A bill to be entitled

An act relating to reducing and streamlining regulations; amending s. 320.90, F.S.; transferring the responsibility for distribution of a motor vehicle consumer's rights pamphlet to a motor vehicle owner from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to the Department of Legal Affairs; amending s. 322.142, F.S.; providing for the release of certain driver license information by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation under certain circumstances; amending s. 469.006, F.S.; authorizing an asbestos consultant or contractor doing business as a sole proprietorship to be licensed under his or her fictitious name; amending ss. 475.42, 475.626, and 477.0265, F.S.; deleting criminal penalties for persons who violate orders or rules of the Florida Real Estate Commission, persons who violate orders or rules of the Florida Real Estate Appraisal Board or related grounds for disciplinary action, and persons who commit certain violations of the Florida Cosmetology Act or rules of the Board of Cosmetology; amending ss. 455.271, 477.0212, 481.217, 489.116, and 489.519, F.S.; revising the continuing education requirements for reactivating a license, certificate, or registration to practice certain regulated professions and occupations; amending s. 473.308, F.S.; revising licensure requirements for certified public accountants and firms; deleting obsolete provisions; revising licensure requirements for certain

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persons licensed to practice public accounting in another state or territory; amending s. 475.17, F.S.; revising the education requirements for licensed real estate brokers and sales associates; amending s. 481.219, F.S.; providing that a certificate of authorization is not required for an architect doing business as a sole proprietorship under his or her fictitious name; amending ss. 493.6107 and 493.6202, F.S.; revising requirements for the method of payment of certain fees; amending s. 493.6401, F.S.; revising terminology for repossessor schools and training facilities; amending s. 493.6402, F.S.; conforming terminology; revising requirements for the method of payment of certain fees; amending s. 493.6406, F.S.; conforming terminology; amending s. 500.03, F.S.; providing and revising definitions for purposes of the Florida Food Safety Act; amending s. 500.121, F.S.; providing penalties for food safety violations committed by cottage food operations; creating s. 500.80, F.S.; exempting cottage food operations from food permitting requirements; limiting the annual gross sales of cottage food operations and the methods by which cottage food products may be sold or offered for sale; requiring certain packaging and labeling of cottage food products; limiting the sale of cottage food products to certain locations; providing for application; authorizing the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to investigate complaints and enter into the premises of a cottage food operation; amending s. 501.160, F.S.;

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57 deleting authority for the department to enforce certain 58 prohibitions against unconscionable practices during a 59 declared state of emergency; amending s. 509.032, F.S.; 60 revising which matters relating to the regulation of public lodging establishments and food service 61 62 establishments are preempted to the state; amending s. 63 509.261, F.S.; authorizing the Division of Hotels and 64 Restaurants of the Department of Business and Professional 65 Regulation to require certain public lodging 66 establishments and public food service establishments to 67 complete certain food safety training; amending s. 633.537, F.S.; revising the validity period for inactive 68 status certificates of fire protection system contractors; 69 70 amending ss. 681.102, 681.103, 681.108, 681.109, 681.1095, 681.1096, and 681.112, F.S.; deleting a definition; 71 transferring certain responsibilities of the Division of 72 73 Consumer Services for the Motor Vehicle Warranty 74 Enforcement Act to the Department of Legal Affairs; 75 conforming provisions; amending s. 681.117, F.S.; deleting 76 provisions providing for the transfer of certain fees and 77 interagency contracting between the Department of Legal 78 Affairs and the Division of Consumer Services, to conform; 79 amending s. 10, ch. 2010-84, Laws of Florida; revising the effective date of provisions relating to the regulation of 80 81 real estate appraisers and appraisal management companies; 82 providing for retroactive operation under certain 83 circumstances; providing effective dates. 84

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 320.90, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

320.90 Notification of consumer's rights.—The department shall develop a motor vehicle consumer's rights pamphlet which shall be distributed free of charge by the Department of <u>Legal Affairs Agriculture and Consumer Services</u> to the motor vehicle owner upon request. Such pamphlet must contain information relating to odometer fraud and provide a summary of the rights and remedies available to all purchasers of motor vehicles.

Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 322.142, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

322.142 Color photographic or digital imaged licenses.-

(4) The department may maintain a film negative or print file. The department shall maintain a record of the digital image and signature of the licensees, together with other data required by the department for identification and retrieval.

