservation lands.
19. [Repealed]
20. Workplaces without tobacco smoke or vapor.
21. Limiting cruel and inhumane confinement of pigs during pregnancy.
22. Parental notice of termination of a minor's pregnancy.
23. Slot machines.
24. Florida minimum wage.
25. Patients' right to know about adverse medical incidents.
26. Prohibition of medical license after repeated medical malpractice.
27. Comprehensive Statewide Tobacco Education And Prevention Program.
28. Land Acquisition Trust Fund.
29. Medical marijuana production, possession and use.
30. Voter control of gambling in Florida.

**ARTICLE X      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE X**

Sec.

- 31. Death benefits for survivors of first responders and military members.
- 32. Prohibition on racing of and wagering on greyhounds or other dogs.

**SECTION 1. Amendments to United States Constitution.**—The legislature shall not take action on any proposed amendment to the constitution of the United States unless a majority of the members thereof have been elected after the proposed amendment has been submitted for ratification.

**SECTION 2. Militia.**—

(a) The militia shall be composed of all ablebodied inhabitants of the state who are or have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States; and no person because of religious creed or opinion shall be exempted from military duty except upon conditions provided by law.

(b) The organizing, equipping, housing, maintaining, and disciplining of the militia, and the safekeeping of public arms may be provided for by law.

(c) The governor shall appoint all commissioned officers of the militia, including an adjutant general who shall be chief of staff. The appointment of all general officers shall be subject to confirmation by the senate.

(d) The qualifications of personnel and officers of the federally recognized national guard, including the adjutant general, and the grounds and proceedings for their discipline and removal shall conform to the appropriate United States army or air force regulations and usages.

**SECTION 3. Vacancy in office.** Vacancy in office shall occur upon the

creation of an office, upon the death, removal from office, or resignation of the incumbent or the incumbent’s succession to another office, unexplained absence for sixty consecutive days, or failure to maintain the residence required when elected or appointed, and upon failure of one elected or appointed to office to qualify within thirty days from the commencement of the term.

**History.**—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 4. Homestead; exemptions.**—

(a) There shall be exempt from forced sale under process of any court, and no judgment, decree or execution shall be a lien thereon, except for the payment of taxes and assessments thereon, obligations contracted for the purchase, improvement or repair thereof, or obligations contracted for house, field or other labor performed on the realty, the following property owned by a natural person:

(1) a homestead, if located outside a municipality, to the extent of one hundred sixty acres of contiguous land and improvements thereon, which shall not be reduced without the owner’s consent by reason of subsequent inclusion in a municipality; or if located within a municipality, to the extent of one-half acre of contiguous land, upon which the exemption shall be limited to the residence of the owner or the owner’s family;

(2) personal property to the value of one thousand dollars.

(b) These exemptions shall inure to the surviving spouse or heirs of the owner.

(c) The homestead shall not be subject to devise if the owner is survived by spouse or minor child, except the homestead may be devised to the owner’s spouse if there be no minor child. The owner of homestead real



**ARTICLE X      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE X**

estate, joined by the spouse if married, may alienate the homestead by mortgage, sale or gift and, if married, may by deed transfer the title to an estate by the entirety with the spouse. If the owner or spouse is incompetent, the method of alienation or encumbrance shall be as provided by law.

**History.**—Am. H.J.R. 4324, 1972; adopted 1972; Am. H.J.R. 40, 1983; adopted 1984; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 5. Coverture and property.**—There shall be no distinction between married women and married men in the holding, control, disposition, or encumbering of their property, both real and personal; except that dower or curtesy may be established and regulated by law.

**SECTION 6. Eminent domain.**—

(a) No private property shall be taken except for a public purpose and with full compensation therefor paid to each owner or secured by deposit in the registry of the court and available to the owner.

(b) Provision may be made by law for the taking of easements, by like proceedings, for the drainage of the land of one person over or through the land of another.

(c) Private property taken by eminent domain pursuant to a petition to initiate condemnation proceedings filed on or after January 2, 2007, may not be conveyed to a natural person or private entity except as provided by general law passed by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature.

**History.**—Am. H.J.R. 1569, 2006; adopted 2006.

**SECTION 7. Lotteries.**—Lotteries, other than the types of pari-mutuel pools authorized by law as of the effective date of this constitution, are hereby prohibited in this state.

**SECTION 8. Census.**—

(a) Each decennial census of the state taken by the United States shall be an official census of the state.

(b) Each decennial census, for the purpose of classifications based upon population, shall become effective on the thirtieth day after the final adjournment of the regular session of the legislature convened next after certification of the census.

**SECTION 9. Repeal of criminal statutes.**—Repeal of a criminal statute shall not affect prosecution for any crime committed before such repeal.

**History.**—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 6, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**SECTION 10. Felony; definition.**

The term “felony” as used herein and in the laws of this state shall mean any criminal offense that is punishable under the laws of this state, or that would be punishable if committed in this state, by death or by imprisonment in the state penitentiary.

**SECTION 11. Sovereignty lands.**

The title to lands under navigable waters, within the boundaries of the state, which have not been alienated, including beaches below mean high water lines, is held by the state, by virtue of its sovereignty, in trust for all the people. Sale of such lands may be authorized by law, but only when in the public interest. Private use of portions of such lands may be authorized by law, but only when not contrary to the public interest.

**History.**—Am. H.J.R. 792, 1970; adopted 1970.

**SECTION 12. Rules of construction.**—Unless qualified in the text the following rules of construction shall apply to this constitution.

(a) “Herein” refers to the entire constitution.

**ARTICLE X      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE X**

- (b) The singular includes the plural.
- (c) The masculine includes the feminine.
- (d) "Vote of the electors" means the vote of the majority of those voting on the matter in an election, general or special, in which those participating are limited to the electors of the governmental unit referred to in the text.
- (e) Vote or other action of a legislative house or other governmental body means the vote or action of a majority or other specified percentage of those members voting on the matter. "Of the membership" means "of all members thereof."
- (f) The terms "judicial office," "justices" and "judges" shall not include judges of courts established solely for the trial of violations of ordinances.
- (g) "Special law" means a special or local law.
- (h) Titles and subtitles shall not be used in construction.

**SECTION 13. Suits against the state.**—Provision may be made by general law for bringing suit against the state as to all liabilities now existing or hereafter originating.

**SECTION 14. State retirement systems benefit changes.**—A governmental unit responsible for any retirement or pension system supported in whole or in part by public funds shall not after January 1, 1977, provide any increase in the benefits to the members or beneficiaries of such system unless such unit has made or concurrently makes provision for the funding of the increase in benefits on a sound actuarial basis.

*History.*—Added, H.J.R. 291, 1975; adopted 1976.

**SECTION 15. State operated lotteries.**—

- (a) Lotteries may be operated by the state.

- (b) If any subsection or subsections of the amendment to the Florida Constitution are held unconstitutional for containing more than one subject, this amendment shall be limited to subsection (a) above.

(c) This amendment shall be implemented as follows:

(1) Schedule—On the effective date of this amendment, the lotteries shall be known as the Florida Education Lotteries. Net proceeds derived from the lotteries shall be deposited to a state trust fund, to be designated The State Education Lotteries Trust Fund, to be appropriated by the Legislature. The schedule may be amended by general law.

*History.*—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State June 10, 1985; adopted 1986.

**SECTION 16. Limiting marine net fishing.**—

(a) The marine resources of the State of Florida belong to all of the people of the state and should be conserved and managed for the benefit of the state, its people, and future generations. To this end the people hereby enact limitations on marine net fishing in Florida waters to protect saltwater finfish, shellfish, and other marine animals from unnecessary killing, overfishing and waste.

(b) For the purpose of catching or taking any saltwater finfish, shellfish or other marine animals in Florida waters:

(1) No gill nets or other entangling nets shall be used in any Florida waters; and

(2) In addition to the prohibition set forth in (1), no other type of net containing more than 500 square feet of mesh area shall be used in nearshore and inshore Florida waters. Additionally, no more than two such nets, which shall not be connected, shall be used from any vessel, and no person not on a vessel shall use more than one such

**ARTICLE X      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE X**

net in nearshore and inshore Florida waters.

(c) For purposes of this section:

(1) "gill net" means one or more walls of netting which captures saltwater finfish by ensnaring or entangling them in the meshes of the net by the gills, and "entangling net" means a drift net, trammell net, stab net, or any other net which captures saltwater finfish, shellfish, or other marine animals by causing all or part of heads, fins, legs, or other body parts to become entangled or ensnared in the meshes of the net, but a hand thrown cast net is not a gill net or an entangling net;

(2) "mesh area" of a net means the total area of netting with the meshes open to comprise the maximum square footage. The square footage shall be calculated using standard mathematical formulas for geometric shapes. Seines and other rectangular nets shall be calculated using the maximum length and maximum width of the netting. Trawls and other bag type nets shall be calculated as a cone using the maximum circumference of the net mouth to derive the radius, and the maximum length from the net mouth to the tail end of the net to derive the slant height. Calculations for any other nets or combination type nets shall be based on the shapes of the individual components;

(3) "coastline" means the territorial sea base line for the State of Florida established pursuant to the laws of the United States of America;

(4) "Florida waters" means the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, the Straits of Florida, and any other bodies of water under the jurisdiction of the State of Florida, whether coastal, intracoastal or inland, and any part thereof; and

(5) "nearshore and inshore Florida waters" means all Florida waters inside a line three miles seaward of the

coastline along the Gulf of Mexico and inside a line one mile seaward of the coastline along the Atlantic Ocean.

(d) This section shall not apply to the use of nets for scientific research or governmental purposes.

(e) Persons violating this section shall be prosecuted and punished pursuant to the penalties provided in section 370.021(2)(a),(b),(c)6. and 7., and (e), Florida Statutes (1991), unless and until the legislature enacts more stringent penalties for violations hereof. On and after the effective date of this section, law enforcement officers in the state are authorized to enforce the provisions of this section in the same manner and authority as if a violation of this section constituted a violation of Chapter 370, Florida Statutes (1991).

(f) It is the intent of this section that implementing legislation is not required for enforcing any violations hereof, but nothing in this section prohibits the establishment by law or pursuant to law of more restrictions on the use of nets for the purpose of catching or taking any saltwater finfish, shellfish, or other marine animals.

(g) If any portion of this section is held invalid for any reason, the remaining portion of this section, to the fullest extent possible, shall be severed from the void portion and given the fullest possible force and application.

(h) This section shall take effect on the July 1 next occurring after approval hereof by vote of the electors.

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State October 2, 1992; adopted 1994.

**SECTION 17. Everglades Trust Fund.—**

(a) There is hereby established the Everglades Trust Fund, which shall not be subject to termination pursuant to Article III, Section 19(f). The purpose of the Everglades Trust Fund is to make funds available to assist in

conservation and protection of natural resources and abatement of water pollution in the Everglades Protection Area and the Everglades Agricultural Area. The trust fund shall be administered by the South Florida Water Management District, or its successor agency, consistent with statutory law.

(b) The Everglades Trust Fund may receive funds from any source, including gifts from individuals, corporations or other entities; funds from general revenue as determined by the Legislature; and any other funds so designated by the Legislature, by the United States Congress or by any other governmental entity.

(c) Funds deposited to the Everglades Trust Fund shall be expended for purposes of conservation and abatement of water pollution in the Everglades Protection Area and Everglades Agricultural Area.

(d) For purposes of this subsection, the terms “Everglades Protection Area,” “Everglades Agricultural Area” and “South Florida Water Management District” shall have the meanings as defined in statutes in effect on January 1, 1996.

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State March 26, 1996; adopted 1996.

**SECTION 18. Disposition of conservation lands.**—The fee interest in real property held by an entity of the state and designated for natural resources conservation purposes as provided by general law shall be managed for the benefit of the citizens of this state and may be disposed of only if the members of the governing board of the entity holding title determine the property is no longer needed for conservation purposes and only upon a vote of two-thirds of the governing board.

**History.**—Proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 5, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 19. [Repealed]**—

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State August 25, 1999; adopted 2000; Am. proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State February 18, 2004; adopted 2004; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 6, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**SECTION 20. Workplaces without tobacco smoke or vapor.**—

(a) **PROHIBITION.** As a Florida health initiative to protect people from the health hazards of second-hand tobacco smoke and vapor, tobacco smoking and the use of vapor-generating electronic devices are prohibited in enclosed indoor workplaces. This section does not preclude the adoption of ordinances that impose more restrictive regulation on the use of vapor-generating electronic devices than is provided in this section.

(b) **EXCEPTIONS.** As further explained in the definitions below, tobacco smoking and the use of vapor-generating electronic devices may be permitted in private residences whenever they are not being used commercially to provide child care, adult care, or health care, or any combination thereof; and further may be permitted in retail tobacco shops, vapor-generating electronic device retailers, designated smoking guest rooms at hotels and other public lodging establishments; and stand-alone bars. However, nothing in this section or in its implementing legislation or regulations shall prohibit the owner, lessee, or other person in control of the use of an enclosed indoor workplace from further prohibiting or limiting smoking or the use of vapor-generating electronic devices therein.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.** For purposes of this section, the following words and terms shall have the stated meanings:

(1) “Smoking” means inhaling, exhaling, burning, carrying, or possessing any lighted tobacco product, including

**ARTICLE X      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE X**

cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, and any other lighted tobacco product.

(2) "Second-hand smoke," also known as environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), means smoke emitted from lighted, smoldering, or burning tobacco when the smoker is not inhaling; smoke emitted at the mouthpiece during puff drawing; and smoke exhaled by the smoker.

(3) "Work" means any person's providing any employment or employment-type service for or at the request of another individual or individuals or any public or private entity, whether for compensation or not, whether full or part-time, whether legally or not. "Work" includes, without limitation, any such service performed by an employee, independent contractor, agent, partner, proprietor, manager, officer, director, apprentice, trainee, associate, servant, volunteer, and the like.

(4) "Enclosed indoor workplace" means any place where one or more persons engages in work, and which place is predominantly or totally bounded on all sides and above by physical barriers, regardless of whether such barriers consist of or include uncovered openings, screened or otherwise partially covered openings; or open or closed windows, jalousies, doors, or the like. This section applies to all such enclosed indoor workplaces without regard to whether work is occurring at any given time.

(5) "Commercial" use of a private residence means any time during which the owner, lessee, or other person occupying or controlling the use of the private residence is furnishing in the private residence, or causing or allowing to be furnished in the private residence, child care, adult care, or health care, or any combination thereof, and receiving or expecting to receive compensation therefor.

(6) "Retail tobacco shop" means any enclosed indoor workplace dedicated to or predominantly for the retail sale of tobacco, tobacco products, and accessories for such products, in which the sale of other products or services is merely incidental.

(7) "Designated smoking guest rooms at public lodging establishments" means the sleeping rooms and directly associated private areas, such as bathrooms, living rooms, and kitchen areas, if any, rented to guests for their exclusive transient occupancy in public lodging establishments including hotels, motels, resort condominiums, transient apartments, transient lodging establishments, rooming houses, boarding houses, resort dwellings, bed and breakfast inns, and the like; and designated by the person or persons having management authority over such public lodging establishment as rooms in which smoking may be permitted.

(8) "Stand-alone bar" means any place of business devoted during any time of operation predominantly or totally to serving alcoholic beverages, intoxicating beverages, or intoxicating liquors, or any combination thereof, for consumption on the licensed premises; in which the serving of food, if any, is merely incidental to the consumption of any such beverage; and that is not located within, and does not share any common entryway or common indoor area with, any other enclosed indoor workplace including any business for which the sale of food or any other product or service is more than an incidental source of gross revenue.

(9) "Vapor-generating electronic device" means any product that employs an electronic, a chemical, or a mechanical means capable of producing vapor or aerosol from a nicotine product or any other substance, including, but not limited to, an electronic

**ARTICLE X      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE X**

cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or other similar device or product, any replacement cartridge for such device, and any other container of a solution or other substance intended to be used with or within an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or other similar device or product.

(10) "Vapor-generating electronic device retailer" means any enclosed indoor workplace dedicated to or predominantly for the retail sale of vapor-generating electronic devices and components, parts, and accessories for such products, in which the sale of other products or services is merely incidental.

(d) **LEGISLATION.** In the next regular legislative session occurring after voter approval of this section or any amendment to this section, the legislature shall adopt legislation to implement this section and any amendment to this section in a manner consistent with its broad purpose and stated terms, and having an effective date no later than July 1 of the year following voter approval. Such legislation shall include, without limitation, civil penalties for violations of this section; provisions for administrative enforcement; and the requirement and authorization of agency rules for implementation and enforcement. This section does not preclude the legislature from enacting any law constituting or allowing a more restrictive regulation of tobacco smoking or the use of vapor-generating electronic devices than is provided in this section.

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State July 16, 2001; adopted 2002; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 4, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**1SECTION 21. Limiting cruel and inhumane confinement of pigs during pregnancy.**—Inhumane treatment of animals is a concern of Florida

citizens. To prevent cruelty to certain animals and as recommended by The Humane Society of the United States, the people of the State of Florida hereby limit the cruel and inhumane confinement of pigs during pregnancy as provided herein.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to confine a pig during pregnancy in an enclosure, or to tether a pig during pregnancy, on a farm in such a way that she is prevented from turning around freely.

(b) This section shall not apply:

(1) when a pig is undergoing an examination, test, treatment or operation carried out for veterinary purposes, provided the period during which the animal is confined or tethered is not longer than reasonably necessary.

(2) during the prebirthing period.

(c) For purposes of this section:

(1) "enclosure" means any cage, crate or other enclosure in which a pig is kept for all or the majority of any day, including what is commonly described as the "gestation crate."

(2) "farm" means the land, buildings, support facilities, and other appurtenances used in the production of animals for food or fiber.

(3) "person" means any natural person, corporation and/or business entity.

(4) "pig" means any animal of the porcine species.

(5) "turning around freely" means turning around without having to touch any side of the pig's enclosure.

(6) "prebirthing period" means the seven day period prior to a pig's expected date of giving birth.

(d) A person who violates this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082(4)(a), Florida Statutes (1999), as amended, or by a fine of not more than \$5000, or by both imprisonment and a fine, unless and until the legislature enacts more

stringent penalties for violations hereof. On and after the effective date of this section, law enforcement officers in the state are authorized to enforce the provisions of this section in the same manner and authority as if a violation of this section constituted a violation of Section 828.13, Florida Statutes (1999). The confinement or tethering of each pig shall constitute a separate offense. The knowledge or acts of agents and employees of a person in regard to a pig owned, farmed or in the custody of a person, shall be held to be the knowledge or act of such person.

(e) It is the intent of this section that implementing legislation is not required for enforcing any violations hereof.

(f) If any portion of this section is held invalid for any reason, the remaining portion of this section, to the fullest extent possible, shall be severed from the void portion and given the fullest possible force and application.

(g) This section shall take effect six years after approval by the electors.

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State October 27, 2000; adopted 2002.

**Note.**—This section, originally designated section 19 by Amendment No. 10, 2002, proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State October 27, 2000, adopted 2002, was redesignated section 21 by the editors in order to avoid confusion with already existing section 19, relating to the high speed ground transportation system, and section 20, relating to prohibiting workplace smoking, as contained in Amendment No. 6, 2002, proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State July 16, 2001, adopted 2002.

**SECTION 22. Parental notice of termination of a minor’s pregnancy.**

The Legislature shall not limit or deny the privacy right guaranteed to a minor under the United States Constitution as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court. Notwithstanding a minor’s right of privacy provided in Section 23 of Article I, the Legislature is authorized to require by general law for notification to a parent or guardian of a minor before the termination of the minor’s pregnancy. The Legislature shall provide exceptions to such

requirement for notification and shall create a process for judicial waiver of the notification.

**History.**—Added, H.J.R. 1, 2004; adopted 2004.

**SECTION 23. Slot machines.—**

(a) After voter approval of this constitutional amendment, the governing bodies of Miami-Dade and Broward Counties each may hold a county-wide referendum in their respective counties on whether to authorize slot machines within existing, licensed parimutuel facilities (thoroughbred and harness racing, greyhound racing, and jai-alai) that have conducted live racing or games in that county during each of the last two calendar years before the effective date of this amendment. If the voters of such county approve the referendum question by majority vote, slot machines shall be authorized in such parimutuel facilities. If the voters of such county by majority vote disapprove the referendum question, slot machines shall not be so authorized, and the question shall not be presented in another referendum in that county for at least two years.

(b) In the next regular Legislative session occurring after voter approval of this constitutional amendment, the Legislature shall adopt legislation implementing this section and having an effective date no later than July 1 of the year following voter approval of this amendment. Such legislation shall authorize agency rules for implementation, and may include provisions for the licensure and regulation of slot machines. The Legislature may tax slot machine revenues, and any such taxes must supplement public education funding statewide.

(c) If any part of this section is held invalid for any reason, the remaining portion or portions shall be severed from the invalid portion and given the fullest possible force and effect.

(d) This amendment shall become effective when approved by vote of the electors of the state.

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State May 28, 2002; adopted 2004.

**Note.**—This section, originally designated section 19 by Amendment No. 4, 2004, proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State May 28, 2002, adopted 2004, was redesignated section 23 by the editors in order to avoid confusion with already existing section 19, relating to the high speed ground transportation system.

**SECTION 24. Florida minimum wage.—**

(a) **PUBLIC POLICY.** All working Floridians are entitled to be paid a minimum wage that is sufficient to provide a decent and healthy life for them and their families, that protects their employers from unfair low-wage competition, and that does not force them to rely on taxpayer-funded public services in order to avoid economic hardship.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.** As used in this amendment, the terms “Employer,” “Employee” and “Wage” shall have the meanings established under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and its implementing regulations.

(c) **MINIMUM WAGE.** Employers shall pay Employees Wages no less than the Minimum Wage for all hours worked in Florida. Six months after enactment, the Minimum Wage shall be established at an hourly rate of \$6.15. Effective September 30th, 2021, the existing state Minimum Wage shall increase to \$10.00 per hour, and then increase each September 30th thereafter by \$1.00 per hour, until the Minimum Wage reaches \$15.00 per hour on September 30th, 2026. On September 30th of 2027 and on each following September 30th, the state Agency for Workforce Innovation shall calculate an adjusted Minimum Wage rate by increasing the current Minimum Wage rate by the rate of inflation during the twelve months prior to each September 1st using the

consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, CPI-W, or a successor index as calculated by the United States Department of Labor. Each adjusted Minimum Wage rate calculated shall be published and take effect on the following January 1st. For tipped Employees meeting eligibility requirements for the tip credit under the FLSA, Employers may credit towards satisfaction of the Minimum Wage tips up to the amount of the allowable FLSA tip credit in 2003.

(d) **RETALIATION PROHIBITED.** It shall be unlawful for an Employer or any other party to discriminate in any manner or take adverse action against any person in retaliation for exercising rights protected under this amendment. Rights protected under this amendment include, but are not limited to, the right to file a complaint or inform any person about any party’s alleged noncompliance with this amendment, and the right to inform any person of his or her potential rights under this amendment and to assist him or her in asserting such rights.

(e) **ENFORCEMENT.** Persons aggrieved by a violation of this amendment may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction against an Employer or person violating this amendment and, upon prevailing, shall recover the full amount of any back wages unlawfully withheld plus the same amount as liquidated damages, and shall be awarded reasonable attorney’s fees and costs. In addition, they shall be entitled to such legal or equitable relief as may be appropriate to remedy the violation including, without limitation, reinstatement in employment and/or injunctive relief. Any Employer or other person found liable for willfully violating this amendment shall also be subject to a fine payable to the state in the amount of \$1000.00 for each violation. The state attorney



**ARTICLE X      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE X**

general or other official designated by the state legislature may also bring a civil action to enforce this amendment. Actions to enforce this amendment shall be subject to a statute of limitations of four years or, in the case of willful violations, five years. Such actions may be brought as a class action pursuant to Rule 1.220 of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure.

(f) **ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND CONSTRUCTION.** Implementing legislation is not required in order to enforce this amendment. The state legislature may by statute establish additional remedies or fines for violations of this amendment, raise the applicable Minimum Wage rate, reduce the tip credit, or extend coverage of the Minimum Wage to employers or employees not covered by this amendment. The state legislature may by statute or the state Agency for Workforce Innovation may by regulation adopt any measures appropriate for the implementation of this amendment. This amendment provides for payment of a minimum wage and shall not be construed to preempt or otherwise limit the authority of the state legislature or any other public body to adopt or enforce any other law, regulation, requirement, policy or standard that provides for payment of higher or supplemental wages or benefits, or that extends such protections to employers or employees not covered by this amendment. It is intended that case law, administrative interpretations, and other guiding standards developed under the federal FLSA shall guide the construction of this amendment and any implementing statutes or regulations.

(g) **SEVERABILITY.** If any part of this amendment, or the application of this amendment to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of this amendment, including

the application of such part to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected by such a holding and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the parts of this amendment are severable.

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State August 7, 2003; adopted 2004; Am. by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State January 10, 2018; adopted 2020.

**SECTION 25. Patients’ right to know about adverse medical incidents.—**

(a) In addition to any other similar rights provided herein or by general law, patients have a right to have access to any records made or received in the course of business by a health care facility or provider relating to any adverse medical incident.

(b) In providing such access, the identity of patients involved in the incidents shall not be disclosed, and any privacy restrictions imposed by federal law shall be maintained.

(c) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) The phrases “health care facility” and “health care provider” have the meaning given in general law related to a patient’s rights and responsibilities.

(2) The term “patient” means an individual who has sought, is seeking, is undergoing, or has undergone care or treatment in a health care facility or by a health care provider.

(3) The phrase “adverse medical incident” means medical negligence, intentional misconduct, and any other act, neglect, or default of a health care facility or health care provider that caused or could have caused injury to or death of a patient, including, but not limited to, those incidents that are required by state or federal law to be reported to any governmental agency or body, and incidents that are reported to or reviewed by any health care facility peer review, risk management,

**ARTICLE X      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE X**

quality assurance, credentials, or similar committee, or any representative of any such committees.

(4) The phrase “have access to any records” means, in addition to any other procedure for producing such records provided by general law, making the records available for inspection and copying upon formal or informal request by the patient or a representative of the patient, provided that current records which have been made publicly available by publication or on the Internet may be “provided” by reference to the location at which the records are publicly available.

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State April 1, 2003; adopted 2004.

**<sup>1</sup>Note.**—

A. This section, originally designated section 22 by Amendment No. 7, 2004, proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State April 1, 2003, adopted 2004, was redesignated section 25 by the editors in order to avoid confusion with section 22, relating to parental notice of termination of a minor’s pregnancy, as contained in Amendment No. 1, 2004, added by H.J.R. 1, 2004, adopted 2004.

B. Amendment No. 7, 2004, proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State April 1, 2003, adopted 2004, published “[f]ull [t]ext” consisting of a statement and purpose, the actual amendment “inserting the following new section at the end [of Art. X],” and an effective date and severability provision not specifically included in the amendment text. The effective date and severability provision reads:

3) Effective Date and Severability:

This amendment shall be effective on the date it is approved by the electorate. If any portion of this measure is held invalid for any reason, the remaining portion of this measure, to the fullest extent possible, shall be severed from the void portion and given the fullest possible force and application.

**<sup>1</sup>SECTION 26. Prohibition of medical license after repeated medical malpractice.**—

(a) No person who has been found to have committed three or more incidents of medical malpractice shall be licensed or continue to be licensed by the State of Florida to provide health care services as a medical doctor.

(b) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) The phrase “medical malpractice” means both the failure to practice medicine in Florida with that level of

care, skill, and treatment recognized in general law related to health care providers’ licensure, and any similar wrongful act, neglect, or default in other states or countries which, if committed in Florida, would have been considered medical malpractice.

(2) The phrase “found to have committed” means that the malpractice has been found in a final judgment of a court of law, final administrative agency decision, or decision of binding arbitration.

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State April 7, 2003; adopted 2004.

**<sup>1</sup>Note.**—

A. This section, originally designated section 20 by Amendment No. 8, 2004, proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State April 7, 2003, adopted 2004, was redesignated section 26 by the editors in order to avoid confusion with already existing section 20, relating to prohibiting workplace smoking.

B. Amendment No. 8, 2004, proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State April 7, 2003, adopted 2004, published “[f]ull [t]ext” consisting of a statement and purpose, the actual amendment “inserting the following new section at the end [of Art. X],” and an effective date and severability provision not specifically included in the amendment text. The effective date and severability provision reads:

c) Effective Date and Severability:

This amendment shall be effective on the date it is approved by the electorate. If any portion of this measure is held invalid for any reason, the remaining portion of this measure, to the fullest extent possible, shall be severed from the void portion and given the fullest possible force and application.

**SECTION 27. Comprehensive Statewide Tobacco Education And Prevention Program.**—

In order to protect people, especially youth, from health hazards of using tobacco, including addictive disorders, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and lung diseases; and to discourage use of tobacco, particularly among youth, a portion of the money that tobacco companies pay to the State of Florida under the Tobacco Settlement each year shall be used to fund a comprehensive statewide tobacco education and prevention program consistent with recommendations of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as follows:

**ARTICLE X      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE X**

(a) PROGRAM. The money appropriated pursuant to this section shall be used to fund a comprehensive statewide tobacco education and prevention program consistent with the recommendations for effective program components in the 1999 *Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs* of the CDC, as such *Best Practices* may be amended by the CDC. This program shall include, at a minimum, the following components, and may include additional components that are also contained within the CDC *Best Practices*, as periodically amended, and that are effective at accomplishing the purpose of this section, and that do not undermine the effectiveness of these required minimum components:

(1) an advertising campaign to discourage the use of tobacco and to educate people, especially youth, about the health hazards of tobacco, which shall be designed to be effective at achieving these goals and shall include, but need not be limited to, television, radio, and print advertising, with no limitations on any individual advertising medium utilized; and which shall be funded at a level equivalent to one-third of each total annual appropriation required by this section;

(2) evidence-based curricula and programs to educate youth about tobacco and to discourage their use of it, including, but not limited to, programs that involve youth, educate youth about the health hazards of tobacco, help youth develop skills to refuse tobacco, and demonstrate to youth how to stop using tobacco;

(3) programs of local community-based partnerships that discourage the use of tobacco and work to educate people, especially youth, about the health hazards of tobacco, with an emphasis on programs that involve

youth and emphasize the prevention and cessation of tobacco use;

(4) enforcement of laws, regulations, and policies against the sale or other provision of tobacco to minors, and the possession of tobacco by minors; and

(5) publicly-reported annual evaluations to ensure that moneys appropriated pursuant to this section are spent properly, which shall include evaluation of the program's effectiveness in reducing and preventing tobacco use, and annual recommendations for improvements to enhance the program's effectiveness, which are to include comparisons to similar programs proven to be effective in other states, as well as comparisons to CDC *Best Practices*, including amendments thereto.

(b) FUNDING. In every year beginning with the calendar year after voters approve this amendment, the Florida Legislature shall appropriate, for the purpose expressed herein, from the total gross funds that tobacco companies pay to the State of Florida under the Tobacco Settlement, an amount equal to fifteen percent of such funds paid to the State in 2005; and the appropriation required by this section shall be adjusted annually for inflation, using the Consumer Price Index as published by the United States Department of Labor.

(c) DEFINITIONS. "Tobacco" includes, without limitation, tobacco itself and tobacco products that include tobacco and are intended or expected for human use or consumption, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, and smokeless tobacco. The "Tobacco Settlement" means that certain Settlement Agreement dated August 25, 1997, entered into in settlement of the case styled as *State of Florida, et al. v. American Tobacco Company, et al.*, Case No. 95-1466

**ARTICLE X      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE X**

AH (Fla. 15th Cir. Ct.), as amended by Stipulation of Amendment dated September 11, 1998; and includes any subsequent amendments and successor agreements. “Youth” includes minors and young adults.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This amendment shall become effective immediately upon approval by the voters.

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State July 20, 2005; adopted 2006.

**SECTION 28. Land Acquisition Trust Fund.—**

(a) Effective on July 1 of the year following passage of this amendment by the voters, and for a period of 20 years after that effective date, the Land Acquisition Trust Fund shall receive no less than 33 percent of net revenues derived from the existing excise tax on documents, as defined in the statutes in effect on January 1, 2012, as amended from time to time, or any successor or replacement tax, after the Department of Revenue first deducts a service charge to pay the costs of the collection and enforcement of the excise tax on documents.

(b) Funds in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund shall be expended only for the following purposes:

(1) As provided by law, to finance or refinance: the acquisition and improvement of land, water areas, and related property interests, including conservation easements, and resources for conservation lands including wetlands, forests, and fish and wildlife habitat; wildlife management areas; lands that protect water resources and drinking water sources, including lands protecting the water quality and quantity of rivers, lakes, streams, springsheds, and lands providing recharge for groundwater and aquifer systems; lands in the Everglades Agricultural Area and the Everglades Protection Area, as defined in Article II, Section 7(b); beaches and shores; outdoor

recreation lands, including recreational trails, parks, and urban open space; rural landscapes; working farms and ranches; historic or geologic sites; together with management, restoration of natural systems, and the enhancement of public access or recreational enjoyment of conservation lands.

(2) To pay the debt service on bonds issued pursuant to Article VII, Section 11(e).

(c) The moneys deposited into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, as defined by the statutes in effect on January 1, 2012, shall not be or become commingled with the general revenue fund of the state.

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State September 17, 2012; adopted 2014.

**SECTION 29. Medical marijuana production, possession and use.—**

(a) **PUBLIC POLICY.**

(1) The medical use of marijuana by a qualifying patient or caregiver in compliance with this section is not subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions under Florida law.

(2) A physician shall not be subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions under Florida law solely for issuing a physician certification with reasonable care to a person diagnosed with a debilitating medical condition in compliance with this section.

