

CHAPTER 2013-36

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 2

An act relating to ethics; amending s. 112.312, F.S.; revising the definitions of “business entity” and “gift”; creating s. 112.3125, F.S.; defining the term “public officer”; prohibiting public officers from accepting additional employment with the state or any of its political subdivisions underspecified conditions; amending s. 112.313, F.S.; prohibiting a former legislator from acting as a lobbyist before an executive branch agency, agency official, or employee for a specified period following vacation of office; providing definitions; creating s. 112.3142, F.S.; defining the term “constitutional officers”; requiring constitutional officers to complete annual ethics training; specifying requirements for ethics training; requiring the commission to adopt rules to establish minimum course content; requiring each house of the Legislature to provide for ethics training pursuant to its rules; creating s. 112.31425, F.S.; providing legislative findings; providing that holding an economic interest in a qualified blind trust is not a prohibited conflict of interest; providing that a public officer may not attempt to influence, exercise control of, or obtain information regarding the holdings of the qualified blind trust; prohibiting communication regarding the qualified blind trust between a public officer or a person having a beneficial interest in the trust and the trustee; providing exceptions; requiring a public officer to report the qualified blind trust and its value on his or her financial disclosure form under specified circumstances; establishing requirements for creation of a qualified blind trust; requiring a public officer who holds a qualified blind trust to file a notice with the Commission on Ethics; requiring a covered public official to file an amendment to his or her most recent financial disclosure statement under specified conditions; amending s. 112.3143, F.S.; providing definitions; requiring state public officers to abstain from voting on any matter that the officer knows would inure to his or her special private gain or loss; requiring that a memorandum filed after a vote be filed no later than 15 days after the vote; providing that a member of the Legislature satisfies the disclosure requirement by filing a form created pursuant to the rules of his or her respective house; providing that confidential or privileged information need not be disclosed; amending s. 112.3144, F.S.; requiring the qualifying officer to electronically transmit a full and public disclosure of financial interests of a qualified candidate to the commission; providing timeframes for the filing of certain complaints; authorizing filing individuals to file an amended statement during a specified timeframe under specified conditions; authorizing the commission to immediately follow complaint procedures under specified conditions; prohibiting the commission from taking action on complaints alleging immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis errors or omissions; providing what constitutes an immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis error or omission; authorizing an individual required to file a disclosure to have the statement prepared by an attorney or a certified public accountant; requiring an attorney or certified public accountant to sign the completed disclosure form to indicate compliance with applicable requirements and that the disclosure is true and correct based on reasonable knowledge and belief; providing circumstances under which the commission must determine if an attorney or a certified public accountant failed to disclose information provided by the filing individual on the filed statement; providing that the failure of the attorney or certified public accountant to accurately transcribe information provided by the filing individual does not constitute a violation; authorizing an elected

officer or candidate to use funds in an office account or campaign depository to pay an attorney or certified public accountant for preparing a disclosure; creating s. 112.31445, F.S.; providing a definition for “electronic filing system”; requiring all disclosures of financial interests filed with the commission to be scanned and made publicly available on a searchable Internet database beginning with the 2012 filing year; requiring the commission to submit a proposal to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for a mandatory electronic filing system by a specified date; establishing minimum requirements for the commission’s proposal; amending s. 112.3145, F.S.; revising the definitions of “local officer” and “specified state employee”; revising procedures for the filing of a statement of financial interests with a candidate’s qualifying papers; requiring a person filing a statement of financial interest to indicate the method of reporting income; providing timeframes for the filing of certain complaints; authorizing filing individuals to file an amended statement during a specified timeframe under specified conditions; authorizing the commission to immediately follow complaint procedures under specified conditions; prohibiting the commission from taking action on complaints alleging immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis errors or omissions; providing what constitutes an immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis error or omission; authorizing an individual required to file a disclosure to have the statement prepared by an attorney or a certified public accountant; requiring an attorney or certified public accountant to sign the completed disclosure form to indicate compliance with applicable requirements and that the disclosure is true and correct based on reasonable knowledge and belief; providing circumstances under which the commission must determine if an attorney or a certified public accountant failed to disclose information provided by the filing individual on the filed statement; providing that the failure of the attorney or certified public accountant to accurately transcribe information provided by the filing individual does not constitute a violation; authorizing an elected officer or candidate to use funds in an office account or campaign depository to pay an attorney or certified public accountant for preparing a disclosure; creating s. 112.31455, F.S.; requiring the commission to attempt to determine whether an individual owing certain fines is a current public officer or public employee; authorizing the commission to notify the Chief Financial Officer or the governing body of a county, municipality, or special district of the total amount of any fine owed to the commission by such individuals; requiring that the Chief Financial Officer or the governing body of a county, municipality, or special district begin withholding portions of any salary payment that would otherwise be paid to the current public officer or public employee; requiring that the withheld payments be remitted to the commission until the fine is satisfied; authorizing the Chief Financial Officer or the governing body to retain a portion of payment for administrative costs; authorizing collection methods for the commission or the Department of Financial Services for individuals who are no longer public officers or public employees; authorizing the commission to contract with a collection agency; authorizing a collection agency to utilize collection methods authorized by law; authorizing the commission to collect an unpaid fine within a specified period of issuance of the final order; amending s. 112.3147, F.S.; providing an exception to the requirement that all forms be prescribed by the commission; amending s. 112.3148, F.S.; revising the definition of “procurement employee”; creating a definition for “vendor”; prohibiting a reporting individual or procurement employee from soliciting or knowingly accepting a gift from a vendor; deleting references to committees of continuous existence; creating s. 112.31485, F.S.; providing definitions for “gift” and “immediate family”; prohibiting a reporting individual or procurement employee or a member of his or her immediate family from soliciting or knowingly accepting any gift from a political committee; prohibiting a political committee from giving any gift to a reporting individual or procurement employee or a member of his or her