Reproductions from the file or digital record are exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and shall be made and issued only for departmental administrative purposes; for the issuance of duplicate licenses; in response to law enforcement agency requests; to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation pursuant to an interagency agreement for the purpose of accessing digital images for reproduction of licenses issued by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and for the purpose of identifying subjects under criminal investigation for unlicensed activity pursuant to s. 455.228; to

the Department of State pursuant to an interagency agreement to facilitate determinations of eligibility of voter registration applicants and registered voters in accordance with ss. 98.045 and 98.075; to the Department of Revenue pursuant to an interagency agreement for use in establishing paternity and establishing, modifying, or enforcing support obligations in Title IV-D cases; to the Department of Children and Family Services pursuant to an interagency agreement to conduct protective investigations under part III of chapter 39 and chapter 415; to the Department of Children and Family Services pursuant to an interagency agreement specifying the number of employees in each of that department's regions to be granted access to the records for use as verification of identity to expedite the determination of eligibility for public assistance and for use in public assistance fraud investigations; or to the Department of Financial Services pursuant to an interagency agreement to facilitate the location of owners of unclaimed property, the validation of unclaimed property claims, and the identification of fraudulent or false claims.

- Section 3. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 469.006, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 469.006 Licensure of business organizations; qualifying agents.—
- (1) If an individual proposes to engage in consulting or contracting in that individual's own name, or a fictitious name under which the individual is doing business as a sole proprietorship, the license may be issued only to that individual.

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(2) (a) If the applicant proposes to engage in consulting or contracting as a partnership, corporation, business trust, or other legal entity, or in any name, or fictitious name under which the individual is doing business as a sole proprietorship, other than the applicant's legal name, the legal entity must apply for licensure through a qualifying agent or the individual applicant must apply for licensure under the fictitious name.

Section 4. Paragraphs (f) through (o) of subsection (1) of section 475.42, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (e) through (n), respectively, and present paragraph (e) of that subsection is amended to read:

- 475.42 Violations and penalties.-
- 153 (1) VIOLATIONS.—

(e) A person may not violate any lawful order or rule of the commission which is binding upon her or him.

Section 5. Paragraphs (d) through (g) of subsection (1) of section 475.626, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (b) through (e), respectively, and present paragraphs (b) and (c) of that subsection are amended to read:

- 475.626 Violations and penalties.-
- 161 (1) VIOLATIONS.—
 - (b) No person shall violate any lawful order or rule of the board which is binding upon her or him.
 - (c) No person shall commit any conduct or practice set forth in s. 475.624.
 - Section 6. Effective July 1, 2014, paragraphs (d) through (h) of subsection (1) of section 475.626, Florida Statutes, as amended by chapter 2010-84, Laws of Florida, and this act, are

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169 redesignated as paragraphs (b) through (f), respectively, and 170 paragraphs (b) and (c) of that subsection are amended to read: Violations and penalties.-171 475.626 172 A person may not: 173 Violate any lawful order or rule of the board which 174 is binding upon her or him. 175 If a registered trainee appraiser or a licensed or 176 certified appraiser, commit any conduct or practice set forth in 177 s. 475.624. Section 7. Paragraphs (d) through (h) of subsection (1) of 178 section 477.0265, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as 179 180 paragraphs (c) through (g), respectively, and present paragraph (c) of that subsection is amended to read: 181 182 477.0265 Prohibited acts.-183 It is unlawful for any person to: 184 (c) Engage in willful or repeated violations of this 185 chapter or of any rule adopted by the board. 186 Section 8. Subsection (10) of section 455.271, Florida

Statutes, is amended to read:

455.271 Inactive and delinguent status.

The board, or the department when there is no board, shall require Before reactivation, an inactive or delinquent licensee, except for a licensee under chapter 473 or chapter 475, to complete one renewal cycle of shall meet the same continuing education to reactivate a license requirements, if any, imposed on an active status licensee for all biennial licensure periods in which the licensee was inactive or delinquent. This subsection does not apply to persons regulated

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under chapter 473.

Section 9. Subsection (2) of section 477.0212, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

477.0212 Inactive status.-

(2) The board shall adopt promulgate rules relating to licenses that which have become inactive and for the renewal of inactive licenses. The rules must require one renewal cycle of continuing education to reactivate a license. The board shall prescribe by rule a fee not to exceed \$50 for the reactivation of an inactive license and a fee not to exceed \$50 for the renewal of an inactive license.