(3) Actions and conduct by a Medical Marijuana Treatment Center registered with the Department, or its agents or employees, and in compliance with this section and Department regulations, shall not be subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions under Florida law.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.** For purposes of this section, the following words and terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) “Debilitating Medical Condition” means cancer, epilepsy, glaucoma, positive status for human

**ARTICLE X      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE X**

immunodeficiency virus (HIV), acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, or other debilitating medical conditions of the same kind or class as or comparable to those enumerated, and for which a physician believes that the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the potential health risks for a patient.

(2) "Department" means the Department of Health or its successor agency.

(3) "Identification card" means a document issued by the Department that identifies a qualifying patient or a caregiver.

(4) "Marijuana" has the meaning given cannabis in Section 893.02(3), Florida Statutes (2014), and, in addition, "Low-THC cannabis" as defined in Section 381.986(1)(b), Florida Statutes (2014), shall also be included in the meaning of the term "marijuana."

(5) "Medical Marijuana Treatment Center" (MMTC) means an entity that acquires, cultivates, possesses, processes (including development of related products such as food, tinctures, aerosols, oils, or ointments), transfers, transports, sells, distributes, dispenses, or administers marijuana, products containing marijuana, related supplies, or educational materials to qualifying patients or their caregivers and is registered by the Department.

(6) "Medical use" means the acquisition, possession, use, delivery, transfer, or administration of an amount of marijuana not in conflict with Department rules, or of related supplies by a qualifying patient or caregiver for use by the caregiver's designated qualifying patient for the treatment of a debilitating medical condition.

(7) "Caregiver" means a person who is at least twenty-one (21) years

old who has agreed to assist with a qualifying patient's medical use of marijuana and has qualified for and obtained a caregiver identification card issued by the Department. The Department may limit the number of qualifying patients a caregiver may assist at one time and the number of caregivers that a qualifying patient may have at one time. Caregivers are prohibited from consuming marijuana obtained for medical use by the qualifying patient.

(8) "Physician" means a person who is licensed to practice medicine in Florida.

(9) "Physician certification" means a written document signed by a physician, stating that in the physician's professional opinion, the patient suffers from a debilitating medical condition, that the medical use of marijuana would likely outweigh the potential health risks for the patient, and for how long the physician recommends the medical use of marijuana for the patient. A physician certification may only be provided after the physician has conducted a physical examination and a full assessment of the medical history of the patient. In order for a physician certification to be issued to a minor, a parent or legal guardian of the minor must consent in writing.

(10) "Qualifying patient" means a person who has been diagnosed to have a debilitating medical condition, who has a physician certification and a valid qualifying patient identification card. If the Department does not begin issuing identification cards within nine (9) months after the effective date of this section, then a valid physician certification will serve as a patient identification card in order to allow a person to become a "qualifying patient" until the Department begins issuing identification cards.

(c) LIMITATIONS.

**ARTICLE X      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE X**

(1) Nothing in this section allows for a violation of any law other than for conduct in compliance with the provisions of this section.

(2) Nothing in this section shall affect or repeal laws relating to non-medical use, possession, production, or sale of marijuana.

(3) Nothing in this section authorizes the use of medical marijuana by anyone other than a qualifying patient.

(4) Nothing in this section shall permit the operation of any vehicle, aircraft, train or boat while under the influence of marijuana.

(5) Nothing in this section requires the violation of federal law or purports to give immunity under federal law.

(6) Nothing in this section shall require any accommodation of any on-site medical use of marijuana in any correctional institution or detention facility or place of education or employment, or of smoking medical marijuana in any public place.

(7) Nothing in this section shall require any health insurance provider or any government agency or authority to reimburse any person for expenses related to the medical use of marijuana.

(8) Nothing in this section shall affect or repeal laws relating to negligence or professional malpractice on the part of a qualified patient, caregiver, physician, MMTC, or its agents or employees.

(d) **DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT.** The Department shall issue reasonable regulations necessary for the implementation and enforcement of this section. The purpose of the regulations is to ensure the availability and safe use of medical marijuana by qualifying patients. It is the duty of the Department to promulgate regulations in a timely fashion.

(1) Implementing Regulations. In order to allow the Department sufficient

time after passage of this section, the following regulations shall be promulgated no later than six (6) months after the effective date of this section:

a. Procedures for the issuance and annual renewal of qualifying patient identification cards to people with physician certifications and standards for renewal of such identification cards. Before issuing an identification card to a minor, the Department must receive written consent from the minor's parent or legal guardian, in addition to the physician certification.

b. Procedures establishing qualifications and standards for caregivers, including conducting appropriate background checks, and procedures for the issuance and annual renewal of caregiver identification cards.

c. Procedures for the registration of MMTCs that include procedures for the issuance, renewal, suspension and revocation of registration, and standards to ensure proper security, record keeping, testing, labeling, inspection, and safety.

d. A regulation that defines the amount of marijuana that could reasonably be presumed to be an adequate supply for qualifying patients' medical use, based on the best available evidence. This presumption as to quantity may be overcome with evidence of a particular qualifying patient's appropriate medical use.

(2) Identification cards and registrations. The Department shall begin issuing qualifying patient and caregiver identification cards, and registering MMTCs no later than nine (9) months after the effective date of this section.

(3) If the Department does not issue regulations, or if the Department does not begin issuing identification cards and registering MMTCs within the time limits set in this section, any Florida citizen shall have standing to seek judicial relief to compel compliance

**ARTICLE X      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE X**

with the Department's constitutional duties.

(4) The Department shall protect the confidentiality of all qualifying patients. All records containing the identity of qualifying patients shall be confidential and kept from public disclosure other than for valid medical or law enforcement purposes.

(e) **LEGISLATION.** Nothing in this section shall limit the legislature from enacting laws consistent with this section.

(f) **SEVERABILITY.** The provisions of this section are severable and if any clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this measure, or an application thereof, is adjudged invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction other provisions shall continue to be in effect to the fullest extent possible.

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State January 9, 2015; adopted 2016.

**SECTION 30. Voter control of gambling in Florida.—**

(a) This amendment ensures that Florida voters shall have the exclusive right to decide whether to authorize casino gambling in the State of Florida. This amendment requires a vote by citizens' initiative pursuant to Article XI, section 3, in order for casino gambling to be authorized under Florida law. This section amends this Article; and also affects Article XI, by making citizens' initiatives the exclusive method of authorizing casino gambling.

(b) As used in this section, "casino gambling" means any of the types of games typically found in casinos and that are within the definition of Class III gaming in the Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, 25 U.S.C. ss. 2701 et seq. ("IGRA"), and in 25 C.F.R. s. 502.4, upon adoption of this amendment, and any that are added to such definition of Class III gaming in the future. This includes, but is not limited to, any house banking game, including

but not limited to card games such as baccarat, chemin de fer, blackjack (21), and pai gow (if played as house banking games); any player-banked game that simulates a house banking game, such as California black jack; casino games such as roulette, craps, and keno; any slot machines as defined in 15 U.S.C. s. 1171(a)(1); and any other game not authorized by Article X, section 15, whether or not defined as a slot machine, in which outcomes are determined by random number generator or are similarly assigned randomly, such as instant or historical racing. As used herein, "casino gambling" includes any electronic gambling devices, simulated gambling devices, video lottery devices, internet sweepstakes devices, and any other form of electronic or electromechanical facsimiles of any game of chance, slot machine, or casino-style game, regardless of how such devices are defined under IGRA. As used herein, "casino gambling" does not include pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing, dog racing, or jai alai exhibitions. For purposes of this section, "gambling" and "gaming" are synonymous.

(c) Nothing herein shall be deemed to limit the right of the Legislature to exercise its authority through general law to restrict, regulate, or tax any gaming or gambling activities. In addition, nothing herein shall be construed to limit the ability of the state or Native American tribes to negotiate gaming compacts pursuant to the Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act for the conduct of casino gambling on tribal lands, or to affect any existing gambling on tribal lands pursuant to compacts executed by the state and Native American tribes pursuant to IGRA.

(d) This section is effective upon approval by the voters, is self-executing, and no Legislative implementation is required.

(e) If any part of this section is held invalid for any reason, the remaining portion or portions shall be severed from the invalid portion and given the fullest possible force and effect.

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State October 26, 2015; adopted 2018.

**SECTION 31. Death benefits for survivors of first responders and military members.—**

(a) A death benefit shall be paid by the employing agency when a firefighter; a paramedic; an emergency medical technician; a law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer; or a member of the Florida National Guard, while engaged in the performance of their official duties, is:

(1) Accidentally killed or receives accidental bodily injury which results in the loss of the individual's life, provided that such killing is not the result of suicide and that such bodily injury is not intentionally self-inflicted; or

(2) Unlawfully and intentionally killed or dies as a result of such unlawful and intentional act or is killed during active duty.

(b) A death benefit shall be paid by funds from general revenue when an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces is:

(1) Accidentally killed or receives accidental bodily injury which results in the loss of the individual's life, provided that such killing is not the result of suicide and that such bodily injury is not intentionally self-inflicted; or

(2) Unlawfully and intentionally killed or dies as a result of such unlawful and intentional act or is killed during active duty.

(c) If a firefighter; a paramedic; an emergency medical technician; a law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer; or an active duty member of the Florida National

Guard or United States Armed Forces is accidentally killed as specified in paragraphs (a)(1) and (b)(1), or unlawfully and intentionally killed as specified in paragraphs (a)(2) and (b)(2), the state shall waive certain educational expenses that the child or spouse of the deceased first responder or military member incurs while obtaining a career certificate, an undergraduate education, or a postgraduate education.

(d) An eligible first responder must have been working for the State of Florida or any of its political subdivisions or agencies at the time of death. An eligible military member must have been a resident of this state or his or her duty post must have been within this state at the time of death.

(e) The legislature shall implement this section by general law.

(f) This section shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

**History.**—Proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 2, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**SECTION 32. Prohibition on racing of and wagering on greyhounds or other dogs.—**The humane

treatment of animals is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida. After December 31, 2020, a person authorized to conduct gaming or pari-mutuel operations may not race greyhounds or any member of the *Canis Familiaris* subspecies in connection with any wager for money or any other thing of value in this state, and persons in this state may not wager money or any other thing of value on the outcome of a live dog race occurring in this state. The failure to conduct greyhound racing or wagering on greyhound racing after December 31, 2018, does not constitute grounds to revoke or deny renewal of other related gaming licenses held by a person who is a licensed greyhound permitholder on January 1, 2018, and does not affect



**ARTICLE X      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE XI**

the eligibility of such permitholder, or such permitholder’s facility, to conduct other pari-mutuel activities authorized by general law. By general law, the legislature shall specify civil or criminal penalties for violations of this section and for activities that aid or abet violations of this section.

**History.**—Proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**ARTICLE XI**

**AMENDMENTS**

Sec.

1. Proposal by legislature.
2. Revision commission.
3. Initiative.
4. Constitutional convention.
5. Amendment or revision election.
6. Taxation and budget reform commission.
7. Tax or fee limitation.

**SECTION 1. Proposal by legislature.**—Amendment of a section or revision of one or more articles, or the whole, of this constitution may be proposed by joint resolution agreed to by three-fifths of the membership of each house of the legislature. The full text of the joint resolution and the vote of each member voting shall be entered on the journal of each house.

**SECTION 2. Revision commission.**—

(a) Within thirty days before the convening of the 2017 regular session of the legislature, and each twentieth year thereafter, there shall be established a constitution revision commission composed of the following thirty-seven members:

- (1) the attorney general of the state;
- (2) fifteen members selected by the governor;

(3) nine members selected by the speaker of the house of representatives and nine members selected by the president of the senate; and

(4) three members selected by the chief justice of the supreme court of Florida with the advice of the justices.

(b) The governor shall designate one member of the commission as its chair. Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

(c) Each constitution revision commission shall convene at the call of its chair, adopt its rules of procedure, examine the constitution of the state, hold public hearings, and, not later than one hundred eighty days prior to the next general election, file with the custodian of state records its proposal, if any, of a revision of this constitution or any part of it.

**History.**—Am. H.J.R. 1616, 1988; adopted 1988; Am. S.J.R. 210, 1996; adopted 1996; Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 8 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 3. Initiative.**—The power to propose the revision or amendment of any portion or portions of this constitution by initiative is reserved to the people, provided that, any such revision or amendment, except for those limiting the power of government to raise revenue, shall embrace but one subject and matter directly connected therewith. It may be invoked by filing with the custodian of state records a petition containing a copy of the proposed revision or amendment, signed by a number of electors in each of one half of the congressional districts of the state, and of the state as a whole, equal to eight percent of the votes cast in each of such districts respectively and in the state as a whole in the last

**ARTICLE XI      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE XI**

preceding election in which presidential electors were chosen.

**History.**—Am. H.J.R. 2835, 1972; adopted 1972; Am. by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State August 3, 1993; adopted 1994; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 4. Constitutional convention.—**

(a) The power to call a convention to consider a revision of the entire constitution is reserved to the people. It may be invoked by filing with the custodian of state records a petition, containing a declaration that a constitutional convention is desired, signed by a number of electors in each of one half of the congressional districts of the state, and of the state as a whole, equal to fifteen per cent of the votes cast in each such district respectively and in the state as a whole in the last preceding election of presidential electors.

(b) At the next general election held more than ninety days after the filing of such petition there shall be submitted to the electors of the state the question: "Shall a constitutional convention be held?" If a majority voting on the question votes in the affirmative, at the next succeeding general election there shall be elected from each representative district a member of a constitutional convention. On the twenty-first day following that election, the convention shall sit at the capital, elect officers, adopt rules of procedure, judge the election of its membership, and fix a time and place for its future meetings. Not later than ninety days before the next succeeding general election, the convention shall cause to be filed with the custodian of state records any revision of this constitution proposed by it.

**History.**—Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 5. Amendment or revision election.—**

(a) A proposed amendment to or revision of this constitution, or any part of it, shall be submitted to the electors at the next general election held more than ninety days after the joint resolution or report of revision commission, constitutional convention or taxation and budget reform commission proposing it is filed with the custodian of state records, unless, pursuant to law enacted by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the membership of each house of the legislature and limited to a single amendment or revision, it is submitted at an earlier special election held more than ninety days after such filing.

(b) A proposed amendment or revision of this constitution, or any part of it, by initiative shall be submitted to the electors at the general election provided the initiative petition is filed with the custodian of state records no later than February 1 of the year in which the general election is held.

(c) The legislature shall provide by general law, prior to the holding of an election pursuant to this section, for the provision of a statement to the public regarding the probable financial impact of any amendment proposed by initiative pursuant to section 3.

(d) Once in the tenth week, and once in the sixth week immediately preceding the week in which the election is held, the proposed amendment or revision, with notice of the date of election at which it will be submitted to the electors, shall be published in one newspaper of general circulation in each county in which a newspaper is published.

(e) Unless otherwise specifically provided for elsewhere in this constitution, if the proposed amendment or revision is approved by vote of at least sixty percent of the electors voting on the measure, it shall be effective as an amendment to or revision of the

**ARTICLE XI      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA      ARTICLE XI**

constitution of the state on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January following the election, or on such other date as may be specified in the amendment or revision.

**History.**—Am. H.J.R. 1616, 1988; adopted 1988; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. H.J.R. 571, 2001; adopted 2002; Am. S.J.R. 2394, 2004; adopted 2004; Am. H.J.R. 1723, 2005; adopted 2006.

**SECTION 6. Taxation and budget reform commission.—**

(a) Beginning in 2007 and each twentieth year thereafter, there shall be established a taxation and budget reform commission composed of the following members:

(1) eleven members selected by the governor, none of whom shall be a member of the legislature at the time of appointment.

(2) seven members selected by the speaker of the house of representatives and seven members selected by the president of the senate, none of whom shall be a member of the legislature at the time of appointment.

(3) four non-voting ex officio members, all of whom shall be members of the legislature at the time of appointment. Two of these members, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party in the house of representatives, shall be selected by the speaker of the house of representatives, and two of these members, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party in the senate, shall be selected by the president of the senate.

(b) Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

(c) At its initial meeting, the members of the commission shall elect a member who is not a member of the legislature to serve as chair and the commission shall adopt its rules of procedure. Thereafter, the commission

shall convene at the call of the chair. An affirmative vote of two thirds of the full commission shall be necessary for any revision of this constitution or any part of it to be proposed by the commission.

(d) The commission shall examine the state budgetary process, the revenue needs and expenditure processes of the state, the appropriateness of the tax structure of the state, and governmental productivity and efficiency; review policy as it relates to the ability of state and local government to tax and adequately fund governmental operations and capital facilities required to meet the state's needs during the next twenty year period; determine methods favored by the citizens of the state to fund the needs of the state, including alternative methods for raising sufficient revenues for the needs of the state; determine measures that could be instituted to effectively gather funds from existing tax sources; examine constitutional limitations on taxation and expenditures at the state and local level; and review the state's comprehensive planning, budgeting and needs assessment processes to determine whether the resulting information adequately supports a strategic decisionmaking process.

(e) The commission shall hold public hearings as it deems necessary to carry out its responsibilities under this section. The commission shall issue a report of the results of the review carried out, and propose to the legislature any recommended statutory changes related to the taxation or budgetary laws of the state. Not later than one hundred eighty days prior to the general election in the second year following the year in which the commission is established, the commission shall file with the custodian of state records its proposal, if any, of a revision of this constitution or any part of it

**ARTICLE XI      CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE XII**

dealing with taxation or the state budgetary process.

**History.**—Added, H.J.R. 1616, 1988; adopted 1988; Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 8 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 7. Tax or fee limitation.**

Notwithstanding Article X, Section 12(d) of this constitution, no new State tax or fee shall be imposed on or after November 8, 1994 by any amendment to this constitution unless the proposed amendment is approved by not fewer than two-thirds of the voters voting in the election in which such proposed amendment is considered. For purposes of this section, the phrase “new State tax or fee” shall mean any tax or fee which would produce revenue subject to lump sum or other appropriation by the Legislature, either for the State general revenue fund or any trust fund, which tax or fee is not in effect on November 7, 1994 including without limitation such taxes and fees as are the subject of proposed constitutional amendments appearing on the ballot on November 8, 1994. This section shall apply to proposed constitutional amendments relating to State taxes or fees which appear on the November 8, 1994 ballot, or later ballots, and any such proposed amendment which fails to gain the two-thirds vote required hereby shall be null, void and without effect.

**History.**—Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State March 11, 1994; adopted 1996.

**ARTICLE XII**

**SCHEDULE**

Sec.

- 1. Constitution of 1885 superseded.
- 2. Property taxes; millages.
- 3. Officers to continue in office.
- 4. State commissioner of education.
- 5. Superintendent of schools.

Sec.

- 6. Laws preserved.
- 7. Rights reserved.
- 8. Public debts recognized.
- 9. Bonds.
- 10. Preservation of existing government.
- 11. Deletion of obsolete schedule items.
- 12. Senators.
- 13. Legislative apportionment.
- 14. Representatives; terms.
- 15. Special district taxes.
- 16. Reorganization.
- 17. Conflicting provisions.
- 18. Bonds for housing and related facilities.
- 19. Renewable energy source property.
- 20. Access to public records.
- 21. State revenue limitation.
- 22. Historic property exemption and assessment.
- 23. Fish and wildlife conservation commission.
- 24. Executive branch reform.
- 25. Schedule to Article V amendment.
- 26. Increased homestead exemption.
- 27. Property tax exemptions and limitations on property tax assessments.
- 28. Property tax exemption and classification and assessment of land used for conservation purposes.
- 29. Limitation on the assessed value of real property used for residential purposes.
- 30. Assessment of working waterfront property.
- 31. Additional ad valorem tax exemption for certain members of the armed forces deployed on active duty outside of the United States.

**ARTICLE XII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE XII**

Sec.

- 32. Veterans disabled due to combat injury; homestead property tax discount.
- 33. Ad valorem tax relief for surviving spouses of veterans who died from service-connected causes and first responders who died in the line of duty.
- 34. Solar devices or renewable energy source devices; exemption from certain taxation and assessment.
- 35. Tax exemption for totally and permanently disabled first responders.
- 36. Additional ad valorem exemption for persons age sixty-five or older.
- 37. Eligibility of justices and judges.
- 38. Prohibitions regarding lobbying for compensation and abuse of public position by public officers and public employees.
- 39. Prohibition on racing of or wagering on greyhounds or other dogs.
- 40. Transfer of the accrued benefit from specified limitations on homestead property tax assessments; increased portability period.
- 41. Ad valorem tax discount for surviving spouses of certain permanently disabled veterans.

**SECTION 1. Constitution of 1885 superseded.**—Articles I through IV, VII, and IX through XX of the Constitution of Florida adopted in 1885, as amended from time to time, are superseded by this revision except those sections expressly retained and made a part of this revision by reference.

**SECTION 2. Property taxes; millages.**—Tax millages authorized in counties, municipalities and special

districts, on the date this revision becomes effective, may be continued until reduced by law.

**SECTION 3. Officers to continue in office.**—Every person holding office when this revision becomes effective shall continue in office for the remainder of the term if that office is not abolished. If the office is abolished the incumbent shall be paid adequate compensation, to be fixed by law, for the loss of emoluments for the remainder of the term.

**SECTION 4. State commissioner of education.**—The state superintendent of public instruction in office on the effective date of this revision shall become and, for the remainder of the term being served, shall be the commissioner of education.

**SECTION 5. Superintendent of schools.**—

(a) On the effective date of this revision the county superintendent of public instruction of each county shall become and, for the remainder of the term being served, shall be the superintendent of schools of that district.

(b) The method of selection of the county superintendent of public instruction of each county, as provided by or under the Constitution of 1885, as amended, shall apply to the selection of the district superintendent of schools until changed as herein provided.

**SECTION 6. Laws preserved.**—

(a) All laws in effect upon the adoption of this revision, to the extent not inconsistent with it, shall remain in force until they expire by their terms or are repealed.

(b) All statutes which, under the Constitution of 1885, as amended, apply to the state superintendent of public instruction and those which

**ARTICLE XII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE XII**

apply to the county superintendent of public instruction shall under this revision apply, respectively, to the state commissioner of education and the district superintendent of schools.

**SECTION 7. Rights reserved.—**

(a) All actions, rights of action, claims, contracts and obligations of individuals, corporations and public bodies or agencies existing on the date this revision becomes effective shall continue to be valid as if this revision had not been adopted. All taxes, penalties, fines and forfeitures owing to the state under the Constitution of 1885, as amended, shall inure to the state under this revision, and all sentences as punishment for crime shall be executed according to their terms.

(b) This revision shall not be retroactive so as to create any right or liability which did not exist under the Constitution of 1885, as amended, based upon matters occurring prior to the adoption of this revision.

**SECTION 8. Public debts recognized.—**

All bonds, revenue certificates, revenue bonds and tax anticipation certificates issued pursuant to the Constitution of 1885, as amended by the state, any agency, political subdivision or public corporation of the state shall remain in full force and effect and shall be secured by the same sources of revenue as before the adoption of this revision, and, to the extent necessary to effectuate this section, the applicable provisions of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, are retained as a part of this revision until payment in full of these public securities.

**SECTION 9. Bonds.—**

(a) ADDITIONAL SECURITIES.

(1) <sup>1</sup>Article IX, Section 17, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, as it

existed immediately before this Constitution, as revised in 1968, became effective, is adopted by this reference as a part of this revision as completely as though incorporated herein verbatim, except revenue bonds, revenue certificates or other evidences of indebtedness hereafter issued thereunder may be issued by the agency of the state so authorized by law.

(2) That portion of <sup>2</sup>Article XII, Section 9, Subsection (a) of this Constitution, as amended, which by reference adopted <sup>3</sup>Article XII, Section 19 of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, as the same existed immediately before the effective date of this amendment is adopted by this reference as part of this revision as completely as though incorporated herein verbatim, for the purpose of providing that after the effective date of this amendment all of the proceeds of the revenues derived from the gross receipts taxes, as therein defined, collected in each year shall be applied as provided therein to the extent necessary to comply with all obligations to or for the benefit of holders of bonds or certificates issued before the effective date of this amendment or any refundings thereof which are secured by such gross receipts taxes. No bonds or other obligations may be issued pursuant to the provisions of <sup>3</sup>Article XII, Section 19, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, but this provision shall not be construed to prevent the refunding of any such outstanding bonds or obligations pursuant to the provisions of this subsection (a)(2).

Subject to the requirements of the first paragraph of this subsection (a)(2), beginning July 1, 1975, all of the proceeds of the revenues derived from the gross receipts taxes collected from every person, including municipalities, as provided and levied pursuant to the provisions of chapter 203, Florida

## **ARTICLE XII    CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE XII**

Statutes, as such chapter is amended from time to time, shall, as collected, be placed in a trust fund to be known as the "public education capital outlay and debt service trust fund" in the state treasury (hereinafter referred to as "capital outlay fund"), and used only as provided herein.

The capital outlay fund shall be administered by the state board of education as created and constituted by Section 2 of Article IX of the Constitution of Florida as revised in 1968 (hereinafter referred to as "state board"), or by such other instrumentality of the state which shall hereafter succeed by law to the powers, duties and functions of the state board, including the powers, duties and functions of the state board provided in this subsection (a)(2). The state board shall be a body corporate and shall have all the powers provided herein in addition to all other constitutional and statutory powers related to the purposes of this subsection (a)(2) heretofore or hereafter conferred by law upon the state board, or its predecessor created by the Constitution of 1885, as amended.

State bonds pledging the full faith and credit of the state may be issued, without a vote of the electors, by the state board pursuant to law to finance or refinance capital projects theretofore authorized by the legislature, and any purposes appurtenant or incidental thereto, for the state system of public education provided for in Section 1 of Article IX of this Constitution (hereinafter referred to as "state system"), including but not limited to institutions of higher learning, community colleges, vocational technical schools, or public schools, as now defined or as may hereafter be defined by law. All such bonds shall mature not later than thirty years after the date of issuance thereof. All other details of such bonds shall be as provided by law or by the

proceedings authorizing such bonds; provided, however, that no bonds, except refunding bonds, shall be issued, and no proceeds shall be expended for the cost of any capital project, unless such project has been authorized by the legislature.

Bonds issued pursuant to this subsection (a)(2) shall be primarily payable from such revenues derived from gross receipts taxes, and shall be additionally secured by the full faith and credit of the state. No such bonds shall ever be issued in an amount exceeding ninety percent of the amount which the state board determines can be serviced by the revenues derived from the gross receipts taxes accruing thereafter under the provisions of this subsection (a)(2), and such determination shall be conclusive.

The moneys in the capital outlay fund in each fiscal year shall be used only for the following purposes and in the following order of priority:

a. For the payment of the principal of and interest on any bonds due in such fiscal year;

b. For the deposit into any reserve funds provided for in the proceedings authorizing the issuance of bonds of any amounts required to be deposited in such reserve funds in such fiscal year;

c. For direct payment of the cost or any part of the cost of any capital project for the state system theretofore authorized by the legislature, or for the purchase or redemption of outstanding bonds in accordance with the provisions of the proceedings which authorized the issuance of such bonds, or for the purpose of maintaining, restoring, or repairing existing public educational facilities.

(b) REFUNDING BONDS. Revenue bonds to finance the cost of state capital projects issued prior to the date this revision becomes effective,

**ARTICLE XII    CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE XII**

including projects of the Florida state turnpike authority or its successor but excluding all portions of the state highway system, may be refunded as provided by law without vote of the electors at a lower net average interest cost rate by the issuance of bonds maturing not later than the obligations refunded, secured by the same revenues only.

**(c) MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL TAXES.**

(1) A state tax, designated "second gas tax," of two cents per gallon upon gasoline and other like products of petroleum and an equivalent tax upon other sources of energy used to propel motor vehicles as levied by <sup>4</sup>Article IX, Section 16, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, is hereby continued. The proceeds of said tax shall be placed monthly in the state roads distribution fund in the state treasury.

(2) <sup>4</sup>Article IX, Section 16, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, is adopted by this reference as a part of this revision as completely as though incorporated herein verbatim for the purpose of providing that after the effective date of this revision the proceeds of the "second gas tax" as referred to therein shall be allocated among the several counties in accordance with the formula stated therein to the extent necessary to comply with all obligations to or for the benefit of holders of bonds, revenue certificates and tax anticipation certificates or any refundings thereof secured by any portion of the "second gas tax."

(3) No funds anticipated to be allocated under the formula stated in <sup>4</sup>Article IX, Section 16, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, shall be pledged as security for any obligation hereafter issued or entered into, except that any outstanding obligations previously issued pledging revenues allocated under said <sup>4</sup>Article IX, Section

16, may be refunded at a lower average net interest cost rate by the issuance of refunding bonds, maturing not later than the obligations refunded, secured by the same revenues and any other security authorized in paragraph (5) of this subsection.

(4) Subject to the requirements of paragraph (2) of this subsection and after payment of administrative expenses, the "second gas tax" shall be allocated to the account of each of the several counties in the amounts to be determined as follows: There shall be an initial allocation of one-fourth in the ratio of county area to state area, one-fourth in the ratio of the total county population to the total population of the state in accordance with the latest available federal census, and one-half in the ratio of the total "second gas tax" collected on retail sales or use in each county to the total collected in all counties of the state during the previous fiscal year. If the annual debt service requirements of any obligations issued for any county, including any deficiencies for prior years, secured under paragraph (2) of this subsection, exceeds the amount which would be allocated to that county under the formula set out in this paragraph, the amounts allocated to other counties shall be reduced proportionately.

(5) Funds allocated under paragraphs (2) and (4) of this subsection shall be administered by the state board of administration created under Article IV, Section 4. The board shall remit the proceeds of the "second gas tax" in each county account for use in said county as follows: eighty per cent to the state agency supervising the state road system and twenty per cent to the governing body of the county. The percentage allocated to the county may be increased by general law. The proceeds of the "second gas tax" subject to allocation to the



**ARTICLE XII    CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE XII**

several counties under this paragraph (5) shall be used first, for the payment of obligations pledging revenues allocated pursuant to <sup>4</sup>Article IX, Section 16, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, and any refundings thereof; second, for the payment of debt service on bonds issued as provided by this paragraph (5) to finance the acquisition and construction of roads as defined by law; and third, for the acquisition and construction of roads and for road maintenance as authorized by law. When authorized by law, state bonds pledging the full faith and credit of the state may be issued without any election: (i) to refund obligations secured by any portion of the "second gas tax" allocated to a county under <sup>4</sup>Article IX, Section 16, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended; (ii) to finance the acquisition and construction of roads in a county when approved by the governing body of the county and the state agency supervising the state road system; and (iii) to refund obligations secured by any portion of the "second gas tax" allocated under paragraph 9(c)(4). No such bonds shall be issued unless a state fiscal agency created by law has made a determination that in no state fiscal year will the debt service requirements of the bonds and all other bonds secured by the pledged portion of the "second gas tax" allocated to the county exceed seventy-five per cent of the pledged portion of the "second gas tax" allocated to that county for the preceding state fiscal year, of the pledged net tolls from existing facilities collected in the preceding state fiscal year, and of the annual average net tolls anticipated during the first five state fiscal years of operation of new projects to be financed, and of any other legally available pledged revenues collected in the preceding state fiscal year. Bonds issued pursuant to this subsection shall be payable

primarily from the pledged tolls, the pledged portions of the "second gas tax" allocated to that county, and any other pledged revenue, and shall mature not later than forty years from the date of issuance.

(d) SCHOOL BONDS.

(1) <sup>5</sup>Article XII, Section 9, Subsection (d) of this constitution, as amended, (which, by reference, adopted <sup>6</sup>Article XII, Section 18, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended) as the same existed immediately before the effective date of this amendment is adopted by this reference as part of this amendment as completely as though incorporated herein verbatim, for the purpose of providing that after the effective date of this amendment the first proceeds of the revenues derived from the licensing of motor vehicles as referred to therein shall be distributed annually among the several counties in the ratio of the number of instruction units in each county, the same being coterminus with the school district of each county as provided in Article IX, Section 4, Subsection (a) of this constitution, in each year computed as provided therein to the extent necessary to comply with all obligations to or for the benefit of holders of bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates issued before the effective date of this amendment or any refundings thereof which are secured by any portion of such revenues derived from the licensing of motor vehicles.

(2) No funds anticipated to be distributed annually among the several counties under the formula stated in <sup>5</sup>Article XII, Section 9, Subsection (d) of this constitution, as amended, as the same existed immediately before the effective date of this amendment shall be pledged as security for any obligations hereafter issued or entered into, except that any outstanding obligations previously issued pledging such funds

**ARTICLE XII    CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE XII**

may be refunded by the issuance of refunding bonds.

(3) Subject to the requirements of paragraph (1) of this subsection (d) beginning July 1, 1973, the first proceeds of the revenues derived from the licensing of motor vehicles (hereinafter called "motor vehicle license revenues") to the extent necessary to comply with the provisions of this amendment, shall, as collected, be placed monthly in the school district and community college district capital outlay and debt service fund in the state treasury and used only as provided in this amendment. Such revenue shall be distributed annually among the several school districts and community college districts in the ratio of the number of instruction units in each school district or community college district in each year computed as provided herein. The amount of the first motor vehicle license revenues to be so set aside in each year and distributed as provided herein shall be an amount equal in the aggregate to the product of six hundred dollars (\$600) multiplied by the total number of instruction units in all the school districts of Florida for the school fiscal year 1967-68, plus an amount equal in the aggregate to the product of eight hundred dollars (\$800) multiplied by the total number of instruction units in all the school districts of Florida for the school fiscal year 1972-73 and for each school fiscal year thereafter which is in excess of the total number of such instruction units in all the school districts of Florida for the school fiscal year 1967-68, such excess units being designated "growth units." The amount of the first motor vehicle license revenues to be so set aside in each year and distributed as provided herein shall additionally be an amount equal in the aggregate to the product of four hundred dollars (\$400) multiplied by the total number of instruction units in all

community college districts of Florida. The number of instruction units in each school district or community college district in each year for the purposes of this amendment shall be the greater of (1) the number of instruction units in each school district for the school fiscal year 1967-68 or community college district for the school fiscal year 1968-69 computed in the manner heretofore provided by general law, or (2) the number of instruction units in such school district, including growth units, or community college district for the school fiscal year computed in the manner heretofore or hereafter provided by general law and approved by the state board of education (hereinafter called the state board), or (3) the number of instruction units in each school district, including growth units, or community college district on behalf of which the state board has issued bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates under this amendment which will produce sufficient revenues under this amendment to equal one and twelve-hundredths (1.12) times the aggregate amount of principal of and interest on all bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates issued under this amendment which will mature and become due in such year, computed in the manner heretofore or hereafter provided by general law and approved by the state board.