immediate family; providing penalties for a violation; requiring that individuals who violate this section be held personally liable; amending s. 112.3149, F.S.; revising the definition of “procurement employee”; defining the term “vendor”; prohibiting a reporting individual or procurement employee from knowingly accepting an honorarium from a vendor; prohibiting a vendor from giving an honorarium to a reporting individual or procurement employee; amending s. 112.317, F.S.; making technical changes; amending s. 112.3215, F.S.; authorizing the commission to investigate sworn complaints alleging a prohibited expenditure; authorizing the commission to investigate a lobbyist or principal upon a sworn complaint or random audit; authorizing the Governor and Cabinet to assess a fine on a lobbyist or principal under specified conditions; providing a civil penalty; amending s. 112.324, F.S.; authorizing specified parties to submit written referrals of a possible violation of the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees or other possible breaches of the public trust to the Commission on Ethics; establishing procedures for the receipt of written referrals by the commission; extending the period in which the disclosure of the intent to file or the filing of a complaint against a candidate is prohibited; providing exceptions; authorizing the commission to dismiss a complaint of a de minimis violation; providing exceptions; defining a de minimis violation; reenacting s. 120.665, F.S., relating to disqualification of agency personnel, to incorporate the amendments to s. 112.3143, F.S., in a reference thereto; reenacting s. 286.012, F.S., relating to voting requirements at meetings of governmental bodies, to incorporate the amendments made to s. 112.3143, F.S., in a reference thereto; reenacting s. 287.175, F.S., relating to penalties, to incorporate the amendments made to s. 112.324, F.S., in a reference thereto; amending s. 288.901, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending s. 445.007, F.S., and reenacting subsection (1) of that section, relating to regional workforce boards, to incorporate the amendments made to s. 112.3143, F.S., in a reference thereto; conforming cross-references; reenacting s. 627.311(5)(m), F.S., relating to joint underwriters and joint reinsurers, to incorporate the amendments made to s. 112.3143, F.S., in a reference thereto; reenacting s. 627.351(6)(d), F.S., relating to Citizens Property Insurance Corporation, to incorporate the amendments made to s. 112.3143, F.S.; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 18. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 112.3143, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 120.665, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

120.665 Disqualification of agency personnel.—

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 112.3143, any individual serving alone or with others as an agency head may be disqualified from serving in an agency proceeding for bias, prejudice, or interest when any party to the agency proceeding shows just cause by a suggestion filed within a reasonable period of time prior to the agency proceeding. If the disqualified individual was appointed, the appointing power may appoint a substitute to serve in the matter from which the individual is disqualified. If the individual is an elected official, the Governor may appoint a substitute to serve in the matter from which the individual is disqualified. However, if a quorum remains after the individual is disqualified, it shall not be necessary to appoint a substitute.

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Section 25. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 1, 2013.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 1, 2013.