Section 10. Subsection (1) of section 481.217, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

481.217 Inactive status.-

(1) The board may prescribe by rule continuing education requirements as a condition of reactivating a license. The <u>rules must require one renewal cycle of</u> continuing education <u>to reactivate requirements for reactivating</u> a license for a registered architect <u>may not exceed 12 contact hours for each year the license was inactive</u>. The minimum continuing education requirement for reactivating a license for a registered interior designer shall be those of the most recent biennium plus one—half of the requirements in s. 481.215 for each year or part thereof during which the license was inactive. The board shall only approve continuing education that builds upon the basic knowledge of interior design.

Section 11. Subsections (3) and (6) of section 489.116, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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489.116 Inactive and delinquent status; renewal and cancellation notices.—

- (3) An inactive status certificateholder or registrant may change to active status at any time <u>if</u>, provided the certificateholder or registrant meets all requirements for active status, pays any additional licensure fees necessary to equal those imposed on an active status certificateholder or registrant, and pays any applicable late fees, and meets all continuing education requirements prescribed by the board.
- (6) The board may not require an inactive certificateholder or registrant to complete more than one renewal cycle of shall comply with the same continuing education for reactivating a certificate or registration requirements, if any, that are imposed on an active status certificateholder or registrant.
- Section 12. Subsection (1) of section 489.519, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 489.519 Inactive status.-
- inactive may be reactivated under s. 489.517 upon application to the department. The <u>licensee must complete one renewal cycle of board may prescribe</u>, by rule, continuing education to reactivate requirements as a condition of reactivating a certificate or registration. The continuing education requirements for reactivating a certificate or registration may not exceed 12 classroom hours for each year the certificate or registration was inactive.
 - Section 13. Subsections (3) and (4) and paragraph (b) of

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subsection (7) of section 473.308, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

473.308 Licensure.-

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- (3) An applicant for licensure must:
- (a) Complete have at least 150 semester hours of college education, including a baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by an accredited college or university, with a concentration in accounting and business in the total educational program to the extent specified by the board; or
- (b) Graduate from an accredited university in the state with a master's degree in accounting.
- (4) (a) An applicant for licensure after December 31, 2008, must show that he or she has had 1 year of relevant work experience. This experience must shall include providing any type of service or advice involving the use of accounting, attest, compilation, management advisory, financial advisory, tax, or consulting skills, all of which must be verified by a certified public accountant who is licensed by a state or territory of the United States and who has supervised the applicant. This experience is acceptable if it was gained through employment in government, industry, academia, or public practice; constituted a substantial part of the applicant's duties; and was under the supervision of a certified public accountant licensed by a state or territory of the United States. The board shall adopt rules specifying standards and providing for the review and approval of the work experience required by this section.
 - (b) However, an applicant who completed the requirements

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of subsection (3) on or before December 31, 2008, and who passes the licensure examination on or before June 30, 2010, is exempt from the requirements of this subsection.

- (7) The board shall certify as qualified for a license by endorsement an applicant who:
- (b)1.a. Holds a valid license to practice public accounting issued by another state or territory of the United States, if the criteria for issuance of such license were substantially equivalent to the licensure criteria that existed in this state at the time the license was issued; or
- b. Holds a valid license to practice public accounting issued by another state or territory of the United States but the criteria for issuance of such license did not meet the requirements of sub-subparagraph a.; has met the requirements of this section for education, work experience, and good moral character; has at least 5 years of work experience that meets the requirements of subsection (4) or 5 years of experience in the practice of public accountancy or its equivalent which meets the requirements of subsection (8); and has passed a national, regional, state, or territorial licensing examination that is substantially equivalent to the examination required by s. 473.306; and
- 2. Has completed continuing education courses that are equivalent to the continuing education requirements for a Florida certified public accountant licensed in this state during the 2 years immediately preceding her or his application for licensure by endorsement.
 - Section 14. Subsection (6) of section 475.17, Florida

Statutes, is amended to read:

- 475.17 Qualifications for practice.-
- (6) The postlicensure education requirements of this section, and the education course requirements for one to become initially licensed, do not apply to any applicant or licensee who has received a <u>bachelor's degree in real estate</u>, a <u>bachelor's degree in business with a concentration or emphasis in real estate</u>, or a higher degree with a concentration or <u>emphasis 4-year degree</u> in real estate from an accredited institution of higher education.
- Section 15. Subsection (2) of section 481.219, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 481.219 Certification of partnerships, limited liability companies, and corporations.—
- (2) For the purposes of this section, a certificate of authorization <u>is</u> shall be required for a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or person practicing under a fictitious name, offering architectural services to the public jointly or separately. However, when an individual is practicing architecture in her or his own name, <u>or in a fictitious name under which the individual is doing business as a sole proprietorship</u>, she or he <u>is</u> shall not be required to be certified under this section. Certification under this subsection to offer architectural services shall include all the rights and privileges of certification under subsection (3) to offer interior design services.
- Section 16. Subsection (3) of section 493.6107, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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337 493.6107 Fees.-