(4) Such funds so distributed shall be administered by the state board as now created and constituted by Section 2 of Article IX of the State Constitution as revised in 1968, or by such other instrumentality of the state which shall hereafter succeed by law to the powers, duties and functions of the state board, including the powers, duties and functions of the state board provided in this amendment. For the purposes of this amendment, said state

**ARTICLE XII    CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE XII**

board shall be a body corporate and shall have all the powers provided in this amendment in addition to all other constitutional and statutory powers related to the purposes of this amendment heretofore or hereafter conferred upon said state board.

(5) The state board shall, in addition to its other constitutional and statutory powers, have the management, control and supervision of the proceeds of the first motor vehicle license revenues provided for in this subsection (d). The state board shall also have power, for the purpose of obtaining funds for the use of any school board of any school district or board of trustees of any community college district in acquiring, building, constructing, altering, remodeling, improving, enlarging, furnishing, equipping, maintaining, renovating, or repairing of capital outlay projects for school purposes to issue bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates, and also to issue such bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates to pay, fund or refund any bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates theretofore issued by said state board. All such bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates shall bear interest at not exceeding the rate provided by general law and shall mature not later than thirty years after the date of issuance thereof. The state board shall have power to determine all other details of the bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates and to sell in the manner provided by general law, or exchange the bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates, upon such terms and conditions as the state board shall provide.

(6) The state board shall also have power to pledge for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds

or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates, including refunding bonds or refunding motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates, all or any part from the motor vehicle license revenues provided for in this amendment and to enter into any covenants and other agreements with the holders of such bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates at the time of the issuance thereof concerning the security thereof and the rights of the holders thereof, all of which covenants and agreements shall constitute legally binding and irrevocable contracts with such holders and shall be fully enforceable by such holders in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(7) No such bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates shall ever be issued by the state board, except to refund outstanding bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates, until after the adoption of a resolution requesting the issuance thereof by the school board of the school district or board of trustees of the community college district on behalf of which the obligations are to be issued. The state board of education shall limit the amount of such bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates which can be issued on behalf of any school district or community college district to ninety percent (90%) of the amount which it determines can be serviced by the revenue accruing to the school district or community college district under the provisions of this amendment, and shall determine the reasonable allocation of the interest savings from the issuance of refunding bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates, and such determinations shall be conclusive. All such bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates shall be issued in the

**ARTICLE XII    CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE XII**

name of the state board of education but shall be issued for and on behalf of the school board of the school district or board of trustees of the community college district requesting the issuance thereof, and no election or approval of qualified electors shall be required for the issuance thereof.

(8) The state board shall in each year use the funds distributable pursuant to this amendment to the credit of each school district or community college district only in the following manner and in order of priority:

a. To comply with the requirements of paragraph (1) of this subsection (d).

b. To pay all amounts of principal and interest due in such year on any bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates issued under the authority hereof, including refunding bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates, issued on behalf of the school board of such school district or board of trustees of such community college district; subject, however, to any covenants or agreements made by the state board concerning the rights between holders of different issues of such bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates, as herein authorized.

c. To establish and maintain a sinking fund or funds to meet future requirements for debt service or reserves therefor, on bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates issued on behalf of the school board of such school district or board of trustees of such community college district under the authority hereof, whenever the state board shall deem it necessary or advisable, and in such amounts and under such terms and conditions as the state board shall in its discretion determine.

d. To distribute annually to the several school boards of the school

districts or the boards of trustees of the community college districts for use in payment of debt service on bonds heretofore or hereafter issued by any such school boards of the school districts or boards of trustees of the community college districts where the proceeds of the bonds were used, or are to be used, in the acquiring, building, constructing, altering, remodeling, improving, enlarging, furnishing, equipping, maintaining, renovating, or repairing of capital outlay projects in such school districts or community college districts and which capital outlay projects have been approved by the school board of the school district or board of trustees of the community college district, pursuant to the most recent survey or surveys conducted under regulations prescribed by the state board to determine the capital outlay needs of the school district or community college district. The state board shall have power at the time of issuance of any bonds by any school board of any school district or board of trustees of any community college district to covenant and agree with such school board or board of trustees as to the rank and priority of payments to be made for different issues of bonds under this subparagraph d., and may further agree that any amounts to be distributed under this subparagraph d. may be pledged for the debt service on bonds issued by any school board of any school district or board of trustees of any community college district and for the rank and priority of such pledge. Any such covenants or agreements of the state board may be enforced by any holders of such bonds in any court of competent jurisdiction.

e. To pay the expenses of the state board in administering this subsection (d), which shall be prorated among the various school districts and community college districts and paid out of the

**ARTICLE XII    CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE XII**

proceeds of the bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates or from the funds distributable to each school district and community college district on the same basis as such motor vehicle license revenues are distributable to the various school districts and community college districts.

f. To distribute annually to the several school boards of the school districts or boards of trustees of the community college districts for the payment of the cost of acquiring, building, constructing, altering, remodeling, improving, enlarging, furnishing, equipping, maintaining, renovating, or repairing of capital outlay projects for school purposes in such school district or community college district as shall be requested by resolution of the school board of the school district or board of trustees of the community college district.

g. When all major capital outlay needs of a school district or community college district have been met as determined by the state board, on the basis of a survey made pursuant to regulations of the state board and approved by the state board, all such funds remaining shall be distributed annually and used for such school purposes in such school district or community college district as the school board of the school district or board of trustees of the community college district shall determine, or as may be provided by general law.

(9) Capital outlay projects of a school district or community college district shall be eligible to participate in the funds accruing under this amendment and derived from the proceeds of bonds and motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates and from the motor vehicle license revenues, only in the order of priority of needs, as shown by a survey or surveys conducted in the school district or

community college district under regulations prescribed by the state board, to determine the capital outlay needs of the school district or community college district and approved by the state board; provided that the priority of such projects may be changed from time to time upon the request of the school board of the school district or board of trustees of the community college district and with the approval of the state board; and provided, further, that this paragraph (9) shall not in any manner affect any covenant, agreement or pledge made by the state board in the issuance by said state board of any bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates, or in connection with the issuance of any bonds of any school board of any school district or board of trustees of any community college district.

(10) The state board shall have power to make and enforce all rules and regulations necessary to the full exercise of the powers herein granted and no legislation shall be required to render this amendment of full force and operating effect. The legislature shall not reduce the levies of said motor vehicle license revenues during the life of this amendment to any degree which will fail to provide the full amount necessary to comply with the provisions of this amendment and pay the necessary expenses of administering the laws relating to the licensing of motor vehicles, and shall not enact any law having the effect of withdrawing the proceeds of such motor vehicle license revenues from the operation of this amendment and shall not enact any law impairing or materially altering the rights of the holders of any bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates issued pursuant to this amendment or impairing or altering any covenant or agreement of the state

## ARTICLE XII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE XII

board, as provided in such bonds or motor vehicle license revenue anticipation certificates.

(11) Bonds issued by the state board pursuant to this subsection (d) shall be payable primarily from said motor vehicle license revenues as provided herein, and if heretofore or hereafter authorized by law, may be additionally secured by pledging the full faith and credit of the state without an election. When heretofore or hereafter authorized by law, bonds issued pursuant to Article XII, Section 18 of the Constitution of 1885, as amended prior to 1968, and bonds issued pursuant to Article XII, Section 9, subsection (d) of the Constitution as revised in 1968, and bonds issued pursuant to this subsection (d), may be refunded by the issuance of bonds additionally secured by the full faith and credit of the state.

(e) DEBT LIMITATION. Bonds issued pursuant to this Section 9 of Article XII which are payable primarily from revenues pledged pursuant to this section shall not be included in applying the limits upon the amount of state bonds contained in Section 11, Article VII, of this revision.

**History.**—Am. H.J.R. 1851, 1969; adopted 1969; Am. C.S. for S.J.R. 292, 1972, and Am. C.S. for H.J.R. 3576, 1972; adopted 1972; Am. C.S. for H.J.R.'s 2289, 2984, 1974; adopted 1974; Am. S.J.R. 824, 1980; adopted 1980; Am. S.J.R. 1157, 1984; adopted 1984; Am. proposed by Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, Revision No. 1, 1992, filed with the Secretary of State May 7, 1992; adopted 1992; Am. S.J.R. 2-H, 1992; adopted 1992; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**Note.**—Section 17 of Art. IX of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, reads as follows:

SECTION 17. Bonds; land acquisition for outdoor recreation development.—The outdoor recreational development council, as created by the 1963 legislature, may issue revenue bonds, revenue certificates or other evidences of indebtedness to acquire lands, water areas and related resources and to construct, improve, enlarge and extend capital improvements and facilities thereon in furtherance of outdoor recreation, natural resources conservation and related facilities in this state; provided, however, the legislature with respect to such revenue bonds, revenue certificates or other evidences of indebtedness shall designate the revenue or tax sources to be deposited in or credited to the land acquisition trust fund for their repayment and may impose restrictions on their

issuance, including the fixing of maximum interest rates and discounts.

The land acquisition trust fund, created by the 1963 legislature for these multiple public purposes, shall continue from the date of the adoption of this amendment for a period of fifty years.

In the event the outdoor recreational development council shall determine to issue bonds for financing acquisition of sites for multiple purposes the state board of administration shall act as fiscal agent, and the attorney general shall handle the validation proceedings.

All bonds issued under this amendment shall be sold at public sale after public advertisement upon such terms and conditions as the outdoor recreational development council shall provide and as otherwise provided by law and subject to the limitations herein imposed.

**History.**—S.J.R. 727, 1963; adopted 1963.

**Note.**—Prior to its amendment by C.S. for H.J.R.'s 2289, 2984, 1974, subsection (a) read as follows:

(a) ADDITIONAL SECURITIES. Article IX, Section 17, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, as it existed immediately before this Constitution, as revised in 1968, became effective, is adopted by this reference as a part of this revision as completely as though incorporated herein verbatim, except revenue bonds, revenue certificates or other evidences of indebtedness hereafter issued thereunder may be issued by the agency of the state so authorized by law.

Article XII, Section 19, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, as it existed immediately before this revision becomes effective, is adopted by this reference as a part of this revision as completely as though incorporated herein verbatim, except bonds or tax anticipation certificates hereafter issued thereunder may bear interest not in excess of five percent (5%) per annum or such higher interest as may be authorized by statute passed by a three-fifths (3/5) vote of each house of the legislature. No revenue bonds or tax anticipation certificates shall be issued pursuant thereto after June 30, 1975.

**Note.**—Section 19 of Art. XII of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, reads as follows:

SECTION 19. Institutions of higher learning and junior college capital outlay trust fund bonds.—(a) That beginning January 1, 1964, and for fifty years thereafter, all of the proceeds of the revenues derived from the gross receipts taxes collected from every person, including municipalities, receiving payment for electricity for light, heat or power, for natural or manufactured gas for light, heat or power, for use of telephones and for the sending of telegrams and telegraph messages, as now provided and levied as of the time of adoption of this amendment in Chapter 203, Florida Statutes (hereinafter called "Gross Receipts Taxes"), shall, as collected be placed in a trust fund to be known as the "Institutions of Higher Learning and Junior Colleges Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund" in the State Treasury (hereinafter referred to as "Capital Outlay Fund"), and used only as provided in this Amendment.

Said fund shall be administered by the State Board of Education, as now created and constituted by Section 3 of Article XII [now s. 2, Article IX] of the Constitution of Florida (hereinafter referred to as "State Board"). For the purpose of this Amendment, said State Board, as now constituted, shall continue as a body corporate during the life of this Amendment and shall have all the powers provided in this Amendment in addition to all other constitutional and statutory powers related to the purposes of this Amendment heretofore or hereafter conferred by law upon said State Board.

(b) The State Board shall have power, for the purpose of obtaining funds for acquiring, building, constructing, altering, improving, enlarging, furnishing or equipping capital outlay projects theretofore authorized by the legislature and any purposes appurtenant or incidental thereto,

## ARTICLE XII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE XII

for Institutions of Higher Learning or Junior Colleges, as now defined or as may be hereafter defined by law, and for the purpose of constructing buildings and other permanent facilities for vocational technical schools as provided in chapter 230 Florida Statutes, to issue bonds or certificates, including refunding bonds or certificates to fund or refund any bonds or certificates theretofore issued. All such bonds or certificates shall bear interest at not exceeding four and one-half per centum per annum, and shall mature at such time or times as the State Board shall determine not exceeding, in any event, however, thirty years from the date of issuance thereof. The State Board shall have power to determine all other details of such bonds or certificates and to sell at public sale, after public advertisement, such bonds or certificates, provided, however, that no bonds or certificates shall ever be issued hereunder to finance, or the proceeds thereof expended for, any part of the cost of any capital outlay project unless the construction or acquisition of such capital outlay project has been theretofore authorized by the Legislature of Florida. None of said bonds or certificates shall be sold at less than ninety-eight per centum of the par value thereof, plus accrued interest, and said bonds or certificates shall be awarded at the public sale thereof to the bidder offering the lowest net interest cost for such bonds or certificates in the manner to be determined by the State Board.

The State Board shall also have power to pledge for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds or certificates, and reserves therefor, including refunding bonds or certificates, all or any part of the revenue to be derived from the said Gross Receipts Taxes provided for in this Amendment, and to enter into any covenants and other agreements with the holders of such bonds or certificates concerning the security thereof and the rights of the holders thereof, all of which covenants and agreements shall constitute legally binding and irrevocable contracts with such holders and shall be fully enforceable by such holders in any court of competent jurisdiction.

No such bonds or certificates shall ever be issued by the State Board in an amount exceeding seventy-five per centum of the amount which it determines, based upon the average annual amount of the revenues derived from said Gross Receipts Taxes during the immediately preceding two fiscal years, or the amount of the revenues derived from said Gross Receipts Taxes during the immediately preceding fiscal year, as shown in a certificate filed by the State Comptroller with the State Board prior to the issuance of such bonds or certificates, whichever is the lesser, can be serviced by the revenues accruing thereafter under the provisions of this Amendment; nor shall the State Board, during the first year following the ratification of this amendment, issue bonds or certificates in excess of seven times the anticipated revenue from said Gross Receipts Taxes during said year, nor during each succeeding year, more than four times the anticipated revenue from said Gross Receipts Taxes during such year. No election or approval of qualified electors or freeholder electors shall be required for the issuance of bonds or certificates hereunder.

After the initial issuance of any bonds or certificates pursuant to this Amendment, the State Board may thereafter issue additional bonds or certificates which will rank equally and on a parity, as to lien on and source of security for payment from said Gross Receipts Taxes, with any bonds or certificates theretofore issued pursuant to this Amendment, but such additional parity bonds or certificates shall not be issued unless the average annual amount of the revenues derived from said Gross Receipts Taxes during the immediately preceding two fiscal years, or the amount of the revenues derived from said Gross Receipts Taxes during the immediately preceding fiscal year, as shown in a certificate filed by the State Comptroller with the State Board prior to the issuance of such bonds or certificates, whichever is the lesser, shall have been

equal to one and one-third times the aggregate amount of principal and interest which will become due in any succeeding fiscal year on all bonds or certificates theretofore issued pursuant to this Amendment and then outstanding, and the additional parity bonds or certificates then proposed to be issued. No bonds, certificates or other obligations whatsoever shall at any time be issued under the provisions of this Amendment, except such bonds or certificates initially issued hereunder, and such additional parity bonds or certificates as provided in this paragraph. Notwithstanding any other provision herein no such bonds or certificates shall be authorized or validated during any biennium in excess of fifty million dollars, except by two-thirds vote of the members elected to each house of the legislature; provided further that during the biennium 1963-1965 seventy-five million dollars may be authorized and validated pursuant thereto.

(c) Capital outlay projects theretofore authorized by the legislature for any Institution of Higher Learning or Junior College shall be eligible to participate in the funds accruing under this Amendment derived from the proceeds of bonds or certificates and said Gross Receipts Taxes under such regulations and in such manner as shall be determined by the State Board, and the State Board shall use or transmit to the State Board of Control or to the Board of Public Instruction of any County authorized by law to construct or acquire such capital outlay projects, the amount of the proceeds of such bonds or certificates or Gross Receipts Taxes to be applied to or used for such capital outlay projects. If for any reason any of the proceeds of any bonds or certificates issued for any capital outlay project shall not be expended for such capital outlay project, the State Board may use such unexpended proceeds for any other capital outlay project for Institutions of Higher Learning or Junior Colleges and vocational technical schools, as defined herein, as now defined or as may be hereafter defined by law, theretofore authorized by the State Legislature. The holders of bonds or certificates issued hereunder shall not have any responsibility whatsoever for the application or use of any of the proceeds derived from the sale of said bonds or certificates, and the rights and remedies of the holders of such bonds or certificates and their right to payment from said Gross Receipts Taxes in the manner provided herein shall not be affected or impaired by the application or use of such proceeds.

The State Board shall use the moneys in said Capital Outlay Fund in each fiscal year only for the following purposes and in the following order of priority:

(1) For the payment of the principal of and interest on any bonds or certificates maturing in such fiscal year.

(2) For the deposit into any reserve funds provided for in the proceedings authorizing the issuance of said bonds or certificates, of any amounts required to be deposited in such reserve funds in such fiscal year.

(3) After all payments required in such fiscal year for the purposes provided for in (1) and (2) above, including any deficiencies for required payments in prior fiscal years, any moneys remaining in said Capital Outlay Fund at the end of such fiscal year may be used by the State Board for direct payment of the cost or any part of the cost of any capital outlay project theretofore authorized by the legislature or for the purchase of any bonds or certificates issued hereunder then outstanding upon such terms and conditions as the State Board shall deem proper, or for the prior redemption of outstanding bonds or certificates in accordance with the provisions of the proceedings which authorized the issuance of such bonds or certificates.

The State Board may invest the moneys in said Capital Outlay Fund or in any sinking fund or other funds created for any issue of bonds or certificates, in direct obligations of

## ARTICLE XII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE XII

the United States of America or in the other securities referred to in Section 344.27, Florida Statutes.

(d) The State Board shall have the power to make and enforce all rules and regulations necessary to the full exercise of the powers herein granted and no legislation shall be required to render this Amendment of full force and operating effect on and after January 1, 1964. The Legislature, during the period this Amendment is in effect, shall not reduce the rate of said Gross Receipts Taxes now provided in said Chapter 203, Florida Statutes, or eliminate, exempt or remove any of the persons, firms or corporations, including municipal corporations, or any of the utilities, businesses or services now or hereafter subject to said Gross Receipts Taxes, from the levy and collection of said Gross Receipts Taxes as now provided in said Chapter 203, Florida Statutes, and shall not enact any law impairing or materially altering the rights of the holders of any bonds or certificates issued pursuant to this Amendment or impairing or altering any covenants or agreements of the State Board made hereunder, or having the effect of withdrawing the proceeds of said Gross Receipts Taxes from the operation of this Amendment.

The State Board of Administration shall be and is hereby constituted as the Fiscal Agent of the State Board to perform such duties and assume such responsibilities under this Amendment as shall be agreed upon between the State Board and such State Board of Administration. The State Board shall also have power to appoint such other persons and fix their compensation for the administration of the provisions of this Amendment as it shall deem necessary, and the expenses of the State Board in administering the provisions of this Amendment shall be paid out of the proceeds of bonds or certificates issued hereunder or from said Gross Receipts Taxes deposited in said Capital Outlay Fund.

(e) No capital outlay project or any part thereof shall be financed hereunder unless the bill authorizing such project shall specify it is financed hereunder and shall be approved by a vote of three-fifths of the elected members of each house.

**History.**—S.J.R. 264, 1963; adopted 1963.

**4Note.**—Section 16 of Art. IX of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, reads as follows:

SECTION 16. Board of administration; gasoline and like taxes, distribution and use; etc.—(a) That beginning January 1st, 1943, and for fifty (50) years thereafter, the proceeds of two (2c) cents per gallon of the total tax levied by state law upon gasoline and other like products of petroleum, now known as the Second Gas Tax, and upon other fuels used to propel motor vehicles, shall as collected be placed monthly in the 'State Roads Distribution Fund' in the State Treasury and divided into three (3) equal parts which shall be distributed monthly among the several counties as follows: one part according to area, one part according to population, and one part according to the counties' contributions to the cost of state road construction in the ratio of distribution as provided in Chapter 15659, Laws of Florida, Acts of 1931, and for the purposes of the apportionment based on the counties' contributions for the cost of state road construction, the amount of the contributions established by the certificates made in 1931 pursuant to said Chapter 15659, shall be taken and deemed conclusive in computing the monthly amounts distributable according to said contributions. Such funds so distributed shall be administered by the State Board of Administration as hereinafter provided.

(b) The Governor as chairman, the State Treasurer, and the State Comptroller shall constitute a body corporate to be known as the 'State Board of Administration,' which board shall succeed to all the power, control and authority of the statutory Board of Administration. Said Board shall have, in addition to such powers as may be conferred upon it by law, the management, control and supervision of the proceeds of said two (2c) cents of said taxes and all

moneys and other assets which on the effective date of this amendment are applicable or may become applicable to the bonds of the several counties of this state, or any special road and bridge district, or other special taxing district thereof, issued prior to July 1st, 1931, for road and bridge purposes. The word 'bonds' as used herein shall include bonds, time warrants, notes and other forms of indebtedness issued for road and bridge purposes by any county or special road and bridge district or other special taxing district, outstanding on July 1st, 1931, or any refunding issues thereof. Said Board shall have the statutory powers of Boards of County Commissioners and Bond Trustees and of any other authority of special road and bridge districts, and other special taxing districts thereof with regard to said bonds, (except that the power to levy ad valorem taxes is expressly withheld from said Board), and shall take over all papers, documents and records concerning the same. Said Board shall have the power from time to time to issue refunding bonds to mature within the said fifty (50) year period, for any of said outstanding bonds or interest thereon, and to secure them by a pledge of anticipated receipts from such gasoline or other fuel taxes to be distributed to such county as herein provided, but not at a greater rate of interest than said bonds now bear; and to issue, sell or exchange on behalf of any county or unit for the sole purpose of retiring said bonds issued by such county, or special road and bridge district, or other special taxing district thereof, gasoline or other fuel tax anticipation certificates bearing interest at not more than three (3) per cent per annum in such denominations and maturing at such time within the fifty (50) year period as the board may determine. In addition to exercising the powers now provided by statute for the investment of sinking funds, said Board may use the sinking funds created for said bonds of any county or special road and bridge district, or other unit hereunder, to purchase the matured or maturing bonds participating herein of any other county or any other special road and bridge district, or other special taxing district thereof, provided that as to said matured bonds, the value thereof as an investment shall be the price paid therefor, which shall not exceed the par value plus accrued interest, and that said investment shall bear interest at the rate of three (3) per cent per annum.

(c) The said board shall annually use said funds in each county account, first, to pay current principal and interest maturing, if any, of said bonds and gasoline or other fuel tax anticipation certificates of such county or special road and bridge district, or other special taxing district thereof; second, to establish a sinking fund account to meet future requirements of said bonds and gasoline or other fuel tax anticipation certificates where it appears the anticipated income for any year or years will not equal scheduled payments thereon; and third, any remaining balance out of the proceeds of said two (2c) cents of said taxes shall monthly during the year be remitted by said board as follows: Eighty (80%) per cent to the State Road Department for the construction or reconstruction of state roads and bridges within the county, or for the lease or purchase of bridges connecting state highways within the county, and twenty (20%) per cent to the Board of County Commissioners of such county for use on roads and bridges therein.

(d) Said board shall have the power to make and enforce all rules and regulations necessary to the full exercise of the powers hereby granted and no legislation shall be required to render this amendment of full force and operating effect from and after January 1st, 1943. The Legislature shall continue the levies of said taxes during the life of this Amendment, and shall not enact any law having the effect of withdrawing the proceeds of said two (2c) cents of said taxes from the operation of this amendment. The board shall pay refunding expenses and other expenses for services rendered specifically for, or which are properly chargeable to, the account of any county from funds distributed to such county; but general expenses of



## ARTICLE XII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE XII

the board for services rendered all the counties alike shall be prorated among them and paid out of said funds on the same basis said tax proceeds are distributed among the several counties; provided, report of said expenses shall be made to each Regular Session of the Legislature, and the Legislature may limit the expenses of the board.

**History.**—Added, S.J.R. 324, 1941; adopted 1942.

**Note.**—Prior to its amendment by C.S. for H.J.R. 3576, 1972, subsection (d) read as follows:

(d) **SCHOOL BONDS.** Article XII, Section 18, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, as it existed immediately before this revision becomes effective is adopted by this reference as part of this revision as completely as though incorporated herein verbatim, except bonds or tax anticipation certificates hereafter issued thereunder may bear interest not in excess of five per cent per annum or such higher interest as may be authorized by statute passed by a three-fifths vote of each house of the legislature. Bonds issued pursuant to this subsection (d) shall be payable primarily from revenues as provided in Article XII, Section 18, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, and if authorized by law, may be additionally secured by pledging the full faith and credit of the state without an election. When authorized by law, bonds issued pursuant to Article XII, Section 18, of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, and bonds issued pursuant to this subsection (d), may be refunded by the issuance of bonds additionally secured by the full faith and credit of the state only at a lower net average interest cost rate.

**Note.**—Section 18, Art. XII of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, reads as follows:

**SECTION 18.** School bonds for capital outlay, issuance.—

(a) Beginning January 1, 1965 and for thirty-five years thereafter, the first proceeds of the revenues derived from the licensing of motor vehicles to the extent necessary to comply with the provisions of this amendment, shall, as collected, be placed monthly in the county capital outlay and debt service school fund in the state treasury, and used only as provided in this amendment. Such revenue shall be distributed annually among the several counties in the ratio of the number of instruction units in each county in each year computed as provided herein. The amount of the first revenues derived from the licensing of motor vehicles to be so set aside in each year and distributed as provided herein shall be an amount equal in the aggregate to the product of four hundred dollars multiplied by the total number of instruction units in all the counties of Florida. The number of instruction units in each county in each year for the purposes of this amendment shall be the greater of (1) the number of instruction units in each county for the school fiscal year 1951-52 computed in the manner heretofore provided by general law, or (2) the number of instruction units in such county for the school fiscal year computed in the manner heretofore or hereafter provided by general law and approved by the state board of education (hereinafter called the state board), or (3) the number of instruction units in each county on behalf of which the state board of education has issued bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates under this amendment which will produce sufficient revenues under this amendment to equal one and one-third times the aggregate amount of principal of and interest on such bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates which will mature and become due in such year, computed in the manner heretofore or hereafter provided by general law and approved by the state board.

Such funds so distributed shall be administered by the state board as now created and constituted by Section 3 of Article XII (now s. 2, Article IX) of the Constitution of Florida. For the purposes of this amendment, said state board, as now constituted, shall continue as a body corporate during the life of this amendment and shall have all the powers provided in this amendment in addition to all other constitutional and statutory powers related to the purposes

of this amendment heretofore or hereafter conferred upon said board.

(b) The state board shall, in addition to its other constitutional and statutory powers, have the management, control and supervision of the proceeds of the first part of the revenues derived from the licensing of motor vehicles provided for in subsection (a). The state board shall also have power, for the purpose of obtaining funds for the use of any county board of public instruction in acquiring, building, constructing, altering, improving, enlarging, furnishing, or equipping capital outlay projects for school purposes, to issue bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates, and also to issue such bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates to pay, fund or refund any bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates theretofore issued by said state board. All such bonds shall bear interest at not exceeding four and one-half per centum per annum and shall mature serially in annual installments commencing not more than three years from the date of issuance thereof and ending not later than thirty years from the date of issuance or January 1, 2000, A.D., whichever is earlier. All such motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates shall bear interest at not exceeding four and one-half per centum per annum and shall mature prior to January 1, 2000, A.D. The state board shall have power to determine all other details of said bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates and to sell at public sale after public advertisement, or exchange said bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates, upon such terms and conditions as the state board shall provide.

The state board shall also have power to pledge for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates, including refunding bonds or refunding motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates, all or any part from the anticipated revenues to be derived from the licensing of motor vehicles provided for in this amendment and to enter into any covenants and other agreements with the holders of such bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates at the time of the issuance thereof concerning the security thereof and the rights of the holders thereof, all of which covenants and agreements shall constitute legally binding and irrevocable contracts with such holders and shall be fully enforceable by such holders in any court of competent jurisdiction.

No such bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates shall ever be issued by the state board until after the adoption of a resolution requesting the issuance thereof by the county board of public instruction of the county on behalf of which such obligations are to be issued. The state board of education shall limit the amount of such bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates which can be issued on behalf of any county to seventy-five per cent of the amount which it determines can be serviced by the revenue accruing to the county under the provisions of this amendment, and such determination shall be conclusive. All such bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates shall be issued in the name of the state board of education but shall be issued for and on behalf of the county board of public instruction requesting the issuance thereof, and no election or approval of qualified electors or freeholders shall be required for the issuance thereof.

(c) The State Board shall in each year use the funds distributable pursuant to this Amendment to the credit of each county only in the following manner and order of priority:

(1) To pay all amounts of principal and interest maturing in such year on any bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates issued under the authority hereof, including refunding bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates, issued on behalf of the Board of Public Instruction of such county; subject, however, to any covenants or agreements made by the State Board concerning the rights between holders of different issues

**ARTICLE XII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE XII**

of such bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates, as herein authorized.

(2) To establish and maintain a sinking fund or funds to meet future requirements for debt service, or reserves therefor, on bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates issued on behalf of the Board of Public Instruction of such county, under the authority hereof, whenever the State Board shall deem it necessary or advisable, and in such amounts and under such terms and conditions as the State Board shall in its discretion determine.

(3) To distribute annually to the several Boards of Public Instruction of the counties for use in payment of debt service on bonds heretofore or hereafter issued by any such Board where the proceeds of the bonds were used, or are to be used, in the construction, acquisition, improvement, enlargement, furnishing, or equipping of capital outlay projects in such county, and which capital outlay projects have been approved by the Board of Public Instruction of the county, pursuant to a survey or surveys conducted subsequent to July 1, 1947 in the county, under regulations prescribed by the State Board to determine the capital outlay needs of the county.

The State Board shall have power at the time of issuance of any bonds by any Board of Public Instruction to covenant and agree with such Board as to the rank and priority of payments to be made for different issues of bonds under this Subsection (3), and may further agree that any amounts to be distributed under this Subsection (3) may be pledged for the debt service on bonds issued by any Board of Public Instruction and for the rank and priority of such pledge. Any such covenants or agreements of the State Board may be enforced by any holders of such bonds in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(4) To distribute annually to the several Boards of Public Instruction of the counties for the payment of the cost of the construction, acquisition, improvement, enlargement, furnishing, or equipping of capital outlay projects for school purposes in such county as shall be requested by resolution of the County Board of Public Instruction of such county.

(5) When all major capital outlay needs of a county have been met as determined by the State Board, on the basis of a survey made pursuant to regulations of the State Board and approved by the State Board, all such funds remaining shall be distributed annually and used for such school purposes in such county as the Board of Public Instruction of the county shall determine, or as may be provided by general law.

(d) Capital outlay projects of a county shall be eligible to participate in the funds accruing under this Amendment and derived from the proceeds of bonds and motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates and from the motor vehicle license taxes, only in the order of priority of needs, as shown by a survey or surveys conducted in the county under regulations prescribed by the State Board, to determine the capital outlay needs of the county and approved by the State Board; provided, that the priority of such projects may be changed from time to time upon the request of the Board of Public Instruction of the county and with the approval of the State Board; and provided further, that this Subsection (d) shall not in any manner affect any covenant, agreement, or pledge made by the State Board in the issuance by said State Board of any bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates, or in connection with the issuance of any bonds of any Board of Public Instruction of any county.

(e) The State Board may invest any sinking fund or funds created pursuant to this Amendment in direct obligations of the United States of America or in the bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates,

matured or to mature, issued by the State Board on behalf of the Board of Public Instruction of any county.

(f) The State Board shall have power to make and enforce all rules and regulations necessary to the full exercise of the powers herein granted and no legislation shall be required to render this Amendment of full force and operating effect from and after January 1, 1953. The Legislature shall not reduce the levies of said motor vehicle license taxes during the life of this Amendment to any degree which will fail to provide the full amount necessary to comply with the provisions of this Amendment and pay the necessary expenses of administering the laws relating to the licensing of motor vehicles, and shall not enact any law having the effect of withdrawing the proceeds of such motor vehicle license taxes from the operation of this Amendment and shall not enact any law impairing or materially altering the rights of the holders of any bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates issued pursuant to this Amendment or impairing or altering any covenant or agreement of the State Board, as provided in such bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates.

The State Board shall have power to appoint such persons and fix their compensation for the administration of the provisions of this Amendment as it shall deem necessary, and the expenses of the State Board in administering the provisions of this Amendment shall be prorated among the various counties and paid out of the proceeds of the bonds or motor vehicle tax anticipation certificates or from the funds distributable to each county on the same basis as such motor vehicle license taxes are distributable to the various counties under the provisions of this Amendment. Interest or profit on sinking fund investments shall accrue to the counties in proportion to their respective equities in the sinking fund or funds.

**History.**—Added, S.J.R. 106, 1951; adopted 1952; (a), (b) Am. S.J.R. 218, 1963; adopted 1964.

**SECTION 10. Preservation of existing government.**—All provisions of Articles I through IV, VII and IX through XX of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, not embraced herein which are not inconsistent with this revision shall become statutes subject to modification or repeal as are other statutes.

**Note.**—See table in Volume 6 of the Florida Statutes tracing various provisions of the Constitution of 1885, as amended, into the Florida Statutes.

**SECTION 11. Deletion of obsolete schedule items.**—The legislature shall have power, by joint resolution, to delete from this revision any section of this Article XII, including this section, when all events to which the section to be deleted is or could become applicable have occurred. A legislative determination of fact made as a basis for application of this section shall be subject to judicial review.

## ARTICLE XII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE XII

**SECTION 12. Senators.**—The requirements of staggered terms of senators in Section 15(a), of Article III of this revision shall apply only to senators elected in November, 1972, and thereafter.

**SECTION 13. Legislative apportionment.**—The requirements of legislative apportionment in Section 16 of Article III of this revision shall apply only to the apportionment of the legislature following the decennial census of 1970, and thereafter.

**SECTION 14. Representatives; terms.**—The legislature at its first regular session following the ratification of this revision, by joint resolution, shall propose to the electors of the state for ratification or rejection in the general election of 1970 an amendment to Article III, Section 15(b), of the constitution providing staggered terms of four years for members of the house of representatives.

**SECTION 15. Special district taxes.**—Ad valorem taxing power vested by law in special districts existing when this revision becomes effective shall not be abrogated by Section 9(b) of Article VII herein, but such powers, except to the extent necessary to pay outstanding debts, may be restricted or withdrawn by law.

**SECTION 16. Reorganization.**—The requirement of Section 6, Article IV of this revision shall not apply until July 1, 1969.

**SECTION 17. Conflicting provisions.**—This schedule is designed to effect the orderly transition of government from the Constitution of 1885, as amended, to this revision and shall control in all cases of conflict with any

part of Article I through IV, VII, and IX through XI herein.

**SECTION 18. Bonds for housing and related facilities.**—Section 16 of Article VII, providing for bonds for housing and related facilities, shall take effect upon approval by the electors.

**History.**—Added, S.J.R. 6-E, 1980; adopted 1980.

**SECTION 19. Renewable energy source property.**—The amendment to Section 3 of Article VII, relating to an exemption for a renewable energy source device and real property on which such device is installed, if adopted at the special election in October 1980, shall take effect January 1, 1981.

**History.**—Added, S.J.R. 15-E, 1980; adopted 1980.

**Note.**—

A. This section, originally designated section 18 by S.J.R. 15-E, 1980, was redesignated section 19 by the editors in order to avoid confusion with section 18 as contained in S.J.R. 6-E, 1980.

B. The amendment to section 3 of Article VII, relating to an exemption for renewable energy source property, was repealed effective November 4, 2008, by Am. proposed by the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, Revision No. 3, 2008, filed with the Secretary of State April 28, 2008; adopted 2008.

**SECTION 20. Access to public records.**—Section 24 of Article I, relating to access to public records, shall take effect July 1, 1993.

**History.**—Added, C.S. for C.S. for H.J.R.'s 1727, 863, 2035, 1992; adopted 1992.

**SECTION 21. State revenue limitation.**—The amendment to Section 1 of Article VII limiting state revenues shall take effect January 1, 1995, and shall first be applicable to state fiscal year 1995-1996.

**History.**—Added, H.J.R. 2053, 1994; adopted 1994.

**SECTION 22. Historic property exemption and assessment.**—The amendments to Sections 3 and 4 of Article VII relating to ad valorem tax exemption for, and assessment of,

**ARTICLE XII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE XII**

historic property shall take effect January 1, 1999.

**History.**—Added, H.J.R. 969, 1997; adopted 1998.

**1SECTION 23. Fish and wildlife conservation commission.—**

(a) The initial members of the commission shall be the members of the game and fresh water fish commission and the marine fisheries commission who are serving on those commissions on the effective date of this amendment, who may serve the remainder of their respective terms. New appointments to the commission shall not be made until the retirement, resignation, removal, or expiration of the terms of the initial members results in fewer than seven members remaining.

(b) The jurisdiction of the marine fisheries commission as set forth in statutes in effect on March 1, 1998, shall be transferred to the fish and wildlife conservation commission. The jurisdiction of the marine fisheries commission transferred to the commission shall not be expanded except as provided by general law. All rules of the marine fisheries commission and game and fresh water fish commission in effect on the effective date of this amendment shall become rules of the fish and wildlife conservation commission until superseded or amended by the commission.

(c) On the effective date of this amendment, the marine fisheries commission and game and fresh water fish commission shall be abolished.

(d) This amendment shall take effect July 1, 1999.

**History.**—Proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 5, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**Note.**—This section, originally designated section 22 by Revision No. 5 of the Constitution Revision Commission, 1998, was redesignated section 23 by the editors in order to avoid confusion with section 22 as created in H.J.R. 969, 1997.

**1SECTION 24. Executive branch reform.—**

(a) The amendments contained in this revision shall take effect January 7, 2003, but shall govern with respect to the qualifying for and the holding of primary elections in 2002. The office of chief financial officer shall be a new office as a result of this revision.

(b) In the event the secretary of state is removed as a cabinet office in the 1998 general election, the term “custodian of state records” shall be substituted for the term “secretary of state” throughout the constitution and the duties previously performed by the secretary of state shall be as provided by law.

**History.**—Proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**Note.**—This section, originally designated section 22 by Revision No. 8 of the Constitution Revision Commission, 1998, was redesignated section 24 by the editors in order to avoid confusion with section 22 as created in H.J.R. 969, 1997.

**1SECTION 25. Schedule to Article V amendment.—**

(a) Commencing with fiscal year 2000-2001, the legislature shall appropriate funds to pay for the salaries, costs, and expenses set forth in the amendment to Section 14 of Article V pursuant to a phase-in schedule established by general law.

(b) Unless otherwise provided herein, the amendment to Section 14 shall be fully effectuated by July 1, 2004.

**History.**—Proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 7, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**Note.**—This section, originally designated section 22 by Revision No. 7 of the Constitution Revision Commission, 1998, was redesignated section 25 by the editors in order to avoid confusion with section 22 as created in H.J.R. 969, 1997.

**SECTION 26. Increased homestead exemption.—**

The amendment to Section 6 of Article VII increasing the maximum additional amount of the homestead exemption for low-income seniors shall take effect January 1, 2007.

**History.**—Added, H.J.R. 353, 2006; adopted 2006.

## **ARTICLE XII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE XII**

### **SECTION 27. Property tax exemptions and limitations on property tax assessments.—**

(a) The amendments to Sections 3, 4, and 6 of Article VII, providing a \$25,000 exemption for tangible personal property, providing an additional \$25,000 homestead exemption, authorizing transfer of the accrued benefit from the limitations on the assessment of homestead property, and this section, if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at a special election authorized by law to be held on January 29, 2008, shall take effect upon approval by the electors and shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2008, or, if submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election, shall take effect January 1 of the year following such general election. The amendments to Section 4 of Article VII creating subsections (g) and (h) of that section, creating a limitation on annual assessment increases for specified real property, shall take effect upon approval of the electors and shall first limit assessments beginning January 1, 2009, if approved at a special election held on January 29, 2008, or shall first limit assessments beginning January 1, 2010, if approved at the general election held in November of 2008.

(b) The amendment to subsection (a) abrogating the scheduled repeal of subsections (g) and (h) of Section 4 of Article VII of the State Constitution as it existed in 2017, shall take effect January 1, 2019.

**History.**—Added, C.S. for S.J.R. 2-D, 2007; adopted 2008; Am., C.S. for H.J.R. 21, 2017; adopted 2018.

**SECTION 28. Property tax exemption and classification and assessment of land used for conservation purposes.—**The amendment to Section 3 of Article VII requiring the creation of an ad valorem tax

exemption for real property dedicated in perpetuity for conservation purposes, and the amendment to Section 4 of Article VII requiring land used for conservation purposes to be classified by general law and assessed solely on the basis of character or use for purposes of ad valorem taxation, shall take effect upon approval by the electors and shall be implemented by January 1, 2010. This section shall take effect upon approval of the electors.

**History.**—Proposed by Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, Revision No. 4, 2008, filed with the Secretary of State April 28, 2008; adopted 2008.

### **SECTION 29. Limitation on the assessed value of real property used for residential purposes.—**

(a) The repeal of the renewable energy source property tax exemption in Section 3 of Article VII shall take effect upon approval by the voters.

(b) The amendment to Section 4 of Article VII authorizing the legislature to prohibit an increase in the assessed value of real property used for residential purposes as the result of improving the property's resistance to wind damage or installing a renewable energy source device shall take effect January 1, 2009.

**History.**—Proposed by Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, Revision No. 3, 2008, filed with the Secretary of State April 28, 2008; adopted 2008.

**SECTION 30. Assessment of working waterfront property.—**The amendment to Section 4 of Article VII providing for the assessment of working waterfront property based on current use, and this section, shall take effect upon approval by the electors and shall first apply to assessments for tax years beginning January 1, 2010.

**History.**—Proposed by Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, Revision No. 6, 2008, filed with the Secretary of State April 28, 2008; adopted 2008.

**SECTION 31. Additional ad valorem tax exemption for certain members of the armed forces**

**ARTICLE XII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE XII**

**deployed on active duty outside of the United States.**—The amendment to Section 3 of Article VII providing for an additional ad valorem tax exemption for members of the United States military or military reserves, the United States Coast Guard or its reserves, or the Florida National Guard deployed on active duty outside of the United States in support of military operations designated by the legislature and this section shall take effect January 1, 2011.

*History.*—Added, H.J.R. 833, 2009; adopted 2010.

**SECTION 32. Veterans disabled due to combat injury; homestead property tax discount.**—The amendment to subsection (e) of Section 6 of Article VII relating to the homestead property tax discount for veterans who became disabled as the result of a combat injury shall take effect January 1, 2013.

*History.*—Added, S.J.R. 592, 2011; adopted 2012.

**SECTION 33. Ad valorem tax relief for surviving spouses of veterans who died from service-connected causes and first responders who died in the line of duty.**—This section and the amendment to Section 6 of Article VII permitting the legislature to provide ad valorem tax relief to surviving spouses of veterans who died from service-connected causes and first responders who died in the line of duty shall take effect January 1, 2013.

*History.*—Added, H.J.R. 93, 2012; adopted 2012.

*Note.*—This section, originally designated section 32 by H.J.R. 93, 2012, was redesignated section 33 by the editors in order to avoid confusion with section 32 as created in S.J.R. 592, 2011.

**SECTION 34. Solar devices or renewable energy source devices; exemption from certain taxation and assessment.**—This section, the amendment to subsection (e) of Section 3 of Article VII authorizing the legislature, subject to limitations set

forth in general law, to exempt the assessed value of solar devices or renewable energy source devices subject to tangible personal property tax from ad valorem taxation, and the amendment to subsection (i) of Section 4 of Article VII authorizing the legislature, by general law, to prohibit the consideration of the installation of a solar device or a renewable energy source device in determining the assessed value of real property for the purpose of ad valorem taxation shall take effect on January 1, 2018, and shall expire on December 31, 2037. Upon expiration, this section shall be repealed and the text of subsection (e) of Section 3 of Article VII and subsection (i) of Section 4 of Article VII shall revert to that in existence on December 31, 2017, except that any amendments to such text otherwise adopted shall be preserved and continue to operate to the extent that such amendments are not dependent upon the portions of text which expire pursuant to this section.

*History.*—Added, C.S. for H.J.R. 193, 2016; adopted 2016.

**SECTION 35. Tax exemption for totally and permanently disabled first responders.**—The amendment to Section 6 of Article VII relating to relief from ad valorem taxes assessed on homestead property for first responders, who are totally and permanently disabled as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty, takes effect January 1, 2017.

*History.*—Added, C.S. for H.J.R. 1009, 2016; adopted 2016.

**SECTION 36. Additional ad valorem exemption for persons age sixty-five or older.**—This section and the amendment to Section 6 of Article VII revising the just value determination for the additional ad valorem tax exemption for persons age sixty-five or older shall take effect January 1, 2017,

**ARTICLE XII CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA ARTICLE XII**

following approval by the electors, and shall operate retroactively to January 1, 2013, for any person who received the exemption under paragraph (2) of Section 6(d) of Article VII before January 1, 2017.

**History.**—Added, C.S. for H.J.R. 275, 2016; adopted 2016.

**SECTION 37. Eligibility of justices and judges.**—The amendment to Section 8 of Article V, which increases the age at which a justice or judge is no longer eligible to serve in judicial office except upon temporary assignment, shall take effect July 1, 2019.

**History.**—Proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 1, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**SECTION 38. Prohibitions regarding lobbying for compensation and abuse of public position by public officers and public employees.**—The amendments to Section 8 of Article II and Section 13 of Article V shall take effect December 31, 2022; except that the amendments to Section 8(h) of Article II shall take effect December 31, 2020, and:

(a) The Florida Commission on Ethics shall, by rule, define the term “disproportionate benefit” and prescribe the requisite intent for finding a violation of the prohibition against abuse of public position by October 1, 2019, as specified in Section 8(h) of Article II.

(b) Following the adoption of rules pursuant to subsection (a), the legislature shall enact implementing legislation establishing penalties for violations of the prohibition against abuse of

public position to take effect December 31, 2020.

**History.**—Proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 7, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**SECTION 39. Prohibition on racing of or wagering on greyhounds or other dogs.**—The amendment to Article X, which prohibits the racing of or wagering on greyhound and other dogs, and the creation of this section, shall take effect upon the approval of the electors.

**History.**—Proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 2018, filed with the Secretary of State May 9, 2018; adopted 2018.

**SECTION 40. Transfer of the accrued benefit from specified limitations on homestead property tax assessments; increased portability period.**—This section and the amendment to Section 4 of Article VII, which extends to three years the time period during which the accrued benefit from specified limitations on homestead property tax assessments may be transferred from a prior homestead to a new homestead, shall take effect January 1, 2021.

**History.**—Added, H.J.R. 369, 2020; adopted 2020.

**SECTION 41. Ad valorem tax discount for surviving spouses of certain permanently disabled veterans.** The amendment to Section 6 of Article VII, relating to the ad valorem tax discount for spouses of certain deceased veterans who had permanent, combat-related disabilities, and this section shall take effect January 1, 2021.

**History.**—Added, H.J.R. 877, 2020; adopted 2020.

# INDEX

## FOREWORD

In the index to the Florida Constitution, “A” refers to the Article of the Constitution and “S” refers to the Section within the Article. This index includes references to the Constitution of 1885 when that Constitution is incorporated by reference in the present Constitution.

### A

#### **ABORTION**

Minors, prior notification of parent,  
A10 S22

#### **AD VALOREM TAXES**

See TAXATION

#### **ADMINISTRATION, STATE BOARD OF,**

A4 S4(e), A12 S9(a), (c)

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES**

Judicial review, administrative action,  
A5 S3(b), A5 S4(b), A5 S5(b)  
Penalties, imposition of, A1 S18  
Quasi-judicial power, A5 S1  
Sentence of imprisonment, A1 S18  
Utilities regulation, Supreme Court review,  
A5 S3(b)

#### **ADVERSE MEDICAL INCIDENTS,**

A10 S25

#### **AGRICULTURE, COMMISSIONER OF**

(See also CABINET)

Agricultural matters, supervision,  
A4 S4(d)  
Cabinet, member, A4 S4(a)  
Election, A4 S5(a)  
Impeachment, A3 S17(a)  
Internal improvement trust fund, trustee,  
A4 S4(f)  
Land acquisition trust fund, trustee,  
A4 S4(f)

#### **AGRICULTURE, COMMISSIONER OF**

(Cont.)

Law Enforcement, Department of; agency  
head, A4 S4(g)  
Office location, A2 S2  
Powers and duties, A4 S4(a), (d)  
Qualifications, A4 S5(b)  
Term of office, A4 S5(a)

#### **AIR POLLUTION, A2 S7(a), A4 S9, A7 S14**

#### **AIRCRAFT, A7 S1(b)**

#### **AIRPORTS, A7 S10(c)**

#### **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, A8 S5(a),**

A8 S6(b)

#### **AMENDMENT**

Constitutional convention, A11 S4,  
A11 S5(a)  
Effective date, A11 S5(e)  
Election for approval, A11 S5  
House of Representatives, proposed term  
of office, A12 S14  
Initiatives, A11 S3, A11 S5(b), (c)  
Legislative joint resolution, A11 S1,  
A11 S5(a)  
Publication, A11 S5(d)  
Revision commission, A11 S2, A11 S5(a)  
Taxation and Budget Reform  
Commission, A11 S5(a), A11 S6(e)

#### **APPORTIONMENT OF LEGISLATURE**

See LEGISLATURE



**APPROPRIATIONS**

Bond debt service, A7 S11(b)  
 Clerks of circuit and county courts,  
   A5 S14(b)  
 Current state expenses, A3 S12  
 Education lottery funds, A10 S15  
 Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
   Commission, A4 S9  
 General appropriation bills, A3 S8,  
   A3 S12, A3 S19(b), (d)  
 Itemization requirements, A3 S19(b)  
 Legislative Budget Commission, duties,  
   A3 S19(c)  
 Local government aid, A7 S8  
 Mandated expenditure of funds by local  
   governments, A7 S18(a)  
 Money drawn from state treasury,  
   A7 S1(c)  
 Public defenders' offices, A5 S14(a),  
   A12 S25  
 Recurring purposes appropriations made  
   from nonrecurring general revenue  
   funds, limitation, A3 S19(a)  
 Review period, A3 S19(d)  
 Salaries for public officers, A3 S12  
 School district aid, A7 S8  
 State attorneys' offices, A5 S14(a),  
   A12 S25  
 State courts system, A5 S14(a), (d),  
   A12 S25  
 State school fund, A9 S6  
 Tobacco Education and Prevention  
   Program, A10 S27(b)  
 Veto, A3 S8, A3 S19(b)

**ARMED FORCES**

*See* MILITIA

**ARMS, RIGHT TO BEAR**, A1 S8(a)

**ASSEMBLY, RIGHT OF**, A1 S5

**ATTAINDER, BILLS OF**, A1 S10, A1 S17

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

*(See also* CABINET)

Administration, State Board of; member,  
   A4 S4(e)  
 Cabinet, member, A4 S4(a)  
 Chief legal officer of state, A4 S4(b)  
 Constitution Revision Commission,  
   member, A11 S2(a)  
 Election, A4 S5(a)  
 Impeachment, A3 S17(a)

**ATTORNEY GENERAL (Cont.)**

Initiative petitions, requesting Supreme  
   Court advisory opinion, A4 S10,  
   A5 S3(b)  
 Internal improvement trust fund, trustee,  
   A4 S4(f)  
 Land acquisition trust fund, trustee,  
   A4 S4(f)  
 Law Enforcement, Department of; agency  
   head, A4 S4(g)  
 Legislative apportionment  
   Judicial reapportionment petition,  
     A3 S16(b), (e)  
   Judicial review petition, A3 S16(c), (e)  
 Minimum wage, enforcement authority,  
   A10 S24(e)  
 Office location, A2 S2  
 Powers and duties, A4 S4(a), (b)  
 Qualifications, A4 S5(b)  
 Recreation development bond validation  
   proceedings, A12 S9(a)  
 Statewide prosecutor, appointment,  
   A4 S4(b)  
 Term of office, A4 S5(a)

**ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW**

Admission to practice, A5 S15  
 Bar, *See* FLORIDA BAR  
 Court-appointed counsel, funding,  
   A5 S14(a), A12 S25  
 Criminal defendants, right to counsel,  
   A1 S16(a)  
 Discipline, A5 S15

**ATTORNEYS' FEES**, A1 S26, A10 S24(e)

**AUDITOR**, A3 S2

**B**

**BEACHES**, A10 S11, A10 S28(b)

**BILLS OF ATTAINDER**, A1 S10, A1 S17

**BLIND PERSONS**, A7 S3(b)

**BOATS**

License tax, A7 S1(b)  
 Vessel launches, marinas, and marine  
   manufacturing facilities; tax  
   assessments, A7 S4(j), A12 S30

**BOND (PUBLIC OFFICERS)**, A2 S5(b)

**BONDS**

Airports, A7 S10(c)  
 Bridges, A7 S17  
 Capital projects, A7 S10(c),  
 A7 S11(a), (d), A7 S12(a), A12 S9  
 Certificates of indebtedness, A7 S12  
 Conservation and recreation lands,  
 acquisition and improvement,  
 A7 S11(e), A12 S9(a)  
 Counties, A7 S10(c), A7 S12  
 Debt limitation, A7 S11(a), A7 S14(b), (e),  
 A7 S16(c), A12 S9(e)  
 Faith and credit of state, pledging,  
 A7 S11(a), (c), A7 S14(a), A7 S16(b),  
 A7 S17, A12 S9  
 Fixed capital outlay projects,  
 A7 S11(a), (d)  
 Historic preservation, A7 S11(e)  
 Housing and related facilities, A7 S16,  
 A12 S18  
 Industrial or manufacturing plants,  
 A7 S10(c)  
 Issued pursuant to 1885 Constitution,  
 A12 S8  
 Local bonds, A7 S10(c), A7 S12  
 Motor vehicle license revenue anticipation  
 certificates, A12 S9(d)  
 Municipalities, A7 S10(c), A7 S12  
 Outdoor recreation development,  
 A7 S11(e), A12 S9(a)  
 Pollution control and abatement facilities,  
 A7 S14  
 Port facilities, A7 S10(c)  
 Public education, A7 S12, A12 S9(a), (d)  
 Refunding bonds, A7 S11(a), A7 S12(b),  
 A12 S9  
 Revenue bonds  
 Airports, A7 S10(c)  
 Capital projects, A7 S11(d), A12 S9(b)  
 Conservation and recreation lands,  
 acquisition and improvement,  
 A7 S11(e), A12 S9(a)  
 Debt service on bonds, A10 S28(b)  
 Historic preservation, A7 S11(e)  
 Housing and related facilities, A7 S16,  
 A12 S18  
 Industrial or manufacturing plants,  
 A7 S10(c)  
 Legislative approval of project,  
 A7 S11(f)  
 Pollution control and abatement  
 facilities, A7 S14  
 Port facilities, A7 S10(c)  
 Refunding bonds, A12 S9(b), (c), (d)  
 Repayment, source of funds, A7 S11(d)  
 Student loans, A7 S15

**BONDS (Cont.)**

Revenue bonds (Cont.)  
 Waste disposal facilities, A7 S14  
 Water facilities, A7 S14  
 Water resource development,  
 A7 S11(e)  
 Roads and highways, A7 S17,  
 A12 S9(b), (c)  
 Sale, combining issues, A7 S11(c)  
 School capital outlay projects, A7 S12(a),  
 A12 S9(a), (d)  
 School districts, A7 S12  
 Special districts, A7 S10(c), A7 S12  
 State bonds, A7 S11, A7 S14, A7 S15,  
 A7 S16, A7 S17, A12 S9  
 Student loans, A7 S15  
 Tax anticipation certificates, A7 S12  
 Tax levies for payment of debt  
 Ad valorem taxes, A7 S12  
 Gross receipts tax, utility services,  
 A12 S9(a)  
 Second gas tax, A12 S9(c)  
 Transportation rights-of-way, A7 S17  
 Validation, A5 S3(b)  
 Voter approval, A7 S11(a), A7 S12(a)  
 Waste disposal facilities, A7 S14  
 Water facilities, A7 S14  
 Water resource development, A7 S11(e)

**BOUNDARIES (STATE), A2 S1****BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT, A2 S3****BRIDGES, A7 S17****BROWARD COUNTY, A8 S6(g), A10 S23****BUDGETING**

Adjustments without concurrence of full  
 legislature, A3 S19(c)  
 Budget stabilization fund, A3 S19(g),  
 A7 S1(e)  
 Final budget report, A3 S19(e)  
 Governor, responsibility, A4 S1(a),  
 A4 S13  
 Legislative Budget Commission,  
 A3 S19(c), (j)  
 Reductions to meet revenue shortfalls,  
 A3 S19(h), A4 S13  
 State budgeting processes, A3 S19,  
 A7 S1(e)

**C****CABINET**

Appointment or removal of officers, approval, A4 S6(a)  
 Civil rights, restoration, A4 S8(a)  
 Clemency, A4 S8(a)  
 Composition, A4 S4(a)  
 Creation, A4 S4(a)  
 Election of members, A4 S5(a)  
 Executive departments, supervision, A4 S6  
 Impeachment of members, A3 S17(a)  
 Incapacity of Governor, A4 S3(b)  
 Offices of members, A2 S2  
 Pardons, A4 S8(a)  
 Qualifications of members, A4 S5(b)  
 Revenue shortfalls, budget reductions, A4 S13  
 Term limitations on members, A6 S4(c)  
 Terms of members, A4 S5(a)  
 Tie vote among members, A4 S4(a)  
 Veterans' Affairs, Department of; department head, A4 S11

**CAMPAIGN FINANCING**, A2 S8(b), A6 S7

**CANDIDATES**

*See* ELECTIONS

**CAPITAL**, A2 S2

**CAPITAL OFFENSES**

Appeals and collateral attacks on judgment, A1 S16(b)  
 Death penalty, A1 S17, A5 S3(b)  
 Presentment or indictment, A1 S15  
 Pretrial detention, A1 S14

**CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Airports, A7 S10(c)  
 Bridges, A7 S17  
 Fixed capital outlay projects, bond financing, A7 S11(a), (d)  
 Housing and related facilities, A7 S16  
 Industrial and manufacturing plants, A7 S10(c)  
 Legislative approval, A7 S11(f)  
 Local governments, bond financing, A7 S10(c), A7 S12(a)  
 Outdoor recreation facilities, A12 S9(a)  
 Pollution control facilities, A7 S14  
 Port facilities, A7 S10(c)  
 Public education, A7 S12(a), A12 S9(a), (d)

**CAPITAL PROJECTS (Cont.)**

Roads and highways, A7 S17, A12 S9(b), (c)  
 Schools, A7 S12(a), A12 S9(a), (d)  
 State, bond financing, A7 S11(a), (d), A7 S14, A7 S16, A7 S17, A12 S9  
 Transportation rights-of-way, A7 S17  
 Turnpike authority, A12 S9(b)  
 Waste disposal facilities, A7 S14  
 Water facilities, A7 S14

**CASINO GAMBLING**, A10 S30

**CENSUS**, A3 S16(a), A8 S1(e), A10 S8, A12 S13

**CERTIORARI, WRIT OF**, A5 S4(b), A5 S5(b)

**CHARITIES**, A7 S3(a)

**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

*(See also* CABINET)

Administration, State Board of; member, A4 S4(e)  
 Cabinet, member, A4 S4(a)  
 Chief fiscal officer of state, A4 S4(c)  
 Constitutional office, designation as, A12 S24(a)  
 Election, A4 S5(a)  
 Impeachment, A3 S17(a)  
 Internal improvement trust fund, trustee, A4 S4(f)  
 Land acquisition trust fund, trustee, A4 S4(f)  
 Law Enforcement, Department of; agency head, A4 S4(g)  
 Office location, A2 S2  
 Powers and duties, A4 S4(a), (c)  
 Qualifications, A4 S5(b)  
 State funds and securities, maintenance, A4 S4(c)  
 Term of office, A4 S5(a)

**CHILDREN**

Abortions involving minors, prior notification of parent, A10 S22  
 Adoption or legitimation, special laws pertaining to, A3 S11(a)  
 Juvenile delinquency proceedings, A1 S15(b)  
 Relief from legal disabilities, special laws pertaining to, A3 S11(a)  
 Tobacco Education and Prevention Program, A10 S27

**CIRCUIT COURTS**

(*See also* COURTS)

- Administrative action, review, A5 S5(b)
- Administrative supervision, A5 S2(d)
- Appeal of judgments and orders,
  - A5 S3(b), A5 S4(b)
- Appellate jurisdiction, A5 S4(b), A5 S5(b), A5 S20(c)
- Chief judge
  - Assignment of judges, A5 S2(b)
  - Discipline panel for Supreme Court justice, A5 S12(e)
  - Emergency hospitalizations, authority delegation to county court judges, A5 S20(c)
  - Location of court proceedings, designation, A5 S7, A5 S20(c)
  - Responsibilities, A5 S2(d)
  - Selection, A5 S2(d)
- Clerk, A5 S14(b), (c), A5 S16, A8 S1(d)
- Death penalty, A5 S3(b)
- Divisions, A5 S7, A5 S20(c)
- Hearings, A5 S7
- Judges
  - (*See also* JUDGES)
  - Chief judge, *See* subtitle Chief judge, this heading
  - Election, A5 S10(b), A5 S11(b)
  - Impeachment, A3 S17(a)
  - Judges of abolished courts, A5 S20(d)
  - Merit selection, local option, A5 S10(b)
  - Number, A5 S20(d)
  - Retention, local option, A5 S10(b)
  - Term of office, A5 S10(b), A5 S11(b)
  - Vacancy in office, A5 S11(b)
- Judicial circuits, *See* JUDICIAL CIRCUITS
- Judicial power vested in, A5 S1
- Jurisdiction, A5 S5(b), A5 S20(c)
- Organization, A5 S5(a)
- Prosecuting officer, A5 S17
- Trials, location, A5 S7
- Writs, power to issue, A5 S5(b)

**CITIZENSHIP (ELECTORS), A6 S2****CIVIL ACTIONS**

- Defamation, A1 S4
- Due process of law, A1 S9
- Medical marijuana use, not subject to civil liability, A10 S29(a)
- Minimum wage violations, A10 S24(e)
- Special laws pertaining to, A3 S11(a)
- Suits against state, A10 S13
- Validity upon adoption of constitutional revision, A12 S7

**CIVIL RIGHTS**

- Declaration of rights, A1
- Restoration, A4 S8(a), A6 S4(a), (b)
- Voting and elections, *See* ELECTIONS

**CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM, A3 S14****CIVIL TRAFFIC HEARING OFFICERS, A5 S1****CLEMENCY, A1 S16(b), A4 S8****CLERKS OF CIRCUIT COURTS, A5 S14(b), (c), A5 S16, A8 S1(d)****COAST GUARD, A7 S3(g), A12 S31****COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, A1 S6****COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

- Institutions of higher learning, A7 S15(a), A9 S1(a), A12 S9(a)
- State colleges, community colleges, and junior colleges, A7 S15(a), A9 S8, A12 S9(a), (d)

**COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE**

*See* AGRICULTURE, COMMISSIONER OF

**COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION**

*See* EDUCATION, COMMISSIONER OF

**COMMISSIONS, A5 S1****COMMUNICATIONS, INTERCEPTION, A1 S12****COMMUNITY COLLEGES, A7 S15(a), A9 S8, A12 S9(a), (d)****COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, A7 S3(c)****CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS, A3 S20****CONSERVATION**

Natural resources, *See* NATURAL RESOURCES

**CONSTITUTION OF 1885**

Bonds

Institutions of higher learning and junior college capital outlay, A12 S9(a)

**CONSTITUTION OF 1885 (Cont.)**

- Bonds (Cont.)
  - Outdoor recreation development, A12 S9(a)
  - Provisions retained until payment in full, A12 S8
  - Roads and highways, A12 S9(c)
  - School capital outlay, A12 S9(d)
- County courts, A5 S20(c)
- Criminal sentences, A12 S7(a)
- Dade County, home rule charter, A8 S6(e)
- Gross receipts taxes, A12 S9(a)
- Hillsborough County, home rule charter, A8 S6(e)
- Jacksonville and Duval County, consolidation, A8 S6(e)
- Judges, A5 S20(d)
- Judiciary provisions, repeal, A5 S20(a)
- Key West and Monroe County, consolidation, A8 S6(e)
- Local government, A8 S6(a), (e)
- Motor vehicle fuel taxes, A12 S9(c)
- Motor vehicle license revenues, A12 S9(d)
- Provisions conflicting with revision, A12 S17
- Provisions reverting to statutes, A5 S20(g), A12 S10
- Provisions superseded, A12 S1
- Superintendents of public instruction, A12 S5(b), A12 S6(b)
- Taxes, penalties, fines, and forfeitures owed to state, A12 S7(a)

**CONSTITUTION REVISION**

- COMMISSION**, A2 S5(a), A11 S2, A11 S5(a)

**CONSTITUTION (UNITED STATES)**

- See* UNITED STATES

**CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION,**

- A2 S5(a), A11 S4, A11 S5(a)

**CONSTRUCTION, RULES OF,** A10 S12**CONTEMPT,** A3 S4(d), A3 S5**CONTRACTS**

- Laws impairing, A1 S10
- Special laws pertaining to, A3 S11(a)
- Validity upon adoption of constitutional revision, A12 S7

**CORPORATIONS**

- Income tax, A7 S5(b)
- Public credit or taxing power in aid of, A7 S10
- Rights and obligations, validity upon adoption of constitutional revision, A12 S7
- Special laws pertaining to, A3 S11(a)

**CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND CORRECTIONAL PROBATION OFFICERS**

- Killed in line of duty, death benefits for survivors, A10 S31

**COUNTIES**

- Abolishment, A8 S1(a)
- Ad valorem taxation, A7 S9, A7 S12, A12 S2
- Alcoholic beverage sales, A8 S5(a), A8 S6(b)
- Boards of county commissioners
  - Composition, A8 S1(e)
  - Districts, A8 S1(e)
  - Election, A8 S1(e)
  - Ex officio clerks, A5 S16, A8 S1(d)
  - Lobbying, A2 S8(f)
  - Terms of office, A8 S1(e)
- Bond financing, A7 S10(c), A7 S12
- Branch offices, A8 S1(k)
- Broward County, A8 S6(g), A10 S23
- Change of, A8 S1(a)
- Charter, A8 S1(c), (g)
- Civil service system, A3 S14
- Consolidation of local governments, A8 S3, A8 S6(e)
- County courts, *See* COUNTY COURTS
- County seat, A8 S1(k), A8 S6(b)
- Court-appointed counsel, funding, A5 S14(c)
- Creation, A8 S1(a)
- Credit, pledging, A7 S10
- Districts, county commissioner, A8 S1(e)
- Duval County, consolidation, A8 S6(e)
- Electors, A6 S2
- Electric generation and transmission facilities, A7 S10(d)
- Firearms sales, criminal history records check and waiting period, A8 S5(b)
- Funds
  - Care, custody, and disbursement, A8 S1(b)
  - Custodian, A5 S16, A8 S1(d)
  - Investment, A7 S10(a), (b)
- Governing bodies, A8 S1(e)

**COUNTIES (Cont.)**

Government  
 Charter, A8 S1(c), (g)  
 Noncharter, A8 S1(f)  
 Hillsborough County, home rule charter,  
 A8 S6(e)  
 Home rule, A8 S6(e), (f)  
 Indebtedness, certificates of, A7 S12  
 Joint ownership with private entities,  
 A7 S10  
 Leon County, seat of government, A2 S2  
 Local option, alcoholic beverage sales,  
 A8 S5(a), A8 S6(b)  
 Mandated expenditure of funds, funding  
 by Legislature, A7 S18(a)  
 Meetings, access to, A1 S24(b)  
 Miami-Dade County, A8 S6(e), (f), (g),  
 A10 S23  
 Monroe County, consolidation, A8 S6(e)  
 Motor vehicle fuel tax, allocation,  
 A12 S9(c)  
 Municipal services, taxes for, A7 S9(b)  
 Officers  
 Abolishment of office, A8 S1(d)  
 Auditor, A5 S16, A8 S1(d)  
 Bond, A2 S5(b)  
 Clerk of circuit court, A5 S14(b), (c),  
 A5 S16, A8 S1(d)  
 Commissioners, *See* subtitle Boards of  
 county commissioners, this heading  
 Compensation, A2 S5(c)  
 Continuance in office, A8 S6(c)  
 Election, A6 S5, A8 S1(d)  
 Holding other offices, A2 S5(a)  
 Lobbying, A2 S8(f)  
 Oath of office, A2 S5(b)  
 Office and records, location, A8 S1(k)  
 Performance of municipal functions,  
 A8 S6(b)  
 Powers and duties, A2 S5(b), (c)  
 Property appraiser, A8 S1(d)  
 Prosecuting attorney, A5 S20(d)  
 Recorder, A5 S16, A8 S1(d)  
 Selection, A8 S1(d), A8 S6(b), (g)  
 Sheriff, A8 S1(d)  
 Solicitor, A5 S20(d)  
 Supervisor of elections, A8 S1(d)  
 Suspension, A4 S7(a), (b)  
 Tax collector, A8 S1(d)  
 Terms of office, A8 S1(d)  
 Vacancy in office, A4 S1(f)  
 Ordinances  
 Charter government, A8 S1(g)  
 Community and economic development  
 tax exemptions, A7 S3(c)

**COUNTIES (Cont.)**

Ordinances (Cont.)  
 Conflict with municipal ordinances,  
 A8 S1(f), (g)  
 Effective date, A8 S1(i)  
 Historic properties, A7 S3(d), A7 S4(e),  
 A12 S22  
 Homestead property tax exemption for  
 elderly persons, A7 S6(d)  
 Local laws, amendment or repeal,  
 A8 S6(d)  
 Noncharter government, A8 S1(f)  
 Violations, A8 S1(j)  
 Pari-mutuel tax revenue, A7 S7  
 Pollution control facilities, state bond  
 financing, A7 S14  
 Public defenders' offices, funding,  
 A5 S14(c)  
 Recording of documents, A8 S1(k)  
 Reduction of authority to raise revenue,  
 legislative approval, A7 S18(b)  
 Roads and highways, A12 S9(c)  
 Second gas tax, allocation, A12 S9(c)  
 Self-government powers, A8 S1(f), (g)  
 State aid, A7 S8  
 State attorneys' offices, funding,  
 A5 S14(c)  
 State tax revenues, legislative approval of  
 reduction, A7 S18(c)  
 Status, continuation upon adoption of  
 Constitution, A8 S6(b)  
 Tax anticipation certificates, A7 S12  
 Taxes, A7 S4(f), A7 S9, A12 S2  
 Taxing power, limitation, A7 S10,  
 A8 S1(h)  
 Transfer of function or power, A8 S4  
 Trial courts, funding, A5 S14(c)  
 Waste disposal facilities, state bond  
 financing, A7 S14  
 Water facilities, state bond financing,  
 A7 S14

**COUNTY COURTS**

(*See also* COURTS)  
 Administrative supervision, A5 S2(d)  
 Appeal of judgments and orders,  
 A5 S3(b), A5 S4(b)  
 Clerks, A5 S14(b), (c), A5 S16, A5 S20(c)  
 Divisions, A5 S7, A5 S20(c)  
 Fines and forfeitures, A5 S20(c)  
 Hearings, A5 S7  
 Judges  
 (*See also* JUDGES)  
 Bar membership, A5 S8, A5 S20(c), (d)  
 Election, A5 S10(b), A5 S11(b)  
 Impeachment, A3 S17(a)

**COUNTY COURTS** (Cont.)

- Judges (Cont.)
  - Judges of abolished courts, A5 S20(d)
  - Merit selection, local option, A5 S10(b)
  - Nonjudicial duties, A5 S20(f)
  - Number, A5 S6(a), A5 S20(d)
  - Retention, local option, A5 S10(b)
  - Term of office, A5 S10(b), A5 S11(b)
  - Vacancy in office, A5 S11(b)
- Judicial power vested in, A5 S1
- Jurisdiction, A5 S6(b), A5 S20(c)
- Location, A5 S7, A5 S20(c)
- Organization, A5 S6(a)
- Trials, location, A5 S7, A5 S20(c)

**COURTS**

- Access to, A1 S21
- Administrative agency interpretation of law, not deferred to, A5 S21
- Administrative supervision, A5 S2
- Appeals, A5 S2(a), A5 S3, A5 S4, A5 S5(b)
- Appellate districts, *See* DISTRICT COURTS OF APPEAL
- Attorneys, admission to practice and discipline, A5 S15
- Bar, *See* FLORIDA BAR
- Budgeting processes, A3 S19(a), (c)
- Chief administrative officers, A5 S2(b)
- Circuit courts, *See* CIRCUIT COURTS
- County courts, *See* COUNTY COURTS
- Courts-martial, A1 S15(a), A1 S18, A5 S1
- Dismissal of cause, improper remedy sought, A5 S2(a)
- District courts of appeal, *See* DISTRICT COURTS OF APPEAL
- Divisions, A5 S7, A5 S20(c)
- Establishment, A5 S1
- Funding, A5 S14
- Generally, A5
- Hearings, A5 S7
- Judges and justices, *See* JUDGES
- Judicial circuits, *See* JUDICIAL CIRCUITS
- Judicial nominating commissions, A5 S11, A5 S20(c)
- Judicial office, justices, and judges; construction of terms, A10 S12(f)
- Judicial power, A2 S3, A5 S1
- Judicial Qualifications Commission, A2 S8(g), A5 S12, A5 S20(e)
- Juries and jurors, *See* JURIES
- Jurisdiction
  - Abolished courts, A5 S20(d)
  - Circuit courts, A5 S5(b), A5 S20(c)
  - County courts, A5 S6(b), A5 S20(c)

**COURTS** (Cont.)

- Jurisdiction (Cont.)
  - District courts of appeal, A5 S4(b), A5 S20(c)
  - Municipal courts, A5 S20(d)
  - Supreme Court, A5 S3(b), A5 S20(c)
  - Transfer, jurisdiction of court improvidently invoked, A5 S2(a)
- Justice administration without sale, denial, or delay, A1 S21
- Municipal courts, A5 S20(d)
- Open for redress of injury, A1 S21
- Planning processes and planning documents, A3 S19(a), (h)
- Records of judicial branch, access to, A1 S24
- Rules of practice and procedure, A5 S2(a), A5 S11(d)
- Supreme Court, *See* SUPREME COURT
- Transition provisions, A5 S20
- Trials, *See* TRIALS
- Victims' rights, enforcement, A1 S16(c)
- Writs, power to issue, A5 S3(b), A5 S4(b), A5 S5(b)

**COVERTURE**, A10 S5**CREDIT, PLEDGING OF**

- Housing bonds, A7 S16(b)
- Joint ownership with private entity, A7 S10
- State bonds, A7 S11(a), (c), A7 S14(a), A7 S17, A12 S9

**CRIMINAL OFFENSES**

- Accused, rights of, A1 S16(a), A1 S19
- Appeals and collateral attacks on judgment, A1 S16(b)
- Bills of attainder, A1 S10, A1 S17
- Breach of public trust, A2 S8(d)
- County ordinance violations, A8 S1(j)
- Criminal statutes, effect of repeal, A10 S9
- Defamation, A1 S4
- Ex post facto laws, A1 S10
- Felony
  - Definition, A10 S10
  - Prosecution, A1 S15(a)
  - Public office disqualification, A6 S4(a)
  - Public officer or employee, forfeiture of retirement rights and privileges, A2 S8(d)
  - Voting qualifications, A6 S4(a), (b)
- Fraud, imprisonment for debt, A1 S11
- Handgun purchases, waiting period violations, A1 S8(c)
- Juvenile offenders, A1 S15(b)
- Marine net fishing violations, A10 S16(e)

**CRIMINAL OFFENSES (Cont.)**

- Penalties, *See* PUNISHMENT
- Pigs, cruel and inhumane confinement during pregnancy, A10 S21(d)
- Prosecution, *See* CRIMINAL PROSECUTION
- Treason, A1 S20, A4 S8(b)
- Victims' rights, A1 S16(b), (c), (d), (e)

**CRIMINAL PROSECUTION**

- Accused, rights of, A1 S16(a), A1 S19
- Capital crime, A1 S15(a)
- Communications, unreasonable interception of, A1 S12
- Costs, payment by accused, A1 S19
- Counsel, right to, A1 S16(a)
- County ordinance violations, A8 S1(j)
- Criminal statutes, effect of repeal, A10 S9
- Defamation, A1 S4
- Defendants, rights of, A1 S16(a), A1 S19
- Double jeopardy, A1 S9
- Due process of law, A1 S9, A1 S16(b)
- Evidence, inadmissible, A1 S12
- Felonies, A1 S15(a)
- Grand jury, A1 S15(a)
- Indictment or information, A1 S15(a), A1 S16(a)
- Jurors, A1 S22, A3 S11(a)
- Juvenile offenders, A1 S15(b)
- Medical marijuana use, not subject to criminal liability, A10 S29(a)
- Penalties, *See* PUNISHMENT
- Pretrial release and detention, A1 S14, A1 S16(b)
- Release of offender, victims' rights, A1 S16(b)
- Search and seizure, unreasonable, A1 S12
- Search warrants, A1 S12
- Self-incrimination, A1 S9
- Special laws pertaining to, A3 S11(a)
- Statewide prosecutor, A4 S4(b)
- Treason, A1 S20
- Trial by jury, A1 S16(a), A1 S22
- Venue, A1 S16(a), A3 S11(a)
- Victims' rights, A1 S16(b), (c), (d), (e)
- Witness against oneself, A1 S9
- Witnesses, A1 S16(a)

**CURTESY, A10 S5****CUSTODIAN OF STATE RECORDS**

- Documents received and maintained
- Constitution revision proposals, A11 S2(c), A11 S4(b)

**CUSTODIAN OF STATE RECORDS**

- (Cont.)
- Documents received and maintained (Cont.)
- Constitutional amendment initiative petitions, A11 S3
- Constitutional convention petitions, A11 S4(a)
- County ordinances, A8 S1(i)
- Financial interests disclosures, A2 S8(i)
- Governor's certificates of incapacity or capacity, A4 S3(b)
- Governor's executive orders of clemency, A4 S8(a)
- Governor's objections to vetoed bills, A3 S8(b)
- Governor's orders of suspension of officers, A4 S7(a)
- Judicial apportionment orders, A3 S16(b), (f)
- Judicial merit selection and retention petitions, A5 S10(b)
- Taxation and Budget Reform Commission proposals, A11 S6(e)
- Substitution for term "secretary of state", A12 S24(b)

**D****DEATH BENEFITS**

- First responders and military members, survivors of, A10 S31

**DEATH PENALTY**

- See* CAPITAL OFFENSES

**DEBT**

- Homestead property, A10 S4(a)
- Imprisonment for, A1 S11
- Public debt
  - Bond financing, *See* BONDS
  - Certificates of indebtedness, A7 S12
  - Consolidation of local governments, A8 S3
  - Counties, A8 S1(a)
  - Incurred under 1885 Constitution, A12 S8
  - Municipalities, A8 S2(a)

**DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, A1****DEEDS OF TRUST, A7 S2**



**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Lobbying, A2 S8(f)

**DISABILITIES, PERSONS WITH**

Deprivation of rights, A1 S2

Tax exemptions, A7 S3(b), A7 S6(e)

**DISTRICT COURTS OF APPEAL***(See also COURTS)*Administrative action, direct review,  
A5 S4(b)

Administrative supervision, A5 S2(c)

Appeal of decisions, A5 S3(b)

Appellate districts

Court serving, A5 S4(a)

Establishment, A5 S1, A5 S20(c)

Redefining, A5 S9

Supreme Court justices, residency,  
A5 S3(a)Case consideration, number of judges  
required, A5 S4(a)Certification of cases for Supreme Court  
review, A5 S3(b)

Chief judges, A1 S16(b), A5 S2(c)

Clerks, A5 S4(c)

Court-martial decisions, review, A5 S1

Decisions, A5 S3(b), A5 S4(a)

Divisions, A5 S7, A5 S20(c)

Final judgments and orders, review,  
A5 S4(b)

Interlocutory orders, review, A5 S4(b)

Judges

Impeachment, A3 S17(a)

Number, A5 S4(a)

Judicial nominating commissions,  
A5 S11(d)

Judicial power vested in, A5 S1

Jurisdiction, A5 S4(b), A5 S20(c)

Marshals, A5 S4(c)

Military law questions, advisory opinions,  
A5 S2(a)

Organization, A5 S4(a)

Process, A5 S4(c)

Rules of procedure, A5 S11(d)

Trial court judgments and orders, review,  
A5 S4(b)

Writs, power to issue, A5 S4(b)

**DISTRICTS**Appellate, *See* DISTRICT COURTS OF  
APPEAL

Community college, A12 S9(d)

County commissioner, A8 S1(e)

Legislative, A3 S1, A3 S15(a), (c),  
A3 S16(a)School, *See* SCHOOL DISTRICTS**DISTRICTS (Cont.)**Special, *See* SPECIAL DISTRICTS**DIVORCE**, A3 S11(a)**DOGRACING**, A10 S32, A12 S39**DOMESTIC SECURITY AND  
COUNTERTERRORISM, OFFICE OF**,  
A4 S4(g)**DOUBLE JEOPARDY**, A1 S9**DOWER**, A10 S5**DUE PROCESS OF LAW**, A1 S9, A1 S16(b)**DUVAL COUNTY**, A8 S6(e)**E****ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**, A7 S3(c)**EDUCATION**Appointive boards, terms of members,  
A9 S3

Bond financing

Capital projects, A7 S12(a),  
A12 S9(a), (d)

Student loans, A7 S15

Capital outlay funds, A12 S9(a), (d)

Class size limits, A9 S1(a)

Commissioner of Education, *See*

EDUCATION, COMMISSIONER OF

First responders and military members

killed in line of duty, education benefits  
for survivors of, A10 S31(c)Free public schools, A9 S1(a), A9 S2,  
A9 S4(b), A9 S6Health-related training institutions,  
A7 S15(a)Institutions of higher learning, A7 S15(a),  
A9 S1(a), A12 S9(a)

Joint educational programs, A9 S4(b)

Lotteries, A10 S15

Prekindergarten education, A9 S1(b), (c)

Property tax exemption, A7 S3(a)

Public education system, A9 S1(a), A9 S2

School boards, A9 S4, A9 S5, A12 S9(d)

School districts, *See* SCHOOL

DISTRICTS

State Board of Education, *See*

EDUCATION, STATE BOARD OF

**EDUCATION (Cont.)**

State colleges, community colleges, and junior colleges, A7 S15(a), A9 S8, A12 S9(a), (d)  
 State school fund, A9 S6  
 Student loans, A7 S15  
 Superintendents of public instruction, A12 S4, A12 S5, A12 S6(b)  
 Superintendents of schools, A9 S5, A12 S5, A12 S6(b)  
 Taxes  
 Gross receipts tax, utility services, A12 S9(a)  
 Property tax exemption, A7 S3(a)  
 School district, A7 S6(a), A7 S9, A9 S4(b)  
 Slot machine revenues, A10 S23(b)  
 Tobacco Education and Prevention Program, A10 S27  
 Vocational training schools, A7 S15(a), A12 S9(a)

**EDUCATION, COMMISSIONER OF**

Appointment, A9 S2  
 State University System Statewide Board of Governors, membership, A9 S7(d)  
 Statutes under 1885 Constitution, applicability, A12 S6(b)  
 Superintendent of Public Instruction, transfer of office, A12 S4

**EDUCATION, STATE BOARD OF**

Generally, A9 S2  
 Public education capital outlay and debt service trust fund, administration, A12 S9(a)  
 School bonds, duties, A12 S9(d)  
 State college system, supervision, A9 S8(b), (d)

**ELDERLY AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF, A4 S12****ELDERLY PERSONS**

Tax exemptions, A7 S4(f), A7 S6(d), (e), A12 S26, A12 S36

**ELECTIONS**

Alcoholic beverage sales, local option, A8 S5(a)  
 Bond financing approval, A7 S11(a), A7 S12(a)  
 Cabinet members, A4 S5(a)

**ELECTIONS (Cont.)**

Candidates  
 Campaign finances, disclosure, A2 S8(b)  
 Campaign spending limits for statewide offices, A6 S7  
 Congressional districts favoring incumbents, A3 S20  
 Financial interests, disclosure, A2 S8  
 Legislative districts favoring incumbents, A3 S21  
 Minor party or nonparty candidates, A6 S1  
 Public financing of campaigns for statewide offices, A6 S7  
 Community and economic development tax exemption ordinances, authorization, A7 S3(c)  
 Constitutional amendment or revision, A11 S5  
 Constitutional convention question, A11 S4  
 County commissioners, A8 S1(e)  
 County officers, A8 S1(d)  
 Districts, A6 S6  
 Electors  
 Disqualification, A6 S4(a), (b)  
 Freeholders, A7 S9(b), A7 S12(a)  
 Oath, A6 S3  
 Qualifications, A6 S2  
 Registration, A6 S1, A6 S3, A6 S6  
 Restoration of rights, A6 S4(a), (b)  
 Vote of electors, definition, A10 S12(d)  
 Voting in primary elections, A6 S5(b)  
 General elections  
 Cabinet members, A4 S5(a)  
 Constitutional amendment or revision, A11 S5(a)  
 Constitutional convention question, A11 S4(b)  
 Date, A6 S5  
 Emergency, suspension or delay, A6 S5  
 Governor and Lieutenant Governor, A4 S5  
 Superintendents of schools, A9 S5  
 Winner determination, A6 S1  
 Governor, A4 S5  
 Judges, A5 S10, A5 S11(b)  
 Legislators, A3 S1, A3 S2, A3 S15  
 Lieutenant Governor, A4 S5(a)  
 Municipal elections, A6 S6  
 Political party functions, A6 S1  
 Primary elections, A4 S5(a), A6 S5(b)  
 Referenda, A3 S10, A6 S5, A7 S3(c), A10 S23(a)

**ELECTIONS (Cont.)**

- Registration, A6 S1, A6 S3
- School boards, A9 S4(a)
- Secret vote, A6 S1
- Special elections
  - Alcoholic beverage sales, A8 S5(a)
  - Community and economic development tax exemption ordinances, A7 S3(c)
  - Constitutional amendment or revision, A11 S5(a)
  - County charter, A8 S1(c)
  - Regulation, A6 S5
- Superintendents of schools, A9 S5
- Supervisors of elections, A8 S1(d)
- Tax authorization, A7 S9(b)
- Term limitation, certain elective offices, A6 S4(c)
- Vote of the electors, definition, A10 S12(d)

**ELECTIONS, SUPERVISORS OF,**  
A8 S1(d)**ELECTRICAL ENERGY FACILITIES,**  
A7 S10(d)**ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES,** A10 S20**EMERGENCIES**

- Budget stabilization fund, withdrawals, A3 S19(g)
- Continuity of government, measures to ensure, A2 S6
- Elections, suspension or delay, A6 S5
- Habeas corpus, suspension of writ, A1 S13
- Seat of government, transfer, A2 S2

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS**

- Killed in line of duty, death benefits for survivors, A10 S31

**EMINENT DOMAIN,** A10 S6**ENEMY ATTACK**  
*See* INVASION**ENERGY**

- Electrical energy facilities, public support, A7 S10(d)
- Renewable energy source devices, taxation, *See* RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE DEVICES
- Solar devices, exemption from taxation and assessments, A7 S3(e), A7 S4(i), A12 S34

**ENGLISH, OFFICIAL LANGUAGE,** A2 S9**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
*See* NATURAL RESOURCES**EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW,** A1 S2**ESTATE TAX,** A7 S5(a)**ETHICS, COMMISSION ON,** A2 S8,  
A12 S38(a)**ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT,** A2 S8, A3 S18,  
A5 S13, A12 S38**EVERGLADES,** A2 S7(b), A10 S17,  
A10 S28(b)**EVIDENCE**

- Defamation, A1 S4
- Inadmissible, A1 S12
- Special laws pertaining to, A3 S11(a)
- Treason, A1 S20

**EX POST FACTO LAWS,** A1 S10**EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT**

- Executive power, A2 S3, A4 S1(a)
- Generally, A4
- Planning processes and planning documents, A3 S19(a), (h)
- Public records and meetings, access to, A1 S24

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS,** A4 S6,  
A12 S16**EXECUTIVE POWER,** A2 S3, A4 S1(a)**F****FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**  
*See* UNITED STATES**FELONIES**

- See* CRIMINAL OFFENSES

**FINANCE**

- Appropriation of state funds, *See* APPROPRIATIONS
- Bonds, *See* BONDS
- Generally, A7
- Revenue, *See* REVENUE

**FINANCE (Cont.)**

State funds, *See* STATE FUNDS

Taxation and Budget Reform

Commission, A2 S5(a), A11 S5(a),  
A11 S6

Taxes, *See* TAXATION

Trust funds, *See* TRUST FUNDS  
(PUBLIC)

**FINES AND FORFEITURES**

(*See also* PUNISHMENT)

Administrative penalties, A1 S18

County courts, A5 S20(c)

Excessive, A1 S17

Minimum wage violations, A10 S24(e)

Owing under 1885 Constitution,

A12 S7(a)

Remission, A3 S11(a), A4 S8(a)

Suspension, A4 S8(a)

**FIREARMS**

Right to bear arms, A1 S8(a)

Sales, criminal history records check,  
A8 S5(b)

Waiting period between purchase and  
delivery, A1 S8(b), (c), (d), A8 S5(b)

**FIREFIGHTERS**

Killed in line of duty, death benefits for  
survivors, A10 S31

**FIRST RESPONDERS**

Homestead tax exemption for disabled  
first responder injured in line of duty,  
A7 S6(f), A12 S35

Homestead tax exemption for surviving  
spouse of first responder killed in line of  
duty, A7 S6(f), A12 S33

**FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION, A4 S9, A12 S23****FISHING**

Commercial fishing property, tax  
assessments, A7 S4(j), A12 S30

Document excise tax proceeds, use for  
habitat protection, A10 S28(b)

Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Commission, A4 S9, A12 S23

Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission,  
A12 S23

Marine Fisheries Commission, A12 S23

Marine net fishing, limitations, A10 S16

Special laws pertaining to freshwater  
fishing, A3 S11(a), A4 S9

**FLAG (STATE), A2 S4**

**FLORIDA BAR**

Attorney General, A4 S5(b)

Attorneys, admission and discipline,  
A5 S15

County court judges, A5 S8,  
A5 S20(c), (d)

Judges, A5 S8

Judicial nominating commission  
members, A5 S20(c)

Judicial Qualifications Commission  
members, A5 S12(a), (f)

Public defenders, A5 S18

State attorneys, A5 S17

**FREEDOM OF PRESS, A1 S4**

**FREEDOM OF RELIGION, A1 S3**

**FREEDOM OF SPEECH, A1 S4**

**G****GAMBLING**

Casino gambling, A10 S30

Dogracing prohibition, A10 S32, A12 S39

Lotteries, A10 S7, A10 S15

Pari-mutuel pools, A10 S7

Pari-mutuel taxes, A7 S7

Slot machines, A10 S23

**GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH  
COMMISSION, A12 S23**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS, A2**

**GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY TASK  
FORCE, A3 S19(i)****GOVERNOR**

Acting, A4 S3(b)

Administration, State Board of; chair,  
A4 S4(e)

Advisory opinions from Supreme Court,  
A4 S1(c)

Appointments

Constitution Revision Commission,  
A11 S2(a), (b)

Education, State Board of, A9 S2

Executive officers or boards, A4 S6

Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
Commission, A4 S9

**GOVERNOR (Cont.)**

## Appointments (Cont.)

- Government Efficiency Task Force, A3 S19(i)
- Judges, A5 S11(a), (b), (c)
- Judicial nominating commission, A5 S20(c)
- Judicial Qualifications Commission, A5 S12(a)
- Militia officers, A10 S2(c)
- State colleges, local boards of trustees, A9 S8(c)
- State universities, local boards of trustees, A9 S7(c)
- State University System Statewide Board of Governors, A9 S7(d)
- Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, A11 S6(a)
- Vacancies in state or local offices, A3 S17(b), A4 S1(f), A4 S7

## Bills

- Executive approval, A3 S8(a)
- Veto, A3 S8, A3 S9, A3 S19(b)
- Budgeting, A4 S1(a), A4 S13
- Capacity, restoration, A4 S3(b)
- Civil rights, restoration, A4 S8(a)
- Clemency, A4 S8(a), (b)
- Commander-in-chief, military forces, A4 S1(a)
- Election, A4 S5(a), (b)
- Executive departments, supervision, A4 S6
- Impeachment, A3 S17(a), A4 S3(b)
- Impeachment trial, presiding officer, A3 S17(c)
- Incapacity to serve, A4 S3(b)
- Internal improvement trust fund, trustee, A4 S4(f)
- Judicial proceedings, initiation, A4 S1(b)
- Land acquisition trust fund, trustee, A4 S4(f)
- Law Enforcement, Department of; agency head, A4 S4(g)
- Legislature
  - Adjournment of session, A3 S3(f)
  - Apportionment sessions, convening, A3 S16(a), (d)
  - Meetings between Governor and legislative leadership, open to public, A3 S4(e)
  - Message on condition of state, A4 S1(e)
  - Special session, convening, A3 S3(c)
  - Veto of bills, A3 S8, A3 S9, A3 S19(b)
- Lieutenant Governor, assignment of duties, A4 S2
- Militia, calling out, A4 S1(d)

**GOVERNOR (Cont.)**

- Office location, A2 S2
- Pardons, A4 S8(a), (b)
- Planning, A3 S19(h), A4 S1(a)
- Powers, generally, A4 S1
- Proclamations
  - Apportionment sessions of Legislature, convening, A3 S16(a), (d)
  - Seat of government, transfer, A2 S2
  - Special session of Legislature, convening, A3 S3(c)
- Qualifications, A4 S5(b)
- Revenue shortfalls, budget reductions, A4 S13
- Seat of government, emergency transfer, A2 S2
- Supreme executive power, A4 S1(a)
- Suspension of officers, A4 S7
- Term limitations, A4 S5(b)
- Term of office, A4 S5(a), (b)
- Vacancy in office, A4 S3(a)
- Veterans' Affairs, Department of; department head, A4 S11

**GRAND JURIES, A1 S15(a)****GREYHOUND RACING, A10 S32, A12 S39****GRIEVANCES, PETITION FOR REDRESS OF, A1 S5****H****HABEAS CORPUS**

- Circuit courts, A5 S5(b)
- District courts of appeal, A5 S4(b)
- Grantable of right, A1 S13
- Supreme Court, A5 S3(b)
- Suspension, A1 S13

**HANDICAPPED PERSONS**

- Deprivation of rights, A1 S2
- Tax exemptions, A7 S3(b), A7 S6(e)

**HEAD OF FAMILY, A7 S3(b)****HEALTH CARE FACILITIES**

- Adverse medical incidents, patients' right to know, A10 S25

**HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF**

- Medical marijuana use, regulation, A10 S29(d)

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY**, A8 S6(e)**HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

- Ad valorem tax assessments and exemptions, A7 S3(d), A7 S4(e), A12 S22
- Bond financing, A7 S11(e)
- Documents excise tax proceeds, use for protection, A10 S28(b)

**HOME RULE CHARTERS**

- Dade County, A8 S6(e)
- Hillsborough County, A8 S6(e)

**HOMESTEAD PROPERTY**

- Alienation, A10 S4(c)
- Condominiums, A7 S6(a)
- Contractual obligations, A10 S4(a)
- Devise, A10 S4(c)
- Equitable title, A7 S6(a)
- Estate by the entirety, A7 S6(a), A10 S4(c)
- Exemptions
  - Forced sale, A10 S4(a), (b)
  - Judgment lien, A10 S4(a), (b)
  - Taxation
    - Disabled first responders, A7 S6(f), A12 S35
    - Elderly persons, A7 S4(f), A7 S6(d), (e), A12 S26, A12 S36
    - Generally, A7 S6, A12 S27
    - Military personnel deployed in support of military operations, A7 S3(g), A12 S31
    - Surviving spouse of deceased first responder, A7 S6(f), A12 S33
    - Surviving spouse of deceased veteran, A7 S6(e), (f), A12 S33, A12 S41
- Extent of property, A10 S4(a)
- Heirs of owner, A10 S4(b)
- Joint ownership, A7 S6(a)
- Leasehold, A7 S6(a)
- Legal title, A7 S6(a)
- Renters, A7 S6(c)
- Stock ownership, A7 S6(a)
- Surviving spouse, A7 S6(e), (f), A10 S4(b), A12 S33, A12 S41
- Taxes and assessments
  - Change of assessments, A7 S4(d)
  - Just value and less than just value assessments, A7 S4(d), A7 S6(a)
  - Limitation on assessments (Save-Our-Homes provisions), A7 S4(d)

**HOMESTEAD PROPERTY** (Cont.)

- Taxes and assessments (Cont.)
  - Living quarters for parents or grandparents, reduction of assessments, A7 S4(f)
- New homesteads, transfer of
  - Save-Our-Homes benefits, A7 S4(d), A12 S27, A12 S40
- Sale for taxes, A10 S4(a)
- Tax exemptions, *See* subtitle Exemptions sub-subtitle Taxation, this heading
- Veteran disabled due to combat injury, property tax discount for veteran and surviving spouse, A7 S6(e), A12 S32, A12 S41

**HOMOSEXUAL PERSONS**

- Same-sex marriage, invalidity, A1 S27

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

- See* LEGISLATURE

**HOUSING BONDS**, A7 S16, A12 S18**HUNTING**, A3 S11(a), A4 S9**HURRICANES**

- Wind damage resistance improvements, taxation, A7 S4(i), A12 S29

**I****IMPEACHMENT**

- Acquittal, A3 S17(b), (c)
- Cabinet members, A3 S17(a)
- Civil responsibility of impeached officer, A3 S17(c)
- Clemency, A4 S8(a)
- Conviction, A3 S17(c)
- Criminal responsibility of impeached officer, A3 S17(c)
- Disqualification from office, A3 S17(b), (c)
- Governor, A3 S17(a), A4 S3(b)
- House of Representatives, power to impeach, A3 S17
- Justices and judges, A3 S17(a), A5 S12(d)
- Lieutenant Governor, A3 S17(a)
- Misdemeanor in office, A3 S17(a)
- Officers liable to impeachment, A3 S17(a)
- Power, A3 S17(a)
- Presiding officer, impeachment trial, A3 S17(c)

**IMPEACHMENT (Cont.)**

- Senate trial, A3 S17(b), (c)
- Vacancy in office, temporary appointment, A3 S17(b)
- Vote, A3 S17(a), (c)

**IMPRISONMENT**

- (See also PUNISHMENT)
- Administrative sentence, A1 S18
- Contempt of Legislature, A3 S5
- Court-martial, imposition of sentence, A1 S18
- Debt, sentence for, A1 S11
- Indefinite, A1 S17
- Sentences under 1885 Constitution, A12 S7(a)

**INALIENABLE RIGHTS, A1 S2****INCOME TAX, A7 S5****INCOMPETENT PERSONS**

- Disqualification from vote and public office, A6 S4(a)
- Homestead property, alienation, A10 S4(c)

**INDICTMENTS, A1 S15(a), A1 S16(a)****INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, A7 S10(c)****INFORMATIONS, A1 S15(a), A1 S16(a)****INHERITANCE TAX, A7 S5(a)****INITIATIVES, A10 S30(a), A11 S3, A11 S5(b), (c)****INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, A7 S15(a), A9 S1(a), A12 S9(a)****INSURRECTION, A1 S13, A4 S1(d)****INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND, A4 S4(f)****INVASION**

- Continuity of government, measures to ensure, A2 S6
- Habeas corpus, suspension of writ, A1 S13
- Militia, calling out, A4 S1(d)
- Seat of government, transfer, A2 S2