(3) The fees set forth in this section must be paid by certified check or money order or, at the discretion of the department, by electronic funds transfer agency check at the time the application is approved, except that the applicant for a Class "G" or Class "M" license must pay the license fee at the time the application is made. If a license is revoked or denied or if the application is withdrawn, the license fee shall not be refunded.

Section 17. Subsection (3) of section 493.6202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

493.6202 Fees.-

(3) The fees set forth in this section must be paid by certified check or money order or, at the discretion of the department, by electronic funds transfer agency check at the time the application is approved, except that the applicant for a Class "G," Class "C," Class "CC," Class "M," or Class "MA" license must pay the license fee at the time the application is made. If a license is revoked or denied or if the application is withdrawn, the license fee shall not be refunded.

Section 18. Subsections (7) and (8) of section 493.6401, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

493.6401 Classes of licenses.-

- (7) Any person who operates a <u>recovery agent</u> repossessor school or training facility or who conducts an Internet-based training course or a correspondence training course must have a Class "RS" license.
 - (8) Any individual who teaches or instructs at a Class

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"RS" <u>recovery agent</u> <u>repossessor</u> school or training facility shall have a Class "RI" license.

Section 19. Paragraphs (f) and (g) of subsection (1) and subsection (3) of section 493.6402, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

493.6402 Fees.-

- (1) The department shall establish by rule biennial license fees which shall not exceed the following:
- (f) Class "RS" license—<u>recovery agent</u> repossessor school or training facility: \$60.
- (g) Class "RI" license—<u>recovery agent</u> repossessor school or training facility instructor: \$60.
- (3) The fees set forth in this section must be paid by certified check or money order, or, at the discretion of the department, by electronic funds transfer agency check at the time the application is approved, except that the applicant for a Class "E," Class "EE," or Class "MR" license must pay the license fee at the time the application is made. If a license is revoked or denied, or if an application is withdrawn, the license fee shall not be refunded.

Section 20. Section 493.6406, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 493.6406 <u>Recovery agent</u> Repossession services school or training facility.—
- (1) Any school, training facility, or instructor who offers the training outlined in s. 493.6403(2) for Class "EE" applicants shall, before licensure of such school, training facility, or instructor, file with the department an application

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accompanied by an application fee in an amount to be determined by rule, not to exceed \$60. The fee shall not be refundable. This training may be offered as face-to-face training, Internet-based training, or correspondence training.

- (2) The application shall be signed and notarized and shall contain, at a minimum, the following information:
- (a) The name and address of the school or training facility and, if the applicant is an individual, his or her name, address, and social security or alien registration number.
- (b) The street address of the place at which the training is to be conducted or the street address of the Class "RS" school offering Internet-based or correspondence training.
- (c) A copy of the training curriculum and final examination to be administered.
- (3) The department shall adopt rules establishing the criteria for approval of schools, training facilities, and instructors.
- Section 21. Paragraphs (j) through (z) of subsection (1) of section 500.03, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (l) through (bb), respectively, present paragraphs (n) and (p) are amended, and new paragraphs (j) and (k) are added to that subsection, to read:
 - 500.03 Definitions; construction; applicability.-
 - (1) For the purpose of this chapter, the term:
- (j) "Cottage food operation" means a natural person who produces or packages cottage food products at his or her residence and sells such products in accordance with s. 500.80.
 - (k) "Cottage food product" means food that is not a

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potentially hazardous food as defined by department rule which
is sold by a cottage food operation in accordance with s.
500.80.

(p) (n) "Food establishment" means any factory, food outlet, or any other facility manufacturing, processing, packing, holding, or preparing food or selling food at wholesale or retail. The term does not include any business or activity that is regulated under s. 500.80, chapter 509, or chapter 601. The term includes tomato packinghouses and repackers but does not include any other establishments that pack fruits and vegetables in their raw or natural states, including those fruits or vegetables that are washed, colored, or otherwise treated in their unpeeled, natural form before they are marketed.