**J****JACKSONVILLE, CITY OF, A8 S6(e)****JEOPARDY, DOUBLE, A1 S9****JOINT OWNERSHIP**

- Governmental body with private entities, A7 S10
- Homestead property, A7 S6(a)

**JUDGES**

- Age limit, A5 S8, A5 S20(e), A12 S37
- Appointment, A5 S11(a), (b), (c)
- Bar membership, A5 S8, A5 S20(c), (d)
- Circuit courts, See CIRCUIT COURTS
- Conservators of the peace, A5 S19
- County courts, See COUNTY COURTS
- Discipline, A5 S12
- District courts of appeal, A3 S17(a), A5 S4(a)
- Election, A5 S10, A5 S11(b)
- Eligibility, A5 S8, A5 S20(d)
- Impeachment, A3 S17(a), A5 S12(d)
- Involuntary retirement, A5 S12(b), (c)
- Judicial nominating commissions, A5 S11, A5 S20(c)
- Judicial Qualifications Commission, A2 S8(g), A5 S12, A5 S20(e)
- Lobbying, A5 S13(b), A12 S38
- Nomination, A5 S11
- Number, determination, A5 S9
- Political party office, holding, A5 S13(a)
- Practice of law, A5 S13(a)
- Prohibited activities, A5 S13(a)
- Qualifications, A5 S8, A5 S20(c), (d)
- Removal from office, A5 S12
- Reprimand, A5 S12(a)
- Retention, A5 S10(a)
- Retired judges, temporary duty, A5 S2(b)
- Rule of construction, A10 S12
- Salaries, A5 S14(a), A5 S20(h), A12 S25
- Supreme Court justices, See SUPREME COURT
- Suspension, A5 S12(a), (c)
- Temporary assignments, A5 S2(b), A5 S3(a)
- Terms of office, A5 S10, A5 S11(a), (b)
- Transition provisions, A5 S20
- Vacancy in office, A5 S10(a), A5 S11

**JUDICIAL CIRCUITS**

- Chief judges, See CIRCUIT COURTS
- Circuit courts, generally, See CIRCUIT COURTS
- Court serving, A5 S5(a)

**JUDICIAL CIRCUITS (Cont.)**

Establishment, A5 S1, A5 S20(c)  
 Judges, generally, *See* JUDGES  
 Judicial nominating commissions,  
 A5 S11(d), A5 S20(c)  
 Public defenders, A5 S18  
 Redefining, A5 S9  
 Rules of procedure, A5 S11(d)  
 State attorneys, A5 S17  
 Statewide prosecutor, A4 S4(b)

**JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSIONS,**  
A4 S4(b), A5 S11, A5 S20(c)**JUDICIAL POWER,** A2 S3, A5 S1**JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS  
COMMISSION,** A2 S8(g), A5 S12,  
A5 S20(e)**JUDICIARY,** A5**JURIES**

Grand jury, A1 S15(a)  
 Impartial, right of accused, A1 S16(a)  
 Jurors, qualifications and number, A1 S22  
 Special laws pertaining to, A3 S11(a)  
 Trial by jury, A1 S22

**JUVENILE JUSTICE**

Delinquency charges, A1 S15(b)  
 Trial as adult, A1 S15(b)  
 Victims' rights, A1 S16(b), (d)

**K****KEY WEST, CITY OF,** A8 S6(e)**L****LABOR ORGANIZATIONS**

Collective bargaining, A1 S6  
 Right to work, A1 S6

**LAND ACQUISITION TRUST FUND**

Bond or tax revenues, deposit or credit,  
 A12 S9(a)  
 Conservation purposes, dedicated use,  
 A10 S28  
 Trustees, A4 S4(f)

**LAW ENFORCEMENT, DEPARTMENT  
OF,** A4 S4(g)**LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

Killed in line of duty, death benefits for  
 survivors, A10 S31

**LAWS**

Amendment, A3 S6  
 Appropriations, A3 S8, A3 S12  
 Bill of attainder, A1 S10, A1 S17  
 Bills, *See* LEGISLATURE  
 Classification of political subdivisions,  
 A3 S11(b)  
 Constitution of 1885 provisions,  
 continuance as statutes, A5 S20(g),  
 A12 S10  
 County charters, A8 S1(c)  
 Criminal statutes, effect of repeal, A10 S9  
 Effective date, A3 S9  
 Enacting clause, A3 S6  
 Enactment, A3 S7, A3 S8  
 Ex post facto law, A1 S10  
 Florida Statutes, chapter 203, A12 S9(a)  
 General laws of local application,  
 A3 S11(a), A4 S9  
 Local laws, A8 S6(d), A10 S12(g)  
 Ordinances  
   County, *See* COUNTIES  
   Municipal, *See* MUNICIPALITIES  
 Preservation upon adoption of  
   Constitution, A12 S6  
 Prohibited laws, A1 S3, A1 S4, A1 S10,  
 A3 S11(a)  
 Revision, A3 S6  
 Special laws  
   Consolidation of local governments,  
   A8 S3  
   County charters, A8 S1(c)  
   County self-government powers,  
   A8 S1(f)  
   Definition, A10 S12(g)  
   Notice, intention to enact, A3 S10  
   Prohibited subjects, A3 S11(a), A4 S9  
   Superintendents of schools, A9 S5  
   Subject matter, A3 S6, A3 S11, A3 S12  
   Title, A3 S6

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET COMMISSION,  
JOINT,** A3 S19(c), (j)**LEGISLATIVE POWER,** A2 S3, A3 S1**LEGISLATURE**

Abortions involving minors, powers and  
 duties, A10 S22  
 Apportionment  
   Applicability of constitutional provisions,  
   A12 S13



**LEGISLATURE (Cont.)**

Apportionment (Cont.)  
 Extraordinary apportionment session,  
   A3 S16(d), (e), (f)  
 Failure to apportion, A3 S16(b)  
 Guidelines for redistricting, A3 S21  
 Joint resolution of apportionment,  
   A3 S16  
 Judicial reapportionment, A3 S16(b), (f)  
 Judicial review, A3 S16(c), (d), (e), (f)  
 Representative districts, A3 S16(a)  
 Senatorial districts, A3 S16(a)  
 Special apportionment session,  
   A3 S16(a), (b)  
 Time for mandated reapportionment,  
   A3 S16(a)  
 Validity, A3 S16(c), (d), (e), (f)  
 Appropriations, *See* APPROPRIATIONS  
 Auditor, A3 S2  
 Bills  
   Amendment, A3 S7  
   Amendment of laws, A3 S6  
   Appropriations, A3 S8, A3 S12,  
     A3 S19(b), (d)  
   Classification of political subdivisions,  
     A3 S11(b)  
   Effective date, A3 S9  
   Enacting clause, A3 S6  
   Executive approval, A3 S8  
   Item veto, A3 S8, A3 S19(b)  
   Origin, A3 S7  
   Override of veto, A3 S8(c), A3 S9  
   Passage, A3 S7, A3 S8(a), (c), A3 S9  
   Presentation to Governor, A3 S8(a)  
   Readings, A3 S7  
   Revision of laws, A3 S6  
   Special laws, A3 S10, A3 S11(a)  
   Subject matter, A3 S6, A3 S11, A3 S12  
   Title, A3 S6, A3 S7  
   Veto, A3 S8, A3 S9, A3 S19(b)  
   Vote for passage, A3 S7, A3 S8(c),  
     A7 S1(e), A10 S12(e)  
 Branch of government, A2 S3  
 Budgeting processes, A3 S19, A7 S1(e)  
 Business of, A3 S3(c), (d)  
 Capital projects, approval, A7 S11(f)  
 Committees  
   Impeachment investigations, A3 S17(a)  
   Investigations, A3 S5, A3 S17(a)  
   Meetings, open to public, A3 S4(e)  
   Subpoena power, A3 S5  
   Votes, recording, A3 S4(c)  
   Witnesses, A3 S4(e), A3 S5  
 Composition, A3 S1  
 Concurrent resolutions, A3 S3(e), A5 S9

**LEGISLATURE (Cont.)**

Constitution  
 Amendment, A11 S1, A11 S5(a),  
   A12 S14  
 Schedules, deletion of obsolete items,  
   A5 S20(i), A8 S6(h), A12 S11  
 United States, proposed amendment,  
   A10 S1  
 Contempt, A3 S4(d), A3 S5  
 Courts  
   Appellate districts, establishment,  
     A5 S1, A5 S9  
   Court-martial, authorization, A5 S1  
   Judges, increasing or decreasing  
     number, A5 S9  
   Judicial circuits, establishment, A5 S1  
   Judicial Qualifications Commission  
     rules, repeal, A5 S12(a)  
   Rules of practice and procedure,  
     repeal, A5 S2(a), A5 S11(d)  
   Supreme Court rules, repeal, A5 S2(a)  
 Death penalty execution methods,  
   designation, A1 S17  
 Emergency powers, A2 S6  
 Enemy attack, power to ensure continuity  
   of government, A2 S6  
 General laws requiring local expenditures,  
   limiting ability to raise revenue or  
   reducing percentage of state tax  
   shared, A7 S18  
 Generally, A3  
 Governor  
   Adjournment of session, A3 S3(f)  
   Apportionment sessions, convening by  
     proclamation, A3 S16(a), (d)  
   Meetings between Governor and  
     legislative leadership, open to public,  
     A3 S4(e)  
   Message on condition of state, A4 S1(e)  
   Restoration of capacity, A4 S3(b)  
   Special session, convening by  
     proclamation, A3 S3(c)  
   Veto of bills, A3 S8, A3 S9, A3 S19(b)  
 Historic property tax assessments,  
   allowing county and municipal  
   ordinances, A7 S4(e)  
 Homestead property tax exemption for  
   elderly persons, allowing county and  
   municipal ordinances, A7 S6(d)  
 House of Representatives  
   Clerk, A3 S2, A3 S7  
   Composition, A3 S1  
   Districts, A3 S1, A3 S15(c), A3 S16(a),  
     A3 S21  
   Impeachment of officers, A3 S17

**LEGISLATURE (Cont.)**

- House of Representatives (Cont.)
  - Members
    - Absence, penalties, A3 S4(a)
    - Assumption of office, A3 S15(d)
    - Contempt, A3 S4(d)
    - Disorderly conduct, A3 S4(d)
    - Election, A3 S1, A3 S2, A3 S15(b)
    - Expulsion, A3 S4(d)
    - Lobbying, A2 S8(f)
    - Qualifications, A3 S2, A3 S15(c)
    - Representation of clients before government body, A2 S8(e)
    - Term limitations, A6 S4(c)
    - Term of office, A3 S15(b), A12 S14
    - Vacancy in office, A3 S15(d)
  - Officers, A3 S2, A3 S3(a)
  - Quorum, A3 S4(a)
  - Rules of procedure, A3 S4(a), (e)
  - Speaker
    - Constitution Revision Commission, appointment, A11 S2(a)
    - Government Efficiency Task Force, appointment, A3 S19(i)
    - Impeachment investigation committee, appointment, A3 S17(a)
    - Legislative Budget Commission, appointment, A3 S19(j)
    - Revenue shortfalls, budget reductions, A4 S13
    - Selection, A3 S2
    - Signature, bills and joint resolutions, A3 S7
    - Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, appointment, A11 S6(a)
- Income tax rate, increase authorization, A7 S5
- Investigations, A3 S5, A3 S17(a)
- Joint resolutions, A3 S7, A3 S16, A11 S1
- Journals
  - Bill titles, publication, A3 S7
  - Constitutional amendment resolution, A11 S1
  - Governor's vetoes, entry, A3 S8(b)
  - Publication, A3 S4(c)
  - Requirement, A3 S4(c)
  - Votes of members, A3 S4(c), A3 S7, A3 S8(c)
- Legislative Budget Commission, Joint, A3 S19(c), (j)
- Legislative power, A2 S3, A3 S1
- Marine net fishing violations, enactment of more stringent penalties, A10 S16(e)

**LEGISLATURE (Cont.)**

- Meetings, open to the public, A1 S24(b), A3 S4(e)
- Minimum wage for Floridians, powers, A10 S24(f)
- Motor vehicle license revenues, legislative restrictions, A12 S9(d)
- Pardon, treason cases, A4 S8(b)
- Planning documents, review, A3 S19(h)
- Public education capital projects, authorization, A12 S9(a)
- Public financing of campaigns for statewide offices, funding, A6 S7
- Punishment power, A3 S4(d), A3 S5
- Reapportionment, *See* subtitle Apportionment, this heading
- Records of legislative branch, access to, A1 S24
- Revenue collection limitation, increase by two-thirds vote, A7 S1(e)
- School capital outlay projects, authorization, A12 S9(a)
- Senate
  - Appointment or removal of public officers, A3 S4(b), A4 S6(a)
  - Closed sessions, A3 S4(b)
  - Composition, A3 S1
  - Confirmation of appointments
    - Education, State Board of, A9 S2
    - Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, A4 S9
    - Militia general officers, A10 S2(c)
    - Requirement, A4 S6(a)
    - State University System Statewide Board of Governors, A9 S7(d)
  - Districts, A3 S1, A3 S15(a), (c), A3 S16(a), A3 S21
  - Impeachment trial, A3 S17(b), (c)
  - Officers, A3 S2, A3 S3(a)
- President
  - Constitution Revision Commission, appointment, A11 S2(a)
  - Government Efficiency Task Force, appointment, A3 S19(i)
  - Legislative Budget Commission, appointment, A3 S19(j)
  - Revenue shortfalls, budget reductions, A4 S13
  - Selection, A3 S2
  - Signature, bills and joint resolutions, A3 S7
  - Special sessions, convening, A4 S7(b)
  - Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, appointment, A11 S6(a)

**LEGISLATURE** (Cont.)

- Senate (Cont.)
  - Quorum, A3 S4(a)
  - Rules of procedure, A3 S4(a), (e)
  - Secretary, A3 S2, A3 S7
- Senators
  - Absence, penalties, A3 S4(a)
  - Assumption of office, A3 S15(d)
  - Contempt, A3 S4(d)
  - Disorderly conduct, A3 S4(d)
  - Election, A3 S1, A3 S2, A3 S15(a)
  - Expulsion, A3 S4(d)
  - Lobbying, A2 S8(f)
  - Qualifications, A3 S2, A3 S15(c)
  - Representation of clients before government body, A2 S8(e)
  - Term limitations, A6 S4(c)
  - Term of office, A3 S15(a), A12 S12
  - Vacancy in office, A3 S15(d)
- Special sessions, A4 S7(b)
- Suspended officers, removal or reinstatement, A4 S7(b)
- Sessions
  - Adjournment, A3 S3(e), (f), A3 S4(a)
  - Apportionment sessions
    - Extraordinary, A3 S16(d), (e), (f)
    - Regular, A3 S16(a)
    - Special, A3 S16(a), (b)
  - Closed, A3 S4(b)
  - Extension, A3 S3(d)
  - Length, A3 S3(d)
  - Location, A2 S2
  - Organization sessions, A3 S3(a)
  - Public, A3 S4(b)
  - Regular sessions, A3 S3(b), (d), (f), A3 S8(b)
  - Special sessions, A3 S3(c), (d), (f), A3 S8(b), A3 S16(a), (b), A4 S7(b)
- Slot machines in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, duties, A10 S23(b)
- Subpoena power, A3 S5
- United States Constitution, proposed amendment, A10 S1
- Voting, A3 S4(c), A3 S7, A3 S8(c), A10 S12(e)
- Witnesses, A3 S4(e), A3 S5

**LEON COUNTY**, A2 S2**LICENSING BOARDS**, A4 S6(b)**LIENS**

- Exempt property, A10 S4(a)
- Intangible personal property tax, obligations secured by lien, A7 S2

**LIENS** (Cont.)

- Special laws pertaining to, A3 S11(a)

**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

- Acting Governor, A4 S3(b)
- Creation of office, A4 S2
- Duties, A4 S2
- Election, A4 S5(a)
- Executive departments, supervision, A4 S6
- Impeachment, A3 S17(a)
- Office location, A2 S2
- Qualifications, A4 S5(b)
- Succession to office of Governor, A4 S3(a)
- Term limitations, A6 S4(c)
- Term of office, A4 S5(a)

**LIFE AND LIBERTY, RIGHT TO**, A1 S2**LOBBYING**, A2 S8(f), A5 S13(b), A12 S38**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

- Bond financing, *See* BONDS
- Classification in general laws, A3 S11(b)
- Consolidation, A8 S3, A8 S6(e)
- Counties, *See* COUNTIES
- Credit, pledging, A7 S10
- Districts, *See* SPECIAL DISTRICTS
- Electric generation and transmission facilities, A7 S10(d)
- Generally, A8
- Home rule, A8 S6(e)
- Joint ownership with private entities, A7 S10
- Municipalities, *See* MUNICIPALITIES
- Public funds, investment, A7 S10(a), (b)
- Taxes, A7 S9
- Taxing power, limitation, A7 S10
- Transfer of powers, A8 S4

**LOTTERIES**, A10 S7, A10 S15**M****MANDAMUS**

- Circuit courts, A5 S5(b)
- District courts of appeal, A5 S4(b)
- Supreme Court, A5 S3(b)

**MANUFACTURING PLANTS**, A7 S10(c)**MARIJUANA (MEDICAL)**, A10 S29

**MARINE ANIMALS***See* FISHING**MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION,**

A12 S23

**MARRIAGE**

Same-sex marriage, invalidity, A1 S27

**MEDICAL MARIJUANA, A10 S29****MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE, A1 S26,**  
A10 S25, A10 S26**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, A8 S6(e), (f), (g),**  
A10 S23**MILITARY AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF,**  
A1 S18**MILITARY PERSONNEL**Killed in line of duty, death benefits for  
survivors, A10 S31

Tax exemption, A7 S3(g), A12 S31

**MILITARY POWER, A1 S7****MILITIA**

Adjutant General, A10 S2(c), (d)

Call to duty, A4 S1(d)

Commander-in-chief, A4 S1(a)

Composition, A10 S2(a)

Courts-martial, A1 S15(a)

National Guard, A7 S3(g), A10 S2(d),  
A12 S31**Officers**

Appointment, A10 S2(c)

Holding public office, A2 S5(a)

Suspension, A4 S7(a), (b)

Organization, maintenance, and  
discipline, A10 S2(b)

Power subordinate to civil, A1 S7

**MINIMUM WAGE, A10 S24****MINORITIES**Congressional or legislative redistricting,  
effect on, A3 S20, A3 S21**MINORS***See* CHILDREN**MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS, A10****MOBILE HOMES, A7 S1(b)****MONROE COUNTY, A8 S6(e)****MORTGAGES, A7 S2****MOTOR VEHICLES**

Ad valorem taxes, A7 S1(b)

Fuel taxes, A7 S17(b), A12 S9(c)

License revenues, A12 S9(d)

License tax, A7 S1(b)

Trailers and trailer coaches, A7 S1(b)

**MUNICIPALITIES**

Abolishment, A8 S2(a)

Ad valorem taxation, A7 S9, A12 S2

Annexation, A8 S2(c)

Bond financing, A7 S10(c), A7 S12

Charter, A4 S7(c), A8 S2(a)

Civil service system, A3 S14

Consolidation of local governments,  
A8 S3, A8 S6(e)

Courts, A5 S20(d)

Credit, pledging, A7 S10

Dade County, Metropolitan Government  
of, A8 S6(f)

Elections, A6 S6

Electric generation and transmission  
facilities, A7 S10(d)

Establishment, A8 S2(a)

Extraterritorial powers, A8 S2(c)

Indebtedness, certificates of, A7 S12

Investment of public funds, A7 S10(a), (b)

Jacksonville, City of, A8 S6(e)

Joint ownership with private entities,  
A7 S10

Key West, City of, A8 S6(e)

Legislative bodies, A8 S2(b)

Mandated expenditure of funds, funding  
by Legislature, A7 S18(a)

Meetings, access to, A1 S24(b)

Mergers, A8 S2(c)

**Officers**

Continuance in office, A8 S6(c)

Holding other offices, A2 S5(a)

Lobbying, A2 S8(f)

Prosecutor, A5 S17, A5 S20(c)

Suspension from office, A4 S7(c)

**Ordinances**Community and economic development  
tax exemptions, A7 S3(c)Conflict with county ordinances,  
A8 S1(f), (g)Historic properties, A7 S3(d), A7 S4(e),  
A12 S22

**MUNICIPALITIES (Cont.)**

- Ordinances (Cont.)
  - Homestead property tax exemption for elderly persons, A7 S6(d)
  - Violations, prosecution, A5 S17
- Pollution control facilities, state bond financing, A7 S14
- Powers, A8 S2(b), (c), A8 S6(b)
- Property owned by, taxation, A7 S3(a)
- Property within, taxation by county, A8 S1(h)
- Reduction of authority to raise revenue, legislative approval, A7 S18(b)
- State aid, A7 S8
- State tax revenues, legislative approval of reduction, A7 S18(c)
- Status, continuation upon adoption of Constitution, A8 S6(b)
- Tallahassee, City of, A2 S2
- Tax anticipation certificates, A7 S12
- Taxes, A7 S9, A12 S2
- Taxing power, limitation, A7 S10
- Transfer of function or power, A8 S4
- Utility services gross receipts tax, payment, A12 S9(a)
- Waste disposal facilities, state bond financing, A7 S14
- Water facilities, state bond financing, A7 S14

**N**

**NATIONAL GUARD**, A7 S3(g), A10 S2(d), A10 S31, A12 S31

**NATIONAL ORIGIN DISCRIMINATION**, A1 S2

**NATIVE AMERICANS**

- Gaming compacts, A10 S30(c)

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

- Conservation and protection
  - Bond financing, A7 S11(e), A12 S9(a)
  - Debt service on bonds, A10 S28(b)
  - Document excise tax proceeds, use for conservation purposes, A10 S28
- Everglades Trust Fund, disbursements, A10 S17(a), (c)
- General provisions, A2 S7(a)
- Oil and gas drilling in Florida territorial waters, prohibition, A2 S7(c)
- Scenic beauty, A2 S7(a)
- State conservation lands, disposition restrictions, A10 S18

**NATURAL RESOURCES (Cont.)**

- Conservation and protection (Cont.)
  - Taxation of land held for conservation purposes, A7 S3(f), A7 S4(b), A12 S28
- Fish and marine animals, *See* FISHING
- Noise abatement, A2 S7(a)
- Pollution control and abatement, A2 S7, A7 S14
- Recreation land acquisition and improvement, bond issuance, A7 S11(e), A12 S9(a)

**NAVIGABLE WATERS**, A10 S11

**NET FISHING**, A10 S16

**NOISE POLLUTION**, A2 S7(a)

**NOTARIES PUBLIC**, A2 S5(a)

**O****OATHS**

- Electors, A6 S3
- Public officers, A2 S5(b)

**OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION**

- Licensing boards, A4 S6(b)
- Special laws pertaining to, A3 S11(a)

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE**, A2 S9

**OIL AND GAS DRILLING**, A2 S7(c)

**OPEN MEETINGS**, A1 S24(b), (c), (d), A3 S4(e), A12 S20

**ORDINANCES**

- County, *See* COUNTIES
- Municipal, *See* MUNICIPALITIES

**OUTDOOR RECREATION**, A7 S11(e), A10 S28(b), A12 S9(a)

**P****PARAMEDICS**

- Killed in line of duty, death benefits for survivors, A10 S31

**PARDON**, A4 S8(a), (b)

**PARENT AND CHILD**

Abortion involving minor, prior notification of parent, A10 S22

**PARI-MUTUEL GAMBLING**, A7 S7, A10 S7, A10 S23

**PAROLE**, A1 S16(b), A4 S8(c)

**PAROLE AND PROBATION COMMISSION**, A4 S8(c)

**PENSION SYSTEMS (PUBLIC)**, A2 S8(d), A10 S14

**PETITION**

Constitutional amendment initiative, A11 S3, A11 S5(b)  
Constitutional convention call, A11 S4(a)  
Redress of grievances, A1 S5

**PHYSICIANS**

Medical marijuana use, certification, A10 S29(a)  
Repeated medical malpractice, public protection, A10 S26

**PIGS**, A10 S21

**PLANNING**

Governor, responsibility, A3 S19(h), A4 S1(a)  
State planning processes and planning documents, A3 S19(a), (h)

**POLITICAL PARTIES**, A5 S13(a), A6 S1

**POLITICAL POWER**, A1 S1

**POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS**

Classification in general laws, A3 S11(b)  
Counties, *See* COUNTIES  
Municipalities, *See* MUNICIPALITIES  
Special districts, *See* SPECIAL DISTRICTS

**POLLUTION CONTROL AND ABATEMENT**, A2 S7, A7 S14

**PORT FACILITIES**, A7 S10(c)

**POWERS OF GOVERNMENT**

Executive power, A2 S3, A4 S1(a)  
Judicial power, A2 S3, A5 S1

**POWERS OF GOVERNMENT (Cont.)**

Legislative power, A2 S3, A3 S1  
Military power, A1 S7  
Political power, A1 S1  
Separation of powers, A2 S3

**PREGNANT PIGS**, A10 S21

**PRESS, FREEDOM OF**, A1 S4

**PRETRIAL RELEASE AND DETENTION**, A1 S14, A1 S16(b)

**PRIVACY, RIGHT OF**, A1 S23, A10 S22

**PROBATION**, A4 S8(c)

**PROHIBITION, WRIT OF**, A5 S3(b), A5 S4(b), A5 S5(b)

**PROPERTY**

Acquisition, possession, and protection; rights of, A1 S2  
Ad valorem taxes, *See* TAXATION  
Curtesy, A10 S5  
Deprivation without due process of law, A1 S9  
Dower, A10 S5  
Drainage easements, A10 S6(b)  
Eminent domain, A10 S6  
Forced sale, exemptions from, A10 S4  
Homestead, *See* HOMESTEAD  
**PROPERTY**  
Leases, publicly financed facilities, A7 S10(c)  
Liens, A3 S11(a), A7 S2, A10 S4  
Married women, A10 S5  
Municipal property, taxation, A7 S3(a)  
Recreation lands, state bond financing, A12 S9(a)  
Rights to acquire, possess, and protect, A1 S2  
Sovereignty lands, A10 S11  
Special laws pertaining to, A3 S11(a)  
Submerged lands, A10 S11  
Taking for public purposes, A10 S6  
Taxation, *See* TAXATION subtitle Ad valorem taxes

**PROPERTY APPRAISERS**, A8 S1(d)

**PUBLIC DEFENDERS**, A5 S14(a), (c), A5 S18, A12 S25

**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

Abuse of public position, A2 S8(h),  
A12 S38  
Breach of public trust, A2 S8(c), (d), (g)  
Civil service system, A3 S14  
Conflicts of interest, A2 S8(h), A3 S18  
Ethics, code of, A2 S8, A3 S18  
Financial interests, disclosure, A2 S8  
Records, access to, A1 S24(a)  
Representation of clients before  
government body, A2 S8(e)  
Strike, right to, A1 S6

**PUBLIC LANDS**, A10 S11, A12 S9(a)

**PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Access to and notice of,  
A1 S24(b), (c), (d), A3 S4(e), A12 S20  
Legislature, A3 S4(e)

**PUBLIC OFFICERS**

Abuse of public position, A2 S8(h),  
A12 S38  
Bond, A2 S5(b)  
Breach of public trust, A2 S8(c), (d), (g)  
Campaign finances, disclosure, A2 S8(b)  
Civil service system, A3 S14  
Compensation, A2 S5(c), A3 S12, A12 S3  
Conflicts of interest, A2 S8(h), A3 S18  
Continuance in office upon adoption of  
Constitution, A8 S6(c), A12 S3  
County officers, *See* COUNTIES  
Creation of office, limitation of term of  
office, A3 S13  
Ethics, code of, A2 S8, A3 S18  
Felons, disqualification from holding  
office, A6 S4(a)  
Financial interests, disclosure, A2 S8  
Holding other offices, A2 S5(a)  
Impeachment, *See* IMPEACHMENT  
Lobbying, A2 S8(f), A12 S38  
Mentally incompetent persons,  
disqualification from holding office,  
A6 S4(a)  
Municipal officers, *See* MUNICIPALITIES  
Oath of office, A2 S5(b)  
Powers and duties, A2 S5(b), (c)  
Quasi-judicial power, A5 S1  
Records, access to, A1 S24(a)  
Representation of clients before  
government body, A2 S8(e)  
Special laws pertaining to, A3 S11(a)  
Succession, enemy attack emergency,  
A2 S6  
Suspension from office, A4 S7  
Terms of office, *See* TERMS OF OFFICE

**PUBLIC OFFICERS (Cont.)**

Vacancies in office, *See* VACANCY IN  
OFFICE

**PUBLIC RECORDS**

Access to, A1 S24(a), (c), (d), A12 S20  
Exemptions from disclosure,  
A1 S24(a), (c)

**PUNISHMENT**

Abuse of public position, A2 S8(h),  
A12 S38(b)  
Administrative penalties, A1 S18  
Breach of public trust, A2 S8(c), (d)  
Clemency, A1 S16(b), A4 S8  
Contempt, A3 S4(d), A3 S5  
Costs, payment by accused, A1 S19  
County ordinance violations, A8 S1(j)  
Court-martial, A1 S18  
Cruel and unusual, A1 S17  
Death penalty, A1 S17, A5 S3(b)  
Dogracing, A10 S32  
Excessive, A1 S17  
Imprisonment for debt, A1 S11  
Judges, discipline, A5 S12(a), (c), (e)  
Juvenile delinquents, A1 S15(b)  
Legislators, A3 S4(a), (d)  
Pardon, A4 S8(a), (b)  
Parole, A1 S16(b), A4 S8(c)  
Penalties, fines, and forfeitures under  
1885 Constitution, A12 S7(a)  
Probation, A4 S8(c)  
Sentences under 1885 Constitution,  
A12 S7(a)  
Special laws pertaining to, A3 S11(a)  
Witnesses, legislative investigation, A3 S5

**Q**

**QUASI-JUDICIAL POWER**, A5 S1

**QUO WARRANTO, WRIT OF**, A5 S3(b),  
A5 S4(b), A5 S5(b)

**R**

**RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**, A1 S2

**RACING (DOGS)**, A10 S32, A12 S39

**REBELLION**, A1 S13, A4 S1(d)

**RECORDS CUSTODIAN**

*See* CUSTODIAN OF STATE RECORDS

**RECREATION LANDS AND FACILITIES,**

A12 S9(a)

**RELIGION**

Discrimination based on, A1 S2  
 Establishment and free exercise of, A1 S3  
 Military duty, exemption, A10 S2(a)  
 Property used for religious purposes, tax exemption, A7 S3(a)  
 Public revenue in aid of, A1 S3

**RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, A1 S3****RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE DEVICES**

Ad valorem tax assessment, prohibition of consideration of installation, A7 S4(i), A12 S29, A12 S34  
 Ad valorem tax exemption, A7 S3(e), A12 S19, A12 S34

**RESIDENCE**

Cabinet members, A4 S5(b)  
 County commissioners, A8 S1(e)  
 Electors, A6 S2  
 Governor, A4 S5(b)  
 Homestead, A7 S6(a), A10 S4(a)  
 Judges, A5 S3(a), A5 S8  
 Legislators, A3 S15(c)  
 Lieutenant Governor, A4 S5(b)  
 Public defenders, A5 S18  
 State attorneys, A5 S17  
 Supreme Court justices, A5 S3(a)

**RETIREMENT SYSTEMS (PUBLIC),**

A2 S8(d), A10 S14

**REVENUE**

(*See also* STATE FUNDS; TAXATION)  
 Aid to church, sect, or religious denomination, A1 S3  
 Bond repayment, A7 S11(d)  
 Court fees, funding clerks of circuit and county courts, A5 S14(b)  
 Gross receipts tax, application, A12 S9(a)  
 License fees, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, A4 S9  
 Limitation on collection, A7 S1(e), A11 S3, A12 S21  
 Local government authority to raise revenue, reduction by Legislature, A7 S18(b)

**REVENUE (Cont.)**

Motor vehicle fuel taxes, allocation, A7 S17(b), A12 S9(c)  
 Motor vehicle license revenues, A12 S9(d)  
 New fees imposed by constitutional amendment, approval by two-thirds of voters, A11 S7  
 Pari-mutuel taxes, allocation, A7 S7  
 Raising to defray state expenses, A7 S1(d)  
 Revenue shortfalls, budget reductions, A3 S19(h), A4 S13  
 Second gas tax, allocation, A12 S9(c)  
 State universities; supermajority to impose, authorize, or raise fees, A9 S7(e)  
 Supermajority vote to impose, authorize, or raise state fees, A7 S19  
 Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, review of revenue needs, A11 S6(d)

**REVENUE BONDS**

*See* BONDS

**REVISION**

*See* AMENDMENT

**RIGHT OF PRIVACY, A1 S23, A10 S22****RIGHT TO ASSEMBLE, A1 S5****RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS, A1 S8(a)****RIGHT TO WORK, A1 S6****RIGHTS, DECLARATION OF, A1****RIGHTS OF ACCUSED, A1 S16(a), A1 S19****RIGHTS OF TAXPAYERS, A1 S25****RIGHTS OF VICTIMS OF CRIME, A1 S16(b), (c), (d), (e)****RIGHTS, PROPERTY, A1 S2****ROADS AND HIGHWAYS, A3 S11(a), A7 S17, A12 S9(b), (c)****S****SCENIC BEAUTY, A2 S7(a)**



**SCHEDULES**

Bonds, A12 S9, A12 S18  
 Broward County, A8 S6(g)  
 Conflicting provisions, A12 S17  
 Conservation property, ad valorem tax exemption and tax assessment, A12 S28  
 Consolidation and home rule, A8 S6(e)  
 Constitution of 1885 superseded, A12 S1  
 County officers, selection and duties, A8 S6(g)  
 Deletion of obsolete items, A5 S20(i), A8 S6(h), A12 S11  
 Degracing prohibition, A12 S39  
 Education, Commissioner of, A12 S4, A12 S6(b)  
 Ethics in government, A2 S8(i)  
 Executive branch reform, A12 S24(a)  
 Existing government, preservation, A12 S10  
 Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, abolishment, A12 S23(c), (d)  
 Historic property, ad valorem tax exemption and tax assessment, A12 S22  
 Homestead property, A12 S26, A12 S27, A12 S31, A12 S32, A12 S33, A12 S35, A12 S36, A12 S40, A12 S41  
 Judicial Qualifications Commission, A5 S12(f)  
 Judiciary, A5 S12(f), A5 S20, A12 S25  
 Laws preserved, A12 S6  
 Legislative apportionment, A12 S13  
 Local governments, A8 S6  
 Marine Fisheries Commission, abolishment, A12 S23(c), (d)  
 Miami-Dade County, A8 S6(f), (g)  
 Officers to continue in office, A8 S6(c), A12 S3  
 Ordinances, A8 S6(d)  
 Property taxes, A12 S2, A12 S27  
 Public debts recognized, A12 S8  
 Public positions, abuse, A12 S38  
 Public records and meetings, access to, A12 S20  
 Renewable energy source devices, taxation, A12 S19, A12 S29, A12 S34  
 Reorganization of executive departments, A12 S16  
 Representatives, A12 S14  
 Revenue limitation, A12 S21  
 Rights reserved, A12 S7  
 Senators, A12 S12  
 Solar devices, taxation, A12 S34  
 Special district taxes, A12 S15

**SCHEDULES (Cont.)**

Superintendents of schools, A12 S5, A12 S6(b)  
 Transition from 1885 Constitution, A12  
 Veteran disabled due to combat injury, homestead property tax discount, A12 S32  
 Veteran disabled due to combat injury, homestead property tax discount for surviving spouse, A12 S41  
 Wind damage resistance improvements, taxation, A12 S29  
 Working waterfront property, ad valorem tax assessment, A12 S30

**SCHOOL BOARDS, A2 S8(f), A9 S4, A9 S5, A12 S9(d)****SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

Ad valorem taxes, A7 S6(a), A7 S9, A9 S4(b)  
 Bonds, A7 S12  
 Boundaries, A9 S4(a)  
 Capital projects financing, A7 S12(a), A12 S9(a), (d)  
 Credit, pledging, A7 S10  
 Indebtedness, certificates of, A7 S12  
 Investment of public funds, A7 S10(a), (b)  
 Joint educational programs, A9 S4(b)  
 Joint ownership with private entities, A7 S10  
 Meetings, access to, A1 S24(b)  
 Motor vehicle licensing revenue, distribution, A12 S9(d)  
 School boards, A9 S4, A9 S5, A12 S9(d)  
 State aid, A7 S8  
 Superintendents of schools, A2 S8(f), A9 S5, A12 S5, A12 S6(b)  
 Tax anticipation certificates, A7 S12  
 Taxes, A7 S6(a), A7 S9, A9 S4(b)  
 Taxing power, limitation, A7 S10

**SCHOOLS**

See EDUCATION

**SCHOOLS, SUPERINTENDENTS OF, A2 S8(f), A9 S5, A12 S5, A12 S6(b)****SEAL (STATE), A2 S4****SEARCH WARRANTS, A1 S12****SEARCHES AND SEIZURES, A1 S12****SEAT OF GOVERNMENT, A2 S2**

**SELF-INCRIMINATION**, A1 S9

**SENATE**

*See* LEGISLATURE

**SEPARATION OF POWERS**, A2 S3

**SHERIFFS**, A5 S3(c), A5 S4(c), A8 S1(d)

**SLOT MACHINES**, A10 S23

**SMOKING**, A10 S20, A10 S27

**SOLAR DEVICES**, A7 S3(e), A7 S4(i),  
A12 S34

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER  
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**, A10 S17

**SOVEREIGNTY LANDS**, A10 S11

**SPECIAL DISTRICTS**

Ad valorem taxation, A7 S9, A12 S2,  
A12 S15

Bond financing, A7 S10(c), A7 S12

Civil service system, A3 S14

Credit, pledging, A7 S10

Elections, A6 S6

Electric generation and transmission  
facilities, A7 S10(d)

Indebtedness, certificates of, A7 S12

Investment of public funds, A7 S10(a), (b)

Joint ownership with private entities,  
A7 S10

Lobbying by officers, A2 S8(f)

Meetings, access to, A1 S24(b)

Pollution control facilities, state bond  
financing, A7 S14

State aid, A7 S8

Status, continuation upon adoption of  
Constitution, A8 S6(b)

Tax anticipation certificates, A7 S12

Taxes, A7 S9, A12 S2, A12 S15

Taxing power, limitation, A7 S10

Transfer of function or power, A8 S4

Waste disposal facilities, state bond  
financing, A7 S14

Water facilities, state bond financing,  
A7 S14

**SPECIAL LAWS**

*See* LAWS

**SPEECH, FREEDOM OF**, A1 S4

**STATE ATTORNEYS**

Generally, A5 S17

Office funding, A5 S14(a), (c), A12 S25

Speedy trial demand, A1 S16(b)

Transition provisions, A5 S20(e)

Victims' rights, enforcement, A1 S16(c)

**STATE BOUNDARIES**, A2 S1

**STATE COLLEGES**, A7 S15(a), A9 S8,  
A12 S9(a), (d)

**STATE FLAG**, A2 S4

**STATE FUNDS**

*(See also* REVENUE)

Aid to local governments, A7 S8

Appropriations, *See* APPROPRIATIONS

Chief financial officer, duties, A4 S4(c)

Investment, A7 S10(a), (b)

Mandated expenditure of funds by local  
governments, funding by Legislature,  
A7 S18(a)

Money drawn from treasury, A7 S1(c)

School fund, A9 S6

Trust funds, *See* TRUST FUNDS  
(PUBLIC)

**STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS**,  
A2 S8(d), A10 S14

**STATE SEAL**, A2 S4

**STATE, SECRETARY OF**, A12 S24(b)

**STATE TREASURY**, A7 S1(c)

**STATE UNIVERSITIES**, A7 S15(a),  
A9 S1(a), A9 S7, A12 S9(a)

**STATEWIDE PROSECUTOR**, A4 S4(b)

**STUDENT LOANS**, A7 S15

**SUBMERGED LANDS**, A10 S11

**SUITS AGAINST STATE**, A10 S13

**SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS**,  
A2 S8(f), A9 S5, A12 S5, A12 S6(b)

**SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS**, A8 S1(d)

**SUPREME COURT**

(*See also* COURTS)  
 Advisory opinions, A4 S1(c), A4 S10, A5 S3(b)  
 Appellate districts, recommendations for redefining, A5 S9  
 Attorneys, admission to practice of law and discipline, A5 S15  
 Chief justice  
   Appeals and collateral attacks on judgment, report on completion, A1 S16(b)  
   Appointment, A5 S2(b)  
   Assignment of temporary judges, A5 S2(b)  
   Constitution Revision Commission members, appointment, A11 S2(a)  
   Impeachment trials, presiding, A3 S17(c)  
   Revenue shortfalls, budget reductions, A4 S13  
 Clerk, A5 S3(c)  
 Death penalty, review, A5 S3(b)  
 Decisions, A5 S3(a)  
 Direct appeal, A5 S3(b)  
 Discipline of justices and judges, A5 S12(a), (c), (e)  
 District court of appeal decisions, review, A5 S3(b)  
 Final judgments and orders, review, A5 S3(b)  
 Governor  
   Advisory opinions, A4 S1(c)  
   Incapacity determination, A4 S3(b)  
 Habeas corpus, writ of, A5 S3(b)  
 Initiative petitions, review, A4 S10, A5 S3(b)  
 Judges  
   Certificates of need, A5 S9  
   Discipline, A5 S12(c)  
   Temporary assignment to Supreme Court, A5 S3(a)  
 Judicial circuits, recommendations for redefining, A5 S9  
 Judicial nominating commission, A4 S4(b), A5 S11(d)  
 Judicial power vested in, A5 S1  
 Judicial Qualifications Commission, powers and duties, A5 S12  
 Jurisdiction, A5 S3(b), A5 S20(c)  
 Justices  
   (*See also* JUDGES)  
   Age limit, A5 S8, A5 S20(e), A12 S37  
   Chief Justice, *See* subtitle Chief justice, this heading  
   Definition, A5 S20(c), A10 S12(f)

**SUPREME COURT (Cont.)**

Justices (Cont.)  
 Discipline, A5 S12(a), (c), (e)  
 Election, A5 S10(a)  
 Impeachment, A3 S17(a)  
 Judges, temporary assignment, A5 S3(a)  
 Lobbying, A5 S13(b), A12 S38  
 Number, A5 S3(a)  
 Political party office, holding, A5 S13(a)  
 Practice of law, A5 S13(a)  
 Quorum, A5 S3(a)  
 Recusal, A5 S3(a)  
 Residency requirement, A5 S3(a)  
 Retention, A5 S10(a)  
 Retired, temporary duty, A5 S2(b)  
 Temporary duty with other courts, A5 S2(b)  
 Term of office, A5 S10(a)  
 Transition provisions, A5 S20(e)  
 Vacancy in office, A5 S10(a)  
 Legislative apportionment  
   Apportionment orders, A3 S16(b), (f)  
   Declaratory judgments of validity, A3 S16(c), (d), (e), (f)  
 Location, A2 S2  
 Mandamus, writ of, A5 S3(b)  
 Marshal, A5 S3(c)  
 Organization, A5 S3(a)  
 Process, A5 S3(c)  
 Prohibition, writ of, A5 S3(b)  
 Quo warranto, writ of, A5 S3(b)  
 Quorum, A5 S3(a)  
 Regulatory agency actions, review, A5 S3(b)  
 Rules  
   Appellate districts, criteria for redefining, A5 S9  
   Appellate review, interlocutory orders, A5 S4(b)  
   Chief circuit court judges, selection, A5 S2(d)  
   Court practice and procedure, A5 S2(a), A5 S11(d)  
   Judges, determination of need, A5 S9  
   Judicial circuits, criteria for redefining, A5 S9  
   Military law questions, advisory opinions, A5 S2(a)  
 Trial court judgments and orders, review, A5 S3(b)  
 United States courts, certified questions of law, A5 S3(b)  
 United States Supreme Court, A1 S12, A1 S17, A5 S3(b), A10 S22  
 Writs, power to issue, A5 S3(b)

## T

**TALLAHASSEE, CITY OF**, A2 S2

**TAX COLLECTORS**, A8 S1(d)

**TAXATION**

Ad valorem taxes

Agricultural land, A7 S4(a)  
 Aquifer recharge lands, A7 S4(a)  
 Assessment of property, A7 S4, A7 S8,  
 A7 S13, A12 S27

Bonds payable from, A7 S12  
 Businesses, new or expanding,  
 A7 S3(c)

Conservation property, A7 S3(f),  
 A7 S4(b), A12 S28

Counties, A7 S9, A8 S1(h), A12 S2

Educational, literary, scientific,  
 religious, or charitable-use property,  
 A7 S3(a)

Exemptions, A7 S3, A7 S4(c), A7 S6,  
 A12 S19, A12 S27, A12 S28,  
 A12 S34

Historic properties, A7 S3(d), A12 S22

Homestead property, *See*  
**HOMESTEAD PROPERTY**

Illegal assessments, relief from, A7 S13

Intangible personal property, A7 S2,  
 A7 S9(a)

Leases, publicly financed facilities,  
 A7 S10(c)

Livestock, A7 S4(c)

Local governments, A7 S9

Millage, A7 S2, A7 S9(b), A12 S2

Mortgages, obligations secured by,  
 A7 S2

Municipal properties, A7 S3(a)

Municipalities, A7 S9, A12 S2

Property appraisers, A8 S1(d)

Property within municipalities, benefit  
 for county unincorporated areas,  
 A8 S1(h)

Rates, A7 S2, A7 S9(b), A12 S2

Real property

Change of assessments,  
 A7 S4(g), (h), A12 S27  
 Exemptions, A7 S3, A7 S6

Local taxes, A7 S9

Rate, A7 S2, A7 S9(b)

State tax, A7 S1(a)

Valuation, A7 S4

Recreational lands, A7 S4(a)

Renewable energy source devices, *See*  
**RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE  
 DEVICES**

**TAXATION (Cont.)**

Ad valorem taxes (Cont.)

Renters, tax relief, A7 S6(c)

Residential property containing nine  
 units or fewer, A7 S4(g), A12 S27

School purposes, A7 S6(a), A7 S9,  
 A9 S4(b)

Solar devices, A7 S3(e), A7 S4(i),  
 A12 S34

Special districts, A7 S9, A12 S2,  
 A12 S15

State, A7 S1(a)

Stock-in-trade, A7 S4(c)

Tangible personal property  
 Exemptions, A7 S1(b), A7 S3(c), (e),  
 A7 S4(c), A12 S27

Local taxes, A7 S9

Rate, A7 S2, A7 S9(b)

State tax, A7 S1(a)

Valuation, A7 S4(c)

Tax anticipation certificates, A7 S12

Valuation of property, A7 S4

Voter authorization, A7 S9(b)

Water management purposes,  
 A7 S9(b)

Wind damage resistance  
 improvements, A7 S4(i), A12 S29

Working waterfront properties, A7 S4(j),  
 A12 S30

Airplanes, A7 S1(b)

Boats, A7 S1(b)

Conservation property, A7 S3(f),  
 A7 S4(b), A12 S28

Consolidation of local governments,  
 A8 S3

Corporation income tax, A7 S5(b)

Counties, A7 S9, A8 S1(h), A12 S2

Document excise tax proceeds, use for  
 conservation purposes, A10 S28

Estate tax, A7 S5(a)

Exemptions

Ad valorem taxes, A7 S3, A7 S4(c),  
 A12 S19, A12 S27, A12 S28,  
 A12 S34

Blind persons, A7 S3(b)

Community and economic  
 development, new or expanded  
 businesses, A7 S3(c)

Conservation property, A7 S3(f),  
 A12 S28

Disabled persons, A7 S3(b)

Elderly persons, A7 S4(f), A12 S26,  
 A12 S36

Heads of family, A7 S3(b)

Historic properties, A7 S3(d)

**TAXATION (Cont.)**

Exemptions (Cont.)  
 Homestead property, *See*  
 HOMESTEAD PROPERTY subtitle  
 Exemptions sub-subtitle Taxation  
 Household goods and personal effects,  
 A7 S3(b)  
 Military personnel deployed in support  
 of military operations, A7 S3(g),  
 A12 S31  
 Municipal property, A7 S3(a)  
 Renewable energy source devices,  
 A7 S3(e), A12 S19, A12 S34  
 Solar devices, A7 S3(e), A12 S34  
 Tangible personal property, A7 S1(b),  
 A7 S3(c), (e), A7 S4(c), A12 S27  
 Widows and widowers, A7 S3(b)  
 Gas tax, A12 S9(c)  
 Generally, A7  
 Gross receipts tax, utility services,  
 A12 S9(a)  
 Historic properties, A7 S3(d), A7 S4(e),  
 A12 S22  
 Homestead property, *See* HOMESTEAD  
 PROPERTY  
 Illegal taxes, relief from, A7 S13  
 Income tax, A7 S5  
 Inheritance tax, A7 S5(a)  
 Leases, publicly financed facilities,  
 A7 S10(c)  
 License tax, A7 S1(b)  
 Limitations  
 Consolidation of county and  
 municipalities, effect, A8 S3  
 Pledging credit of state or political  
 subdivisions, A7 S10  
 Revenue collection limitations,  
 A7 S1(e), A11 S3, A12 S21  
 Unincorporated areas, A8 S1(h)  
 Local taxes, A7 S9  
 Mobile homes, A7 S1(b)  
 Motor vehicles  
 Ad valorem taxes, A7 S1(b)  
 Fuel taxes, A7 S17(b), A12 S9(c)  
 License tax, A7 S1(b)  
 Municipalities, A7 S9, A12 S2  
 Natural persons, A7 S5(a)  
 New State taxes imposed by  
 constitutional amendment, approval by  
 two-thirds vote of voters, A11 S7  
 Pari-mutuel tax, A7 S7  
 Raising sufficient revenue, A7 S1(d)  
 Renewable energy source devices, *See*  
 RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE  
 DEVICES  
 Renters, tax relief, A7 S6(c)

**TAXATION (Cont.)**

Revenue, generally, *See* REVENUE  
 School districts, A7 S6(a), A7 S9,  
 A9 S4(b)  
 Second gas tax, A12 S9(c)  
 Slot machine revenues, A10 S23(b)  
 Solar devices, A7 S3(e), A7 S4(i),  
 A12 S34  
 Special districts, A7 S9, A12 S2, A12 S15  
 Special laws, A3 S11(a)  
 State-preempted taxes, A7 S1(a)  
 Supermajority vote to impose, authorize,  
 or raise taxes, A7 S19  
 Tax collector, A8 S1(d)  
 Tax liens, homestead property, A10 S4(a)  
 Taxation and Budget Reform  
 Commission, A2 S5(a), A11 S5(a),  
 A11 S6  
 Taxes under 1885 Constitution, A12 S7(a)  
 Taxpayers' Bill of Rights, A1 S25

**TAXATION AND BUDGET REFORM**

**COMMISSION**, A2 S5(a), A11 S5(a),  
 A11 S6

**TERM LIMITS**, A6 S4(c)**TERMS OF OFFICE**

Cabinet members, A4 S5(a), A6 S4(c)  
 County commissioners, A8 S1(e)  
 County officers, A8 S1(d)  
 Education boards, appointive, A9 S3  
 Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
 Commission, A4 S9  
 Governor, A4 S5(a), (b)  
 House of Representatives, A3 S15(b),  
 A6 S4(c), A12 S14  
 Judges, A5 S10, A5 S11(a), (b)  
 Judicial nominating commissions,  
 A5 S20(c)  
 Judicial Qualifications Commission,  
 A5 S12(a), (f)  
 Lieutenant Governor, A4 S5(a), A6 S4(c)  
 Limitation of term, A3 S13, A4 S5(b),  
 A6 S4(c)  
 Parole and Probation Commission,  
 A4 S8(c)  
 Public defenders, A5 S18  
 School boards, A9 S4(a)  
 Senate, A3 S15(a), A6 S4(c), A12 S12  
 State attorneys, A5 S17  
 Superintendents of schools, A9 S5  
 U.S. Senators and representatives,  
 A6 S4(c)

**TERRORISM**

Domestic Security and Counterterrorism,  
Office of, A4 S4(g)

**TOBACCO**, A10 S20, A10 S27

**TRAFFIC HEARING OFFICERS**, A5 S1

**TRANSPORTATION RIGHTS-OF-WAY**,  
A7 S17

**TREASON**, A1 S20, A4 S8(b)

**TRIAL BY JURY**, A1 S16(a), A1 S22

**TRIALS**

Appeals, A5 S3(b), A5 S4(b)  
Criminal, A1 S16(a)  
Evidence, *See* EVIDENCE  
Jury, A1 S16(a), A1 S22  
Juvenile proceedings, A1 S15(b)  
Pretrial release and detention, A1 S14,  
A1 S16(b)  
Site designation, A5 S7  
Speedy trial, A1 S16(b)  
Victims' rights, A1 S16(b)

**TRUST FUNDS (PUBLIC)**

Budget stabilization fund, A3 S19(g),  
A7 S1(e)  
Education lottery funds, A10 S15  
Everglades, A10 S17  
General revenue fund, A3 S19(f), (g),  
A5 S20(c)  
Institutions of higher learning and junior  
college capital outlay, A12 S9(a)  
Internal improvement, A4 S4(f)  
Investment, A7 S10(a)  
Land acquisition, A4 S4(f), A10 S28,  
A12 S9(a)  
Legislative approval, A3 S19(f)  
Public education capital outlay and debt  
service, A12 S9(a)  
School district and community college  
district capital outlay and debt service,  
A12 S9(d)  
State roads distribution fund, A12 S9(c)  
State school fund, A9 S6  
Sunset provisions, A3 S19(f)

**TURNPIKE AUTHORITY**, A12 S9(b)

**U****UNITED STATES**

Census, A10 S8  
Congressional members from Florida,  
term limitations, A6 S4(c)  
Congressional redistricting guidelines,  
A3 S20  
Constitution  
Amendment, A10 S1  
Apportionment of Legislature,  
A3 S16(a)  
Court interpretation, review, A5 S3(b)  
Fourth amendment search and seizure  
rights, conformity with, A1 S12  
Oath to defend, A2 S5(b), A6 S3  
Courts of Appeals, A5 S2(a), A5 S3(b)  
Estate tax, A7 S5(a)  
Income tax, A7 S5, A7 S10(c)  
Military personnel deployed in support of  
military operation, homestead  
exemption, A7 S3(g), A12 S31  
National Guard, A7 S3(g), A10 S2(d),  
A12 S31  
Obligations, investment of public funds in,  
A7 S10(b)  
Officers, holding state office, A2 S5(a)  
Senators from Florida, term limitations,  
A6 S4(c)  
Supreme Court, A1 S12, A1 S17,  
A5 S3(b), A10 S22

**UNIVERSITIES**, A7 S15(a), A9 S1(a),  
A9 S7, A12 S9(a)

**V****VACANCY IN OFFICE**

Circumstances constituting vacancy,  
A10 S3  
Constitution Revision Commission,  
A11 S2(b)  
County offices, A4 S1(f)  
Election to fill vacancy, A6 S5  
Enemy attack emergency, A2 S6  
Governor, A4 S3(a)  
Impeachment, A3 S17(b)  
Judges, A5 S10(a), A5 S11  
Judicial Qualifications Commission,  
A5 S12(a), (f)  
Legislators, A3 S15(d)  
State offices, A4 S1(f)  
Suspended officers, A4 S7  
Taxation and Budget Reform  
Commission, A11 S6(b)

**VAPOR-GENERATING ELECTRONIC DEVICES**, A10 S20

VENUE, A1 S16(a), A3 S11(a)

**VETERANS**

Combat-related disability, homestead property tax discount for veteran and surviving spouse, A7 S6(e), A12 S32, A12 S41

Surviving spouse of veteran dying from service-connected causes while on active duty, homestead property tax exemption, A7 S6(f), A12 S33

Surviving spouse of veteran with combat-related disability, homestead property tax discount, A7 S6(e), A12 S32, A12 S41

**VETERANS' AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF**, A4 S11

VETO, A3 S8, A3 S9, A3 S19(b)

**VICTIMS OF CRIME, RIGHTS OF**,  
A1 S16(b), (c), (d), (e)

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOLS**,  
A7 S15(a), A12 S9(a)

**VOTE**

Cabinet members, tie vote, A4 S4(a)  
Electors, A10 S12(d)  
Legislative house or governmental bodies, A10 S12(e)

**VOTING**

Elections, *See* ELECTIONS  
Legislature, A3 S4(c), A3 S7, A3 S8(c), A10 S12(e)

**W****WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES**, A7 S14**WATER POLLUTION**

Everglades, A2 S7(b), A10 S17(a), (c)  
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission authority, A4 S9  
Oil and gas drilling in Florida territorial waters, prohibition, A2 S7(c)  
State bond financing, pollution control facilities, A7 S14  
State policy, A2 S7(a)

**WATER RESOURCES**

Bond financing of development, A7 S11(e)  
Documents excise tax proceeds, use for protection, A10 S28(b)  
State bond financing, water facilities, A7 S14

**WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS**

Homestead property, A7 S6(e), A10 S4(b), (c), A12 S41  
Tax exemption, A7 S3(b), A7 S6(e), (f), A12 S33, A12 S41

**WILDLIFE**

Document excise tax proceeds, use for habitat protection, A10 S28(b)  
Fish, *See* FISHING  
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, A4 S9, A12 S23  
Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, A12 S23

**WITNESSES**

Compulsory process, A1 S16(a)  
Confrontation by accused, A1 S16(a)  
Criminal trials, A1 S9, A1 S16(a)  
Legislature, A3 S4(e), A3 S5  
Self-incrimination, A1 S9  
Treason, A1 S20  
Unreasonable detention, A1 S17

**WOMEN**

Basic rights, A1 S2

**WORK, RIGHT TO**, A1 S6**WORKFORCE INNOVATION, AGENCY FOR**, A10 S24(c), (f)**WORKPLACE SMOKING AND VAPING**, A10 S20**WRITS**

Certiorari, A5 S4(b), A5 S5(b)  
Circuit court, A5 S5(b)  
District courts of appeal, A5 S4(b)  
Habeas corpus, *See* HABEAS CORPUS  
Mandamus, A5 S3(b), A5 S4(b), A5 S5(b)  
Prohibition, A5 S3(b), A5 S4(b), A5 S5(b)  
Quo warranto, A5 S3(b), A5 S4(b), A5 S5(b)  
Supreme Court, A5 S3(b)

# CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

## ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

SECTION 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

<sup>1</sup>Note.—This clause has been affected by the 14th and 16th amendments.

<sup>2</sup>SECTION 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the

United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

<sup>3</sup>Note.—This section has been affected by the 17th amendment.

<sup>3</sup>SECTION 4. The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

<sup>4</sup>Note.—This section has been affected by the 20th amendment.

SECTION 5. Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

SECTION 6. The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the



## CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

SECTION 7. All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

SECTION 8. The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to

exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;—And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

SECTION 9. The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or Enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.

No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

\*Note.—This clause has been affected by the 16th amendment.

SECTION 10. No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Controul of the Congress.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

### ARTICLE II.

SECTION 1. The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the Same Term, be elected, as follows

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

<sup>5</sup>The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an

## CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President. But in chusing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each State having one Vote; A Quorum for this Purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall chuse from them by Ballot the Vice President.

The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:—"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

**\*Note.**—This clause has been affected by the 12th amendment.

SECTION 2. The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

SECTION 3. He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

SECTION 4. The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

### ARTICLE III.

SECTION 1. The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

SECTION 2. The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more States;—between a State and Citizens of another State;—between Citizens of different States;— between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

**\*Note.**—This section has been affected by the 11th amendment.

SECTION 3. Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

### ARTICLE IV.

SECTION 1. Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe

# CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

SECTION 2. The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

¶No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.

**Note.**—This clause has been affected by the 13th amendment.

SECTION 3. New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

SECTION 4. The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.

## ARTICLE V.

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

## ARTICLE VI.

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

## ARTICLE VII.

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

Done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth. IN WITNESS whereof we have hereunto subscribed our Names,

[Names omitted]

ARTICLES IN ADDITION TO, AND AMENDMENT OF, THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PROPOSED BY CONGRESS, AND RATIFIED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF THE SEVERAL STATES, PURSUANT TO THE FIFTH ARTICLE OF THE ORIGINAL CONSTITUTION. [The first ten amendments were proposed by Congress on September 25, 1789; ratification was completed on December 15, 1791.]

## ARTICLE [I.]

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

## ARTICLE [II.]

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

## ARTICLE [III.]

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

## ARTICLE [IV.]

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

## ARTICLE [V.]

No persons shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

## ARTICLE [VI.]

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to

## CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence.

### ARTICLE [VII.]

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, then according to the rules of the common law.

### ARTICLE [VIII.]

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

### ARTICLE [IX.]

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

### ARTICLE [X.]

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

### [ARTICLE XI.]<sup>8</sup>

The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State.

<sup>8</sup>Note.—This amendment was proposed by Congress on March 4, 1794; ratification was completed on February 7, 1795.

### [ARTICLE XII.]<sup>9</sup>

The Electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate:—The President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted;—The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in the case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President. The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall

choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

<sup>9</sup>Note.—This amendment was proposed by Congress on December 9, 1803; ratification was completed on June 15, 1804. This amendment has been affected by the 20th amendment.

### ARTICLE XIII.<sup>10</sup>

SECTION 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

SECTION 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

<sup>10</sup>Note.—This amendment was proposed by Congress on January 31, 1865; ratification was completed on December 6, 1865.

### ARTICLE XIV.<sup>11</sup>

SECTION 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

SECTION 2. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

SECTION 3. No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

SECTION 4. The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

SECTION 5. The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

<sup>11</sup>Note.—This amendment was proposed by Congress on June 13, 1866; ratification was completed on July 9, 1868.

### ARTICLE XV.<sup>12</sup>

SECTION 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or

## CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

SECTION 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

<sup>13</sup>Note.—This amendment was proposed by Congress on February 26, 1869; ratification was completed on February 3, 1870.

### ARTICLE XVI.<sup>13</sup>

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

<sup>14</sup>Note.—This amendment was proposed by Congress on July 12, 1909; ratification was completed on February 3, 1913.

### ARTICLE [XVII.]<sup>14</sup>

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: *Provided*, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.

<sup>15</sup>Note.—This amendment was proposed by Congress on May 13, 1912; ratification was completed on April 8, 1913.

### ARTICLE [XVIII.]<sup>15</sup>

SECTION 1. After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

SEC. 2. The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

SEC. 3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

<sup>16</sup>Note.—This amendment was proposed by Congress on December 18, 1917; ratification was completed on January 16, 1919. This amendment was repealed by the 21st amendment.

### ARTICLE [XIX.]<sup>16</sup>

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

<sup>17</sup>Note.—This amendment was proposed by Congress on June 4, 1919; ratification was completed on August 18, 1920.

### ARTICLE [XX.]<sup>17</sup>

SECTION 1. The terms of the President and Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

SEC. 2. The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3d day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

SEC. 3. If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

SEC. 4. The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

SEC. 5. Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

SEC. 6. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

<sup>18</sup>Note.—This amendment was proposed by Congress on March 2, 1932; ratification was completed on January 23, 1933.

### ARTICLE [XXI.]<sup>18</sup>

SECTION 1. The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

SEC. 2. The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

SEC. 3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

<sup>19</sup>Note.—This amendment was proposed by Congress on February 20, 1933; ratification was completed on December 5, 1933.

### ARTICLE [XXII.]<sup>19</sup>

SECTION 1. No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of the President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by the Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

SEC. 2. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

<sup>20</sup>Note.—This amendment was proposed by Congress on March 21, 1947; ratification was completed on February 27, 1951.

### ARTICLE [XXIII.]<sup>20</sup>

SECTION 1. The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct:

A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in

## CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

SEC. 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

<sup>20</sup>Note.—This amendment was proposed by Congress on June 17, 1960; ratification was completed on March 29, 1961.

### ARTICLE [XXIV.]<sup>21</sup>

SECTION 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

SEC. 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

<sup>21</sup>Note.—This amendment was proposed by Congress on August 27, 1962; ratification was completed on January 23, 1964.

### ARTICLE [XXV.]<sup>22</sup>

SECTION 1. In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

SEC. 2. Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 3. Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

SEC. 4. Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

<sup>22</sup>Note.—This amendment was proposed by Congress on July 6, 1965; ratification was completed on February 10, 1967.

### ARTICLE [XXVI.]<sup>23</sup>

SECTION 1. The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

SEC. 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

<sup>23</sup>Note.—This amendment was proposed by Congress on March 23, 1971; ratification was completed on July 1, 1971.

### ARTICLE [XXVII.]<sup>24</sup>

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.

<sup>24</sup>Note.—This amendment was submitted to the several states pursuant to a resolution passed by the first Congress of the United States, at its first session, on Sept. 25, 1789, and was certified by the Archivist of the United States on May 19, 1992. 57 Fed. Reg. 21187, to have been ratified by the Legislatures of the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.





# INDEX

## FOREWORD

In the index to the United States Constitution, “A” refers to the Article of the Constitution, “Am.” refers to Constitutional Amendments, and “S” refers to the Section within the Article or Constitutional Amendment.