(r) (p) "Food service establishment" means any place where food is prepared and intended for individual portion service, and includes the site at which individual portions are provided. The term includes any such place regardless of whether consumption is on or off the premises and regardless of whether there is a charge for the food. The term includes delicatessens that offer prepared food in individual service portions. The term does not include schools, institutions, fraternal organizations, private homes where food is prepared or served for individual family consumption, retail food stores, the location of food vending machines, cottage food operations, and supply vehicles, nor does the term include a research and development test kitchen limited to the use of employees and which is not open to the general public.

Section 22. Subsection (1) of section 500.121, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

500.121 Disciplinary procedures.-

- (1) In addition to the suspension procedures provided in s. 500.12, <u>if applicable</u>, the department may impose a fine not to exceed exceeding \$5,000 against any retail food store, or food establishment, or cottage food operation that <u>violates</u> has <u>violated</u> this chapter, which fine, when imposed and paid, shall be deposited by the department into the General Inspection Trust Fund. The department may revoke or suspend the permit of any such retail food store or food establishment if it is satisfied that the retail food store or food establishment has:
 - (a) Violated any of the provisions of this chapter.
- (b) Violated or aided or abetted in the violation of any law of this state governing or applicable to retail food stores or food establishments or any lawful rules of the department.
- (c) Knowingly committed, or been a party to, any material fraud, misrepresentation, conspiracy, collusion, trick, scheme, or device whereby any other person, lawfully relying upon the word, representation, or conduct of a retail food store or food establishment, acts to her or his injury or damage.
- (d) Committed any act or conduct of the same or different character than that enumerated which constitutes fraudulent or dishonest dealing.
- Section 23. Section 500.80, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
 - 500.80 Cottage food operations.-

(1) (a) A cottage food operation must comply with the applicable requirements of this chapter but is exempt from the permitting requirements of s. 500.12 if the cottage food operation complies with this section and has annual gross sales of cottage food products that do not exceed \$15,000.

- (b) For purposes of this subsection, a cottage food operation's annual gross sales include all sales of cottage food products at any location, regardless of the types of products sold or the number of persons involved in the operation. A cottage food operation must provide the department, upon request, with written documentation to verify the operation's annual gross sales.
- (2) A cottage food operation may not sell or offer for sale cottage food products over the Internet, by mail order, or at wholesale.
- (3) A cottage food operation may only sell cottage food products which are prepackaged with a label affixed that contains the following information:
 - (a) The name and address of the cottage food operation.
 - (b) The name of the cottage food product.
- (c) The ingredients of the cottage food product, in descending order of predominance by weight.
- (d) The net weight or net volume of the cottage food product.
- (e) Allergen information as specified by federal labeling requirements.

(f) If any nutritional claim is made, appropriate nutritional information as specified by federal labeling requirements.

- (g) The following statement printed in at least 10-point

 type in a color that provides a clear contrast to the background

 of the label: "Made in a cottage food operation that is not

 subject to Florida's food safety regulations."
- (4) A cottage food operation may only sell cottage food products that it stores on the premises of the cottage food operation.
- (5) This section does not exempt a cottage food operation from any state or federal tax law, rule, regulation, or certificate that applies to all cottage food operations.
- (6) A cottage food operation must comply with all applicable county and municipal laws and ordinances regulating the preparation, processing, storage, and sale of cottage food products by a cottage food operation or from a person's residence.
- (7) (a) The department may investigate any complaint which alleges that a cottage food operation has violated an applicable provision of this chapter or rule adopted under this chapter.
- (b) Only upon receipt of a complaint, the department's authorized officer or employee may enter and inspect the premises of a cottage food operation to determine compliance with this chapter and department rules, as applicable. A cottage food operation's refusal to permit the department's authorized officer or employee entry to the premises or to conduct the inspection is grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to s.

530 500.121.

- (8) This section does not apply to a person operating under a food permit issued pursuant to s. 500.12.
- Section 24. Subsection (8) of section 501.160, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 501.160 Rental or sale of essential commodities during a declared state of emergency; prohibition against unconscionable prices.—
- (8) Any violation of this section may be enforced by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the office of the state attorney, or the Department of Legal Affairs.
- Section 25. Subsection (7) of section 509.032, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

509.032 Duties.-

establishments and public food service establishments, including, but not limited to, the inspection of public lodging establishments and public food service establishments for compliance with the sanitation standards, inspections adopted under this section, and the regulation of food safety protection standards for required training and testing of food service establishment personnel, and matters related to the nutritional content and marketing of foods offered in such establishments, are preempted to the state. This subsection does not preempt the authority of a local government or local enforcement district to conduct inspections of public lodging and public food service establishments for compliance with the Florida Building Code and the Florida Fire Prevention Code, pursuant to ss. 553.80 and

558 633.022.