### A

**ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME JURISDICTION**, A3 S2

**ADMISSION OF STATES**, A4 S3

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**, Am. 18, Am. 21

**AMBASSADORS**, A2 S2, A2 S3, A3 S2

**AMENDMENT**, A5

#### APPORTIONMENT

Capitation taxes, A1 S9, A5

Direct taxes, A1 S2, A1 S9, A5

Income taxes, Am. 16

Representatives, A1 S2, Am. 14 S2

#### APPROPRIATIONS

Armies, raising and supporting, A1 S8

Drawing money from treasury, requirement, A1 S9

Revenue bills, origination, A1 S7

#### ARMED FORCES

Appropriations to raise and support, limitation, A1 S8

Armies, power to raise and support, A1 S8

Commander in chief, A2 S2

Militia, A1 S8, A2 S2, Am. 2

Navy, power to provide and maintain, A1 S8

Quartering soldiers in houses, Am. 3

Rules for government and regulation, A1 S8

States, maintenance in time of peace, A1 S10

War, declaration of, A1 S8

**ARMS, RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR**, Am. 2

**ASSEMBLY, RIGHT OF**, Am. 1

**ATTAINER, BILLS OF**, A1 S9, A1 S10

### B

**BAIL, EXCESSIVE**, Am. 8

**BANKRUPTCIES**, A1 S8

**BILLS OF ATTAINER**, A1 S9, A1 S10

**BORROWING MONEY**, A1 S8

### C

#### CITIZENS

Arms, right to keep and bear, Am. 2

#### CITIZENS (Cont.)

Assembly, right of, Am. 1

Criminally accused, rights of, Am. 5, Am. 6, Am. 8, Am. 14 S1

Definition, Am. 14 S1

Deprivation of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, Am. 5, Am. 14 S1

Equal protection of the laws, denial of, Am. 14 S1

Naturalization, A1 S8

Petition for redress of grievances, right of, Am. 1

Powers reserved to the states and the people, Am. 10

Privileges and immunities of, A4 S2, Am. 14 S1

Religion, free exercise of, Am. 1

Retained rights, denial or disparagement of, Am. 9

Searches and seizures, protection against unreasonable, Am. 4

Speech, freedom of, Am. 1

Voting rights, See VOTING RIGHTS

**CIVIL ACTIONS**, Am. 7, Am. 11

**COMMERCE, REGULATION OF**, A1 S8, A1 S9

**COMMON LAW SUITS**, Am. 7

#### COMPENSATION

Judges, A3 S1

President, A2 S1

Private property, taking for public use, Am. 5

Representatives, A1 S6, Am. 27

Senators, A1 S6, Am. 27

#### CONGRESS

Adjournment, A1 S5, A2 S3

Amendment of Constitution, proposals for, A5

Annual assembly, A1 S4, Am. 20 S2

Bills

Appropriations to raise and support armies, limitation, A1 S8

Approval or veto by President, A1 S7

Reconsideration of vetoed bills, A1 S7

Revenue bills, origination, A1 S7

Veto, A1 S7

Composition, A1 S1

Convening, by President, A2 S3

Courts, establishment of, A3 S1

Date of assembly, for annual session, A1 S4, Am. 20 S2

Election of representatives and senators, making or

altering regulations for, A1 S4

House of Representatives. See HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Laws, enactment, A1 S7

Legislative powers, vested in, A1 S1

Members, See REPRESENTATIVES; SENATORS



**CONGRESS (Cont.)**

- Orders, resolutions, or votes; approval by President, A1 S7
- Powers, enumeration, A1 S8
- President's inability to discharge powers and duties of office, determination, Am. 25 S4
- Presidential electors, determining time of selection and voting, A2 S1
- Presidential succession, providing for, A2 S1, Am. 20 S3
- Senate, See SENATE
- State acts, records, and judicial proceedings; manner of proving, A4 S1
- Territory and other property of United States, disposal and regulation of, A4 S3

**CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, A5****CONSULS, A2 S2, A3 S2****CONTRACTS, STATE IMPAIRMENT OF, A1 S10****COPYRIGHTS, A1 S8****COUNSEL, RIGHT TO, Am. 6****COURTS**

- Establishment of, A1 S8, A3 S1
- Judges, A2 S2, A3 S1
- Judicial power, vested in, A3 S1
- Jurisdiction, A3 S2
- Reexamination of facts tried by jury, Am. 7
- States, full faith and credit in judicial proceedings of, A4 S1
- Suits against a state, by citizens of another state or nation, Am. 11
- Supreme Court, See SUPREME COURT
- Trials, See TRIALS

**CRIMES**

- Accused, rights of, Am. 5, Am. 6, Am. 8, Am. 14 S1
- Bail, excessive, Am. 8
- Bills of attainder, A1 S9, A1 S10
- Counsel, right to assistance of, Am. 6
- Cruel and unusual punishment, Am. 8
- Double jeopardy, Am. 5
- Ex post facto laws, A1 S9, A1 S10
- Excessive bail and fines, Am. 8
- Extradition, A4 S2
- Grand jury indictment or presentment, for capital or infamous crimes, Am. 5
- Involuntary servitude, as punishment, Am. 13
- Jury trial, A3 S2, Am. 6
- Nature and cause of accusation, right to be informed of, Am. 6
- Reprieves and pardons, A2 S2
- Self-incrimination, protection against, Am. 5
- Speedy and public trial, right to, Am. 6
- Treason, A2 S4, A3 S3, A4 S2
- Trial by jury, A3 S2, Am. 6
- Venue, of trial, A3 S2
- Witness against oneself, Am. 5
- Witnesses, right to confront, Am. 6

**CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT, Am. 8****D****DEBTS**

- Contracted before adoption of Constitution, validity against United States, A6
- Gold and silver coin as tender in payment of, A1 S10
- Incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion, Am. 14 S4
- Power to pay debts of United States, A1 S8
- Validity of public debt, Am. 14 S4

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

- Congressional power over, A1 S8
- Presidential electors, Am. 23

**DOUBLE JEOPARDY, Am. 5****DUE PROCESS OF LAW, Am. 5, Am. 14 S1****DUTIES**

- (See also TAXES)
- Commerce between states, A1 S9
- Exported articles, A1 S9
- Power to lay and collect, A1 S8
- Slaves, import duty, A1 S9
- State imposes or duties, on imports or exports, A1 S10
- Uniformity, A1 S8

**E****ELECTIONS**

- Poll tax, Am. 24
- President, A2 S1, Am. 12, Am. 20 S4, Am. 23
- Presidential electors, See PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS
- Representatives, A1 S2, A1 S4
- Senators, A1 S4, Am. 17
- Vice President, A2 S1, Am. 12, Am. 20 S4, Am. 23

**ELECTORS**

- Denial of right to vote, reduction of state representation in Congress for, Am. 14 S2
- Eighteen years of age or older, right to vote, Am. 26
- Poll tax or other tax, denial of vote for nonpayment, Am. 24
- Presidential, See PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS
- Race, color, or previous condition of servitude; denial of vote on account of, Am. 15
- Representatives, qualifications of electors for, A1 S2
- Senators, qualifications of electors for, Am. 17
- Sex, denial of vote on account of, Am. 19

**ENUMERATED POWERS, A1 S8****EQUAL PROTECTION OF THE LAWS, Am. 14 S1****EX POST FACTO LAWS, A1 S9, A1 S10****EXECUTIVE POWER, A2 S1****EXPORTS, A1 S10****EXTRADITION, A4 S2****F****FINES, EXCESSIVE, Am. 8****FOREIGN NATIONS**

- Ambassadors, ministers, and consuls, A2 S2, A2 S3, A3 S2

**FOREIGN NATIONS (Cont.)**

- Commerce with, regulation, A1 S8
- Present, emolument, office, or title; acceptance from, A1 S9
- States, treaties or alliances with, A1 S10
- Suits against a state, by citizens of, Am. 11
- Treaties, A3 S2, A6

**FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION, Am. 1****FREEDOM OF SPEECH, Am. 1****FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, Am. 1****FULL FAITH AND CREDIT CLAUSE, A4 S1****G****GRAND JURY, Am. 5****GRIEVANCES, PETITION FOR REDRESS OF, Am. 1****H****HABEAS CORPUS, WRIT OF, A1 S9****HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

- (See also CONGRESS; REPRESENTATIVES)
- Absent members, compelling attendance of, A1 S5
- Adjournment, A1 S5
- Composition, A1 S2
- Election of President, if no electoral majority, A2 S1, Am. 12, Am. 20 S4
- Elections, returns, and qualifications of members, judge of, A1 S5
- Impeachment, power of, A1 S2
- Journal, A1 S5, A1 S7
- Legislative power, A1 S1
- Members, See REPRESENTATIVES
- Officers, selection of, A1 S2
- Quorum, A1 S5
- Revenue bills, origination in, A1 S7
- Rules of proceedings, establishment of, A1 S5
- Speaker, selection of, A1 S2
- Votes, entry in journal, A1 S5, A1 S7

**I****IMPEACHMENT**

- Civil officers, A2 S4
- Conviction, A1 S3, A2 S4
- Grounds, A2 S4
- House of Representatives, sole power of, A1 S2
- Judgment, effect of, A1 S3
- Power of, A1 S2
- President, A1 S3, A2 S4
- Presiding officer, trial of President, A1 S3
- Senate, sole power to try, A1 S3
- Trial, A1 S3
- Vice President, A2 S4

**IMPORTS, A1 S9, A1 S10****INCOME TAX, Am. 16****INDICTMENT, Am. 5**

**INSURRECTION OR REBELLION, A1 S8, A1 S9, Am. 14 S3, Am. 14 S4**

**INTERSTATE COMMERCE, REGULATION OF, A1 S8**

**INTOXICATING LIQUORS, Am. 18, Am. 21**

**INVASION, A1 S8, A1 S9, A1 S10, A4 S4**

**INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE**

See SLAVERY

**J****JEOPARDY**

Double jeopardy, criminal offenses, Am. 5

**JUDGES, A2 S2, A3 S1**

**JUDICIAL POWER, A3 S1, A3 S2, Am. 11**

**JURIES**

- Common law suits, Am. 7
- Criminal prosecutions, A3 S2, Am. 6
- Grand jury, presentment or indictment by, Am. 5
- Reexamination of facts tried by, Am. 7

**L****LAWS**

- Bills of attainder, A1 S9, A1 S10
- Deprivation of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, Am. 5, Am. 14 S1
- Enactment, A1 S7
- Equal protection of the laws, Am. 14 S1
- Ex post facto laws, A1 S9, A1 S10
- Judicial power, jurisdiction, A3 S2
- Necessary and proper laws, power to make, A1 S8
- Revenue bills, origination, A1 S7
- Supreme law of the land, A6
- Veto of bills, by President, A1 S7

**LEGISLATIVE POWER, A1 S1, A1 S8**

**LIFE, LIBERTY, OR PROPERTY, DEPRIVATION OF, Am. 5, Am. 14 S1**

**LIQUORS, INTOXICATING, Am. 18, Am. 21**

**M**

**MARITIME JURISDICTION, A3 S2**

**MARQUE AND REPRISAL, LETTERS OF, A1 S8, A1 S10**

**MILITIA, A1 S8, A2 S2, Am. 2**

**MINISTERS, A2 S2, A2 S3, A3 S2**

**MONEY**

- Coining and regulation of value, A1 S8
- Coining, by states, A1 S10
- Counterfeiting, punishment of, A1 S8
- Drawing from treasury, A1 S9
- Statement and account of public money, publication, A1 S9

**N****NATURALIZATION**, A1 S8**NAVY**, A1 S8**NECESSARY AND PROPER LAWS**, A1 S8**O****OATHS**

President, A2 S1

Public officers, to support Constitution, A6

**OFFICERS**

Appointment, A2 S2

Commissioning by President, A2 S3

Congress, membership in, A1 S6

Declaration of President's inability to discharge powers and duties of office, Am. 25 S4

House of Representatives, A1 S2

Impeachment, grounds for, A2 S4

Oath, to support Constitution, A6

Present, emolument, office, or title; acceptance from foreign state, A1 S9

Presidential elector, appointment as, A2 S1

Qualifications, Am. 14 S3

Religious test as a qualification, A6

Removal, grounds for, A2 S4

Representative or senator, appointment to civil office, A1 S6

Senate, A1 S3

Vacancies, filling during recess of Senate, A2 S2

**P****PARDONS**, A2 S2**PATENTS**, A1 S8**PETITION FOR REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES, RIGHT TO**, Am. 1**POLL TAX**, Am. 24**POST OFFICES**, A1 S8**POWERS OF GOVERNMENT**

Executive power, A2 S1

Judicial power, A3 S1, A3 S2, Am. 11

Legislative power, A1 S1, A1 S8

**POWERS RESERVED TO THE STATES AND THE PEOPLE**, Am. 10**PRESIDENT**

Acting President, Am. 20 S3, Am. 25 S3, Am. 25 S4

Bills, approval or veto of, A1 S7

Commander in chief, armed forces, A2 S2

Compensation, A2 S1

Death, A2 S1, Am. 25 S1

Election of, A2 S1, Am. 12, Am. 20 S4, Am. 23

Executive power, vested in, A2 S1

Impeachment, A1 S3, A2 S4

Inability to discharge powers and duties of office, A2 S1, Am. 25 S3, Am. 25 S4

**PRESIDENT (Cont.)**

Oath, A2 S1

Powers and duties, generally, A2 S2, A2 S3

President-elect, death or failure to qualify, Am. 20 S3

Qualifications, A2 S1

Removal, A2 S1, A2 S4

Resignation, A2 S1, Am. 25 S1

Succession to office, A2 S1, Am. 12, Am. 20 S3, Am. 25

Term of office, A2 S1, Am. 20 S1

Terms, limitation of, Am. 22 S1

Veto, of bills, A1 S7

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS**

Appointment, A2 S1

Disqualification, officers who engaged in insurrection or rebellion, Am. 14 S3

District of Columbia, Am. 23

Time of selection and voting, determination of, A2 S1

Voting by, A2 S1, Am. 12

**PRESS, FREEDOM OF**, Am. 1**PRIVATE PROPERTY**, Am. 5**PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF CITIZENS**, A4 S2, Am. 14 S1**PUBLIC OFFICERS**

See OFFICERS

**PUNISHMENT**

Counterfeiting, A1 S8

Cruel and unusual, Am. 8

Deprivation of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, Am. 5, Am. 14 S1

Excessive fines, Am. 8

Impeachment, A1 S3, A2 S4

Involuntary servitude, Am. 13

Piracies and felonies on high seas, A1 S8

Representatives, A1 S5

Reprieves and pardons, A2 S2

Senators, A1 S5

Treason, A3 S3

**R****RATIFICATION**, A5, A7**REBELLION**, A1 S8, A1 S9, Am. 14 S3, Am. 14 S4**REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES, RIGHT TO PETITION FOR**, Am. 1**RELIGION**

Establishment or prohibiting free exercise of, Am. 1

Officers, religious test as a qualification, A6

**REPRESENTATIVES**

Appointment to civil office, A1 S6

Apportionment among the states, A1 S2, Am. 14 S2

Arrest, privilege from, A1 S6

Compensation, A1 S6, Am. 27

Disorderly behavior, punishment for, A1 S5

Election of, A1 S2, A1 S4, A1 S5

Expulsion, A1 S5

Holding other office, A1 S6

Number of, A1 S2

**REPRESENTATIVES** (Cont.)

Oath to support Constitution, A6  
 Presidential elector, appointment as, A2 S1  
 Qualifications, A1 S2, Am. 14 S3  
 Speech or debate, questioning on, A1 S6  
 Term of office, A1 S2, Am. 20 S1  
 Vacancy in office, A1 S2

**REPRIEVES**, A2 S2**RESERVED POWERS OF THE STATES AND THE PEOPLE**,  
Am. 10**RIGHTS RETAINED BY THE PEOPLE**, Am. 9**S****SEARCH WARRANTS**, Am. 4**SEARCHES AND SEIZURES**, Am. 4**SEAT OF GOVERNMENT**, A1 S8**SELF-INCRIMINATION**, Am. 5**SENATE**

(See also CONGRESS; SENATORS)

Absent members, compelling attendance of, A1 S5  
 Adjournment, A1 S5  
 Composition, A1 S3, Am. 17  
 Election of Vice President, if no electoral majority, A2 S1,  
 Am. 12, Am. 20 S4  
 Elections, returns, and qualifications of members, judge  
 of, A1 S5  
 Equal suffrage of states, deprivation of, A5  
 Impeachments, power to try, A1 S3  
 Journal, A1 S5, A1 S7  
 Legislative power, A1 S1  
 Officers, selection of, A1 S3  
 President of, Vice President as, A1 S3  
 President pro tempore, selection of, A1 S3  
 Presidential appointments, advice and consent, A2 S2  
 Quorum, A1 S5  
 Rules of proceedings, establishment of, A1 S5  
 Treaties, advice and consent, A2 S2  
 Votes, entry in journal, A1 S5, A1 S7

**SENATORS**

Appointment to civil office, A1 S6  
 Arrest, privilege from, A1 S6  
 Chosen by state legislatures, A1 S3  
 Compensation, A1 S6, Am. 27  
 Disorderly behavior, punishment for, A1 S5  
 Election of, A1 S4, A1 S5, Am. 17  
 Expulsion, A1 S5  
 Holding other office, A1 S6  
 Number of, A1 S3, Am. 17  
 Oath, to support Constitution, A6  
 Presidential elector, appointment as, A2 S1  
 Qualifications, A1 S3, Am. 14 S3  
 Speech or debate, questioning on, A1 S6  
 Temporary appointment, Am. 17  
 Term of office, A1 S3, Am. 17, Am. 20 S1  
 Vacancy in office, A1 S3, Am. 17  
 Vote, each having one, A1 S3, Am. 17

**SLAVERY**

Abolition, Am. 13

**SLAVERY** (Cont.)

Claims for loss or emancipation of slaves, assumption of,  
 Am. 14 S4  
 Escape from, A4 S2  
 Import tax or duty, A1 S9  
 Migration or importation of persons for, A1 S9, A5  
 Vote, denial on account of previous condition of  
 servitude, Am. 15

**SPEECH, FREEDOM OF**, Am. 1**SPEEDY AND PUBLIC TRIAL, RIGHT TO**, Am. 6**STATE OF THE UNION**, A2 S3**STATES**

Admission to Union, A4 S3  
 Citizens, definition, Am. 14 S1  
 Constitutional convention, application for, A5  
 Elections for senators and representatives; prescribing  
 times, places, and manner of holding, A1 S4  
 Formation of new states, A4 S3  
 Full faith and credit, to acts, records, and judicial  
 proceedings of, A4 S1  
 Judicial power, over controversies involving, A3 S2  
 Militia, training and appointment of officers, A1 S8  
 Officers, oath to support Constitution, A6  
 Powers reserved to the states and the people, Am. 10  
 Presidential electors, appointment, A2 S1  
 Prohibited activities, A1 S10  
 Protection against invasion and domestic violence, A4 S4  
 Ratification of constitutional amendments, A5  
 Republican form of government, guarantee of, A4 S4  
 Suits against state, by citizens of another state or nation,  
 Am. 11

**SUCCESSION TO PRESIDENCY**, A2 S1, Am. 12,  
Am. 20 S3, Am. 25**SUPREME COURT**

Chief Justice, presiding at President's impeachment trial,  
 A1 S3  
 Judicial power, vested in, A3 S1  
 Jurisdiction, A3 S2  
 Justices, A2 S2, A3 S1

**SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND**, A6**T****TAXES**

(See also DUTIES)  
 Capitation tax, apportionment, A1 S9, A5  
 Direct taxes, apportionment among the states, A1 S2,  
 A1 S9, A5  
 Export tax, A1 S9, A1 S10  
 Income tax, Am. 16  
 Poll tax, as requirement for voting, Am. 24  
 Power to lay and collect, A1 S8  
 Slaves, import tax, A1 S9

**TERMS OF OFFICE**

Judges and justices, A3 S1  
 President, A2 S1, Am. 20 S1, Am. 22  
 Representatives, A1 S2, Am. 20 S1  
 Senators, A1 S3, Am. 17, Am. 20 S1  
 Vice President, A2 S1, Am. 20 S1

**TITLES OF NOBILITY**, A1 S9, A1 S10

**TREASON**, A2 S4, A3 S3, A4 S2

**TREASURY, DRAWING MONEY FROM**, A1 S9

**TREATIES**, A1 S10, A2 S2, A3 S2, A6

#### **TRIALS**

Common law suits, Am. 7  
Criminal cases, A3 S2, Am. 6  
Jury, trial by, A3 S2, Am. 6, Am. 7  
Location, A3 S2, Am. 6  
Speedy and public trial, right to, Am. 6

### **U**

**UNREASONABLE SEARCHES AND SEIZURES**, Am. 4

### **V**

#### **VACANCY IN OFFICE**

House of Representatives, A1 S2  
Officers, A2 S2  
President, succession to office, A2 S1, Am. 12,  
Am. 20 S3, Am. 25  
Senate, A1 S3, Am. 17  
Vice President, Am. 25 S2

**VETO**, A1 S7

#### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Acting President, Am. 20 S3, Am. 25 S3, Am. 25 S4  
Death, A2 S1  
Declaration of President's inability to discharge powers  
and duties of office, Am. 25 S4  
Disability, A2 S1  
Election of, A2 S1, Am. 12, Am. 20 S4, Am. 23

#### **VICE PRESIDENT (Cont.)**

Impeachment, grounds for, A2 S4  
Nomination by President, when vacancy in office,  
Am. 25 S2  
President of the Senate, A1 S3  
Qualifications, Am. 12  
Removal, A2 S1, A2 S4  
Resignation, A2 S1  
Succession to Presidency, A2 S1, Am. 12, Am. 20 S3,  
Am. 25  
Term of office, A2 S1, Am. 20 S1  
Vacancy in office, filling, Am. 25 S2  
Vice President-elect, Am. 20 S3

#### **VOTING RIGHTS**

Age, denial on account of, Am. 26  
Denial of right to vote, reduction of state representation in  
Congress for, Am. 14 S2  
Eighteen years of age or older, denial of right, Am. 26  
Poll tax or other tax, denial for failure to pay, Am. 24  
Race, color, or previous condition of servitude, denial on  
account of, Am. 15  
Sex, denial on account of, Am. 19

### **W**

**WAR, DECLARATION OF**, A1 S8

**WARRANTS (SEARCH)**, Am. 4

**WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**, A1 S8

#### **WITNESSES**

Compulsory process for, Am. 6  
Confrontation by accused, Am. 6  
Self-incrimination, Am. 5  
Treason, A3 S3

**WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS**, A1 S9

## APPENDIX C

<b>Common Motions (example scripts).....</b>	<b>C-1</b>
<b>Precedence of Motions During Debate (table).....</b>	<b>C-5</b>
<b>Extraordinary Vote Requirements.....</b>	<b>C-6</b>

**Rules Regulating Vote Requirements *and*  
Table of Votes Required Based on Members Voting  
*located on inside of back cover.***



## COMMON MOTIONS

### **BILL READING REQUIREMENT:**

#### **Third Reading (same day as 2R) and Passage**

Mr. [Madam] Speaker, I move the rules be waived and H \_\_\_\_ (S \_\_\_\_) be read a third time by title. [R.10.7]

### **BILL SUBSTITUTIONS:**

#### **Substitute Senate Bill Companion (Identical or Similar) for House Bill on Different Reading**

Mr. [Madam] Speaker, I move the rules be **waived** and S \_\_\_\_ be substituted for H \_\_\_\_ and that the Senate bill be read a (second or third time) by title. [R.5.17]

#### **Substitute Senate Bill Companion (Identical or Similar) for House Bill on Same Reading**

Mr. [Madam] Speaker, I move that S \_\_\_\_, a companion measure, be substituted for H \_\_\_\_ and that the Senate bill be read a second time by title. [R.5.17]

#### **Substitute Senate Bill (Compare) for House Bill on Same Reading**

Mr. [Madam] Speaker, I move the rules be **waived** and S \_\_\_\_ be substituted for H \_\_\_\_ and that the Senate bill be read a second by title. [R.5.17]



## COMMON MOTIONS

### PROCEDURAL:

#### **Adjourn**

Mr. [Madam] Speaker, I move that the House adjourn for the purpose of holding committee meetings and conducting other House business to reconvene on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_:\_\_ [a.m./p.m.] or upon call of the Chair [or adjourn *sine die*].

#### **Lay on the Table (Bill/Amendment/Motion)**

Mr. [Madam] Speaker, I move the [Bill/Amendment/Motion or other matter] be laid on the table. [R.11.6]

#### **Limit Debate**

Mr. [Madam] Speaker, I move debate be limited to \_\_\_\_\_ minutes per side. [R.11.9]

#### **Reconsider**

Mr. [Madam] Speaker, I move that the House reconsider the vote by which [bill number, amendment number, or other matter] was approved [or rejected]. [R.11.7]

#### **Temporarily Postpone**

Mr. [Madam] Speaker, I move that the question [or amendment or bill] be temporarily postponed. [R.11.10]

## COMMON MOTIONS

### SENATE AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL:

#### **Amend the Senate Amendment**

Mr. [Madam] Speaker, I move that the House adopt House Amendment [Barcode] to Senate Amendment [Barcode] to S \_\_\_\_ and concur in Senate Amendment [Barcode] as amended. [R.12.6(a)(1)]

#### **Concur in Senate Amendment**

Mr. [Madam] Speaker, I move that the House concur in Senate Amendment [Barcode] to H \_\_\_\_ . [R.12.6(a)(2)]

#### **Refuse to concur and ask the Senate to recede**

Mr. [Madam] Speaker, I move that the House refuse to concur in Senate Amendment [Barcode] to H \_\_\_\_ and ask that the Senate recede therefrom. [R.12.6(a)(3)]

### **Senate Refuses to Concur in a HOUSE AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL:**

#### **Recede from House Amendment to Senate Bill**

Mr. [Madam] Speaker, I move that the House recede from House Amendment [Barcode] to S \_\_\_\_ . [R.12.6(b)(1)]

#### **Insist on House Amendment**

Mr. [Madam] Speaker, I move that the House insist on the House Amendment(s) and again request the Senate to concur. [R.12.6(b)(3)]

## COMMON MOTIONS

### CONFERENCE COMMITTEES:

#### **Accede to Senate Request for Conference Committee**

Mr. [Madam] Speaker, I move that the House accede to the Senate's request for a Conference Committee on H \_\_\_\_ (S \_\_\_\_).

#### **Consideration of Conference Committee Report**

Mr. [Madam] Speaker, I move that the House accept and adopt in its entirety the report of the Conference Committee on H \_\_\_\_ (S \_\_\_\_).

[R.7.22(c)(1)]

NOTE: Adoption of the report is debatable but not amendable. If adopted, the question immediately recurs on the passage of the bill as amended by the Conference Committee report. If the report is rejected, the bill is immediately recommitted to conference.

#### **Insist on House Amendment**

Mr. [Madam] Speaker, I move that the House insist on the House Amendment(s) and again request the Senate to concur. [R.12.6(b)(3)]

#### **...And Request Conference Committee**

...or failing to do so, request the Senate to appoint a Conference Committee to confer with the like committee on the part of the House. [R.12.6(a)(4); R.12.6(b)(2)]

#### **Refuse to concur in Senate Amendment**

Mr. [Madam] Speaker, I move that the House refuse to concur in Senate Amendment(s) #(s) to H \_\_\_\_ and ask that the Senate recede therefrom. [R.12.6(a)(3)]

#### **...And Request Conference Committee**

...or failing to do so, request the Senate to appoint a Conference Committee to confer with the like committee on the part of the House. [R.12.6(a)(4); R.12.6(b)(2)]

## Precedence of Motions During Debate

	Motion	Rule	Amend	Debate	Vote Required
1	<b>To adjourn at a time certain.</b> <i>Purpose: To set time for meeting to close.</i>	11.2	Yes	No	Majority
2	<b>To adjourn. (Committee "To rise.")</b> <i>Purpose: To close meeting immediately. (Can substitute (1) above.)</i>	11.2	No	No	Majority
3	<b>To recess to a time certain.</b> <i>Purpose: To interrupt meeting, to reconvene at set time.</i>	11.2 11.5	Yes	No but see R.11.5	Majority
4	<b>To lay on the table.</b> <i>Purpose: To remove item from consideration indefinitely.</i>	11.2 11.6	No	No but see R.11.6	Majority
5	<b>To reconsider.</b> <i>Purpose: Bring a decided question back for review.</i>	7.15 11.2 11.7	No	If question to be reconsidered is debatable	Majority {2/3 vote in committee to report the bill immediately}
6	<b>For the previous question.</b> <i>Purpose: Close debate on the question (terminates consideration of amendments to that question).</i>	11.2 11.8	No	No	Majority
7	<b>To limit (or extend) debate.</b> <i>Purpose: To regulate time for debate.</i>	11.2 11.9	Yes	No but see R.11.9	Majority
8	<b>To temporarily postpone.</b> <i>Purpose: To postpone to another time (subject to return at a convenient time).</i>	11.2 11.10	No	No	Majority
9	<b>To postpone to a time or day certain.</b> <i>Purpose: To postpone a main motion (only) to a particular time.</i>	11.2 11.10	Yes	Only whether to postpone	Majority
10	<b>To refer to or to recommit to committee or subcommittee.</b> <i>Purpose: To send to committee or subcommittee for further study.</i>	11.2 11.12	Yes	Yes (propriety of reference)	Majority
11	<b>To amend.</b> <i>Purpose: To alter or modify the wording of a question.</i>	11.2	Yes (degrees limited)	Yes	Majority 2/3 on 3rd Reading
12	<b>To amend by removing the enacting or resolving clause.</b> <i>Purpose: To reject the bill.</i>	11.2 12.7	No	Yes	Majority 2/3 on 3rd Reading

**EXTRAORDINARY VOTE REQUIREMENTS**  
**(citations are to Florida Constitution)**

**Constitutional Amendments**

Joint Resolution, Art. XI, §1 .....	3/5 of membership
Bill for special election, Art. XI, §5(a).....	3/4 of membership
<b>Expel Member</b> , Art. III, §4(d) .....	2/3 of membership
<b>Impeach Officer</b> , Art. III, §17(a).....	2/3 of members voting
(Conviction by Senate, Art. III, §17(c).....	2/3 of Senators present)

**GENERAL LAWS:**

Appropriate (recurring purposes) amount > 3% of general revenue from nonrecurring funds, Art. III, §19(a)(2) .....	3/5 of membership
Authorize conveying property taken by eminent domain, Art. X, §6(c) .....	3/5 of membership
<b>Finance and Taxation</b>	
Impose or authorize new tax or fee, Art. VII, §19(a) .....	2/3 of membership
Income tax (corporate) over 5%, Art. VII, §5(b).....	3/5 of membership
Raise state taxes or fees, Art. VII, §19(b) .....	2/3 of membership
<b>Judicial Organization</b>	
Create or decrease judicial offices other than as certified by the Supreme Court, Art. V, §9 .....	2/3 of membership
Repeal Court Rule of Practice/Procedure, Art. V, §2(a) .	2/3 of membership
<b>Local mandates (municipalities and counties), Art. VII, §18</b>	
Require the expenditure of funds, §18(a).....	2/3 of membership
Reduce authority to raise revenue, §18(b).....	2/3 of membership
Reduce the percentage of a state tax shared, §18(c).....	2/3 of membership
Override veto of Governor, Art. III, §8(c) .....	2/3 of members voting
Prohibit special laws (specified subject) not prohibited by constitution (or amend or repeal such prohibition), Art. III, §11(a)(21) .....	3/5 of membership
Public records/meetings exemption, Art. I, §24(c) .....	2/3 of members voting
State revenue increase, Art. VII, §1(e).....	2/3 of membership
Trust fund: create or re-create, Art. III, §19(f)(1) .....	3/5 of membership

[Note that some bills may be enacted with less than the vote required above but provisions listed above would not take effect unless the required vote is recorded.]

**PROCEDURE:**

- Extend Session, Art. III, §3(d) ..... 3/5 of members voting
- Quorum to do business, Art. III, §4(a).....Majority of membership  
(less may adjourn from day to day or compel presence of absent members)
- Read bill in full, Art. III, §7 ..... 1/3 of members present
- Require a roll call on any question, Art. III, §4(c) ..5 members present requesting
- Require a roll call on any question  
(committee or subcommittee), Art. III, §4(c) .2 members present requesting
- Take up business outside Governor's call  
of special session, Art. III, §3(c)(1)..... 2/3 of membership
- Take up business outside legislative call  
of special session, Art. III, §3(c)(2), §11.011(3), F.S..... 2/3 of membership
- Take up new business in  
extended session, Art. III, §3(d)..... 2/3 of membership
- Waive requirement of readings on 3  
separate days, Art. III, §7 ..... 2/3 of members voting

**Additional House Vote Requirements  
Imposed by Rules**

**(citations to House Rules; committee requirements excluded)**

- Approve third reading amendment, R.12.4(b) ..... 2/3 of members voting
- Change or add reference after first day, R.11.11(c) and (d)..... 2/3 of members voting
- Consider bill not on special order, R.10.13..... 2/3 of members voting
- Consider late-filed amendment, R.12.1(b)..... 2/3 of members voting
- Punish member for behavior, R.15.9 ..... 2/3 of members voting  
(expulsion requires 2/3 of membership)
- Reconsider amendment on third reading, R.12.4(c)..... 2/3 of members voting
- Reconsideration, renewing after once considered, R.11.7(d)..... Unanimous vote
- Substitute companion on different reading, R.5.17..... 2/3 of members voting
- Suspend Rules, R.13.2 ..... 2/3 of members voting
- Waive germanity rule, R.12.8(d) ..... Unanimous vote
- Waive reading requirement, R.10.7 ..... 2/3 of members voting
- Withdraw bill from committee or subcommittee  
of reference, R.11.11(a)..... 2/3 of members voting
- Withdraw bill from further consideration,  
after introduction, R.11.11(f) ..... 2/3 of members voting

**72-Hour Public Review Periods**

**(no vote on final passage until 72 hours after event)**

- ..... EVENT
- General appropriations act,**  
final passage, Art. III, §19(d), J.R. 2 ..... Bill Distributed in Final Form
- State revenue increase, Art. VII, §1(e)** ..... Third Reading

**24-Hour Public Review Period**

**(no vote on final passage until 24 hours after event)**

- ..... EVENT
- Implementing or conforming bills,**  
final passage, J.R. 2.1(8) ..... Bill Distributed in Final Form

## Rules Regulating Vote Requirements:

### RULE THIRTEEN—RULES

#### 13.6—Majority Action

Unless otherwise indicated by these rules, all action by the House or its committees or subcommittees shall be by majority vote of those members present and voting. When the body is equally divided, the question is defeated.

#### 13.7—Extraordinary Action

Unless otherwise required by these rules or the Florida Constitution, all extraordinary votes shall be by vote of those members present and voting.

### Table of Votes Required Based on Members Voting

Voting	Majority	3/5	2/3
61	31	37	41
62	32	38	42
63	32	38	42
64	33	39	43
65	33	39	44
66	34	40	44
67	34	41	45
68	35	41	46
69	35	42	46
70	36	42	47
71	36	43	48
72	37	44	48
73	37	44	49
74	38	45	50
75	38	45	50
76	39	46	51
77	39	47	52
78	40	47	52
79	40	48	53
80	41	48	54
81	41	49	54
82	42	50	55
83	42	50	56
84	43	51	56
85	43	51	57
86	44	52	58
87	44	53	58
88	45	53	59
89	45	54	60
90	46	54	60

Voting	Majority	3/5	2/3
91	46	55	61
92	47	56	62
93	47	56	62
94	48	57	63
95	48	57	64
96	49	58	64
97	49	59	65
98	50	59	66
99	50	60	66
100	51	60	67
101	51	61	68
102	52	62	68
103	52	62	69
104	53	63	70
105	53	63	70
106	54	64	71
107	54	65	72
108	55	65	72
109	55	66	73
110	56	66	74
111	56	67	74
112	57	68	75
113	57	68	76
114	58	69	76
115	58	69	77
116	59	70	78
117	59	71	78
118	60	71	79
119	60	72	80
120	61	72	80





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