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Section 26. Subsection (1) of section 509.261, Florida

Statutes, is amended to read:

509.261 Revocation or suspension of licenses; fines; procedure.—

- (1) Any public lodging establishment or public food service establishment that has operated or is operating in violation of this chapter or the rules of the division, operating without a license, or operating with a suspended or revoked license may be subject by the division to:
 - (a) Fines not to exceed \$1,000 per offense;
- (b) Mandatory <u>completion</u> attendance, at personal expense, of a food safety training at an educational program administered by a private nonprofit provider chosen by the division under s.

 509.049 sponsored by the Hospitality Education Program; and
- (c) The suspension, revocation, or refusal of a license issued pursuant to this chapter.
- Section 27. Subsection (2) of section 633.537, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 633.537 Certificate; expiration; renewal; inactive certificate; continuing education.—
- (2) A person who holds a valid certificate may maintain such certificate in an inactive status during which time she or he may not engage in contracting. An inactive status certificate shall be void after <u>four a 2-year periods period</u>. The biennial renewal fee for an inactive status certificate shall be \$75. An inactive status certificate may be reactivated upon application

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to the State Fire Marshal and payment of the initial application fee.

Section 28. Subsections (8) through (23) of section 681.102, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (7) through (22), respectively, and present subsection (7) of that section, is amended to read:

- 681.102 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:
- (7) "Division" means the Division of Consumer Services of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Section 29. Subsection (3) of section 681.103, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 681.103 Duty of manufacturer to conform a motor vehicle to the warranty.—
- inform the consumer clearly and conspicuously in writing how and where to file a claim with a certified procedure if such procedure has been established by the manufacturer pursuant to s. 681.108. The nameplate manufacturer of a recreational vehicle shall, at the time of vehicle acquisition, inform the consumer clearly and conspicuously in writing how and where to file a claim with a program pursuant to s. 681.1096. The manufacturer shall provide to the dealer and, at the time of acquisition, the dealer shall provide to the consumer a written statement that explains the consumer's rights under this chapter. The written statement shall be prepared by the Department of Legal Affairs and shall contain a toll-free number for the department division that the consumer can contact to obtain information regarding the consumer's rights and obligations under this chapter or to

commence arbitration. If the manufacturer obtains a signed receipt for timely delivery of sufficient quantities of this written statement to meet the dealer's vehicle sales requirements, it shall constitute prima facie evidence of compliance with this subsection by the manufacturer. The consumer's signed acknowledgment of receipt of materials required under this subsection shall constitute prima facie evidence of compliance by the manufacturer and dealer. The form of the acknowledgments shall be approved by the Department of Legal Affairs, and the dealer shall maintain the consumer's signed acknowledgment for 3 years.

Section 30. Section 681.108, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

681.108 Dispute-settlement procedures.-

(1) If a manufacturer has established a procedure, which the <u>department</u> division has certified as substantially complying with the provisions of 16 C.F.R. part 703, in effect October 1, 1983, and with the provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter, and has informed the consumer how and where to file a claim with such procedure pursuant to s. 681.103(3), the provisions of s. 681.104(2) apply to the consumer only if the consumer has first resorted to such procedure. The decisionmakers for a certified procedure shall, in rendering decisions, take into account all legal and equitable factors germane to a fair and just decision, including, but not limited to, the warranty; the rights and remedies conferred under 16 C.F.R. part 703, in effect October 1, 1983; the provisions of this chapter; and any other equitable

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642 considerations appropriate under the circumstances.

Decisionmakers and staff of a procedure shall be trained in the provisions of this chapter and in 16 C.F.R. part 703, in effect October 1, 1983. In an action brought by a consumer concerning an alleged nonconformity, the decision that results from a certified procedure is admissible in evidence.

- (2) A manufacturer may apply to the <u>department</u> <u>division</u> for certification of its procedure. After receipt and evaluation of the application, the <u>department</u> <u>division</u> shall certify the procedure or notify the manufacturer of any deficiencies in the application or the procedure.
- (3) A certified procedure or a procedure of an applicant seeking certification shall submit to the <u>department</u> division a copy of each settlement approved by the procedure or decision made by a decisionmaker within 30 days after the settlement is reached or the decision is rendered. The decision or settlement must contain at a minimum the:
 - (a) Name and address of the consumer;
- (b) Name of the manufacturer and address of the dealership from which the motor vehicle was purchased;
- (c) Date the claim was received and the location of the procedure office that handled the claim;
 - (d) Relief requested by the consumer;
- (e) Name of each decisionmaker rendering the decision or person approving the settlement;
 - (f) Statement of the terms of the settlement or decision;
 - (g) Date of the settlement or decision; and
 - (h) Statement of whether the decision was accepted or

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rejected by the consumer.

- (4) Any manufacturer establishing or applying to establish a certified procedure must file with the <u>department</u> division a copy of the annual audit required under the provisions of 16 C.F.R. part 703, in effect October 1, 1983, together with any additional information required for purposes of certification, including the number of refunds and replacements made in this state pursuant to the provisions of this chapter by the manufacturer during the period audited.
- (5) The <u>department</u> <u>division</u> shall review each certified procedure at least annually, prepare an annual report evaluating the operation of certified procedures established by motor vehicle manufacturers and procedures of applicants seeking certification, and, for a period not to exceed 1 year, shall grant certification to, or renew certification for, those manufacturers whose procedures substantially comply with the provisions of 16 C.F.R. part 703, in effect October 1, 1983, and with the provisions of this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter. If certification is revoked or denied, the <u>department</u> <u>division</u> shall state the reasons for such action. The reports and records of actions taken with respect to certification shall be public records.
- (6) A manufacturer whose certification is denied or revoked is entitled to a hearing pursuant to chapter 120.
- (7) If federal preemption of state authority to regulate procedures occurs, the provisions of subsection (1) concerning prior resort do not apply.
 - (8) The <u>department</u> division shall adopt rules to

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administer implement this section.

Section 31. Section 681.109, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

681.109 Florida New Motor Vehicle Arbitration Board; dispute eligibility.—

- (1) If a manufacturer has a certified procedure, a consumer claim arising during the Lemon Law rights period must be filed with the certified procedure no later than 60 days after the expiration of the Lemon Law rights period. If a decision is not rendered by the certified procedure within 40 days of filing, the consumer may apply to the department division to have the dispute removed to the board for arbitration.
- (2) If a manufacturer has a certified procedure, a consumer claim arising during the Lemon Law rights period must be filed with the certified procedure no later than 60 days after the expiration of the Lemon Law rights period. If a consumer is not satisfied with the decision or the manufacturer's compliance therewith, the consumer may apply to the <u>department</u> division to have the dispute submitted to the board for arbitration. A manufacturer may not seek review of a decision made under its procedure.
- (3) If a manufacturer has no certified procedure or if a certified procedure does not have jurisdiction to resolve the dispute, a consumer may apply directly to the <u>department</u> division to have the dispute submitted to the board for arbitration.
 - (4) A consumer must request arbitration before the board

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with respect to a claim arising during the Lemon Law rights period no later than 60 days after the expiration of the Lemon Law rights period, or within 30 days after the final action of a certified procedure, whichever date occurs later.

- (5) The <u>department</u> <u>division</u> shall screen all requests for arbitration before the board to determine eligibility. The consumer's request for arbitration before the board shall be made on a form prescribed by the department. The <u>department</u> <u>division</u> shall <u>assign</u> <u>forward</u> to the board all disputes that the <u>department</u> <u>division</u> determines are potentially entitled to relief under this chapter.
- (6) The <u>department</u> division may reject a dispute that it determines to be fraudulent or outside the scope of the board's authority. Any dispute deemed by the <u>department</u> division to be ineligible for arbitration by the board due to insufficient evidence may be reconsidered upon the submission of new information regarding the dispute. Following a second review, the <u>department</u> division may reject a dispute if the evidence is clearly insufficient to qualify for relief. If the department rejects a dispute, notice of such rejection Any dispute rejected by the division shall be forwarded to the department and a copy shall be sent by registered mail to the consumer and the manufacturer, containing a brief explanation as to the reason for rejection.
- (7) If the <u>department</u> division rejects a dispute, the consumer may file a lawsuit to enforce the remedies provided under this chapter. In any civil action arising under this chapter and relating to a matter considered by the department

division, any determination made to reject a dispute is admissible in evidence.

- (8) The department \underline{may} shall have the authority to adopt reasonable rules to $\underline{administer}$ carry out the provisions of this section.
- Section 32. Subsections (2), (4), (5), (11), and (12) of section 681.1095, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 681.1095 Florida New Motor Vehicle Arbitration Board; creation and function.—
- (2) The boards shall hear cases in various locations throughout the state so any consumer whose dispute is approved for arbitration by the <u>department</u> <u>division</u> may attend an arbitration hearing at a reasonably convenient location and present a dispute orally. Hearings shall be conducted by panels of three board members assigned by the department. A majority vote of the three-member board panel shall be required to render a decision. Arbitration proceedings under this section shall be open to the public on reasonable and nondiscriminatory terms.
- (4) Before filing a civil action on a matter subject to s. 681.104, the consumer must first submit the dispute to the department division, and to the board if such dispute is deemed eligible for arbitration.
- (5) Manufacturers shall submit to arbitration conducted by the board if such arbitration is requested by a consumer and the dispute is deemed eligible for arbitration by the <u>department</u> division pursuant to s. 681.109.
- (11) All provisions in this section and s. 681.109 pertaining to compulsory arbitration before the board, the

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dispute eligibility screening by the <u>department</u> division, the proceedings and decisions of the board, and any appeals thereof, are exempt from the provisions of chapter 120.

- (12) An appeal of a decision by the board to the circuit court by a consumer or a manufacturer shall be by trial de novo. In a written petition to appeal a decision by the board, the appealing party must state the action requested and the grounds relied upon for appeal. Within 30 days after of final disposition of the appeal, the appealing party shall furnish the department with notice of such disposition and, upon request, shall furnish the department with a copy of the order or judgment of the court.
- Section 33. Subsections (2) and (4) of section 681.1096, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 681.1096 RV Mediation and Arbitration Program; creation and qualifications.—
- (2) Each manufacturer of a recreational vehicle involved in a dispute that is determined eligible under this chapter, including chassis and component manufacturers which separately warrant the chassis and components and which otherwise meet the definition of manufacturer set forth in s. 681.102(13)(14), shall participate in a mediation and arbitration program that is deemed qualified by the department.
- (4) The department shall monitor the program for compliance with this chapter. If the program is determined not qualified or if qualification is revoked, then disputes shall be subject to the provisions of ss. 681.109 and 681.1095. If the program is determined not qualified or if qualification is

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revoked as to a manufacturer, all those manufacturers potentially involved in the eligible consumer dispute shall be required to submit to arbitration conducted by the board if such arbitration is requested by a consumer and the dispute is deemed eligible for arbitration by the <u>department division</u> pursuant to s. 681.109. A consumer having a dispute involving one or more manufacturers for which the program has been determined not qualified, or for which qualification has been revoked, is not required to submit the dispute to the program irrespective of whether the program may be qualified as to some of the manufacturers potentially involved in the dispute.

Section 34. Subsection (2) of section 681.112, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

681.112 Consumer remedies.-

(2) An action brought under this chapter must be commenced within 1 year after the expiration of the Lemon Law rights period, or, if a consumer resorts to an informal disputesettlement procedure or submits a dispute to the <u>department</u> division or board, within 1 year after the final action of the procedure, <u>department</u> division, or board.

Section 35. Subsection (1) of section 681.117, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

681.117 Fee.-

(1) A \$2 fee shall be collected by a motor vehicle dealer, or by a person engaged in the business of leasing motor vehicles, from the consumer at the consummation of the sale of a motor vehicle or at the time of entry into a lease agreement for a motor vehicle. Such fees shall be remitted to the county tax

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collector or private tag agency acting as agent for the Department of Revenue. If the purchaser or lessee removes the motor vehicle from the state for titling and registration outside this state, the fee shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue. All fees, less the cost of administration, shall be transferred monthly to the Department of Legal Affairs for deposit into the Motor Vehicle Warranty Trust Fund. The Department of Legal Affairs shall distribute monthly an amount not exceeding one-fourth of the fees received to the Division of Consumer Services of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to carry out the provisions of ss. 681.108 and 681.109. The Department of Legal Affairs shall contract with the Division of Consumer Services for payment of services performed by the division pursuant to ss. 681.108 and 681.109.

Section 36. (1) Effective upon this act becoming a law, section 10 of chapter 2010-84, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014 2011.

(2) If this act becomes a law after June 30, 2011, this section shall operate retroactively to June 30, 2011.

Section 37. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2011.