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1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to government accountability; amending
3	s. 11.40, F.S.; specifying that the Governor, the
4	Commissioner of Education, or the designee of the
5	Governor or of the commissioner, may notify the
6	Legislative Auditing Committee of an entity's failure
7	to comply with certain auditing and financial
8	reporting requirements; amending s. 11.45, F.S.;
9	defining the terms "abuse," "fraud," and "waste";
10	revising the definition of the term "local
11	governmental entity"; excluding water management
12	districts from certain audit requirements; removing a
13	cross-reference; authorizing the Auditor General to
14	conduct audits of tourist development councils and
15	county tourism promotion agencies; revising reporting
16	requirements applicable to the Auditor General;
17	amending s. 28.35, F.S.; revising reporting
18	requirements applicable to the Florida Clerks of Court
19	Operations Corporation; amending s. 43.16, F.S.;
20	revising the responsibilities of the Justice
21	Administrative Commission, each state attorney, each
22	public defender, the criminal conflict and civil
23	regional counsel, the capital collateral regional
24	counsel, and the Guardian Ad Litem Program, to include
25	the establishment and maintenance of certain internal
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26 controls; amending s. 112.061, F.S.; revising certain 27 lodging rates for the purpose of reimbursement to 28 specified employees; authorizing an employee to expend 29 his or her funds for certain lodging expenses; 30 defining the term "statewide travel management system"; requiring agencies and the judicial branch to 31 32 report certain travel information of public officers 33 and employees in the statewide travel management system; requiring executive branch state agencies and 34 35 the judicial branch to use the statewide travel 36 management system for certain purposes; amending ss. 37 129.03, 129.06, and 166.241, F.S.; requiring counties and municipalities to maintain certain budget 38 39 documents on the entities' websites for a specified period; amending s. 215.86, F.S.; revising the 40 41 purposes for which management systems and internal 42 controls must be established and maintained by each 43 state agency and the judicial branch; amending s. 215.97, F.S.; revising certain audit threshold 44 requirements; amending s. 215.985, F.S.; revising the 45 requirements for a monthly financial statement 46 47 provided by a water management district; amending s. 48 218.32, F.S.; revising the requirements of the annual financial audit report of a local governmental entity; 49 50 authorizing the Department of Financial Services to

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51 request additional information from a local 52 governmental entity; requiring a local governmental 53 entity to respond to such requests within a specified timeframe; requiring the department to notify the 54 55 Legislative Auditing Committee of noncompliance; 56 amending s. 218.33, F.S.; requiring local governmental entities to establish and maintain internal controls 57 58 to achieve specified purposes; amending s. 218.39, 59 F.S.; requiring an audited entity to respond to audit 60 recommendations under specified circumstances; amending s. 218.391, F.S.; revising membership for the 61 62 audit committee; prohibiting an audit committee member from being an employee, a chief executive officer, or 63 64 a chief financial officer of the respective governmental entity; requiring an auditor to include 65 certain information in a management letter; requiring 66 67 the chair of a governmental entity's governing body to submit an affidavit containing certain information 68 69 when the entity contracts with an auditor to conduct an audit; providing requirements and procedures for 70 71 selecting an auditor; requiring the Legislative 72 Auditing Committee to determine whether a governmental 73 entity should be subject to state action under certain 74 circumstances; amending s. 286.0114, F.S.; prohibiting 75 a board or commission from requiring an advance copy

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76 of testimony or comments from a member of the public 77 as a precondition to being given the opportunity to be 78 heard at a public meeting; amending s. 373.536, F.S.; 79 deleting obsolete language; requiring water management 80 districts to maintain certain budget documents on the districts' websites for a specified period; amending 81 82 s. 1001.42, F.S.; authorizing additional internal audits as directed by the district school board; 83 amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; revising the 84 85 responsibilities of the governing board of a charter school to include the establishment and maintenance of 86 87 internal controls; amending s. 1002.37, F.S.; requiring completion of an annual financial audit of 88 89 the Florida Virtual School; specifying audit requirements; requiring an audit report to be 90 submitted to the board of trustees of the Florida 91 92 Virtual School and the Auditor General; deleting 93 obsolete provisions; amending s. 1010.01, F.S.; 94 requiring each school district, Florida College System institution, and state university to establish and 95 96 maintain certain internal controls; amending s. 1010.30, F.S.; requiring a district school board, 97 98 Florida College System institution board of trustees, 99 or university board of trustees to respond to audit 100 recommendations under certain circumstances; amending

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s. 218.503, F.S.; conforming provisions and cross-101 102 references to changes made by the act; declaring that 103 the act fulfills an important state interest; 104 providing an effective date. 105 106 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 107 108 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 11.40, Florida 109 Statutes, is amended to read: 110 11.40 Legislative Auditing Committee.-(2) Following notification by the Auditor General, the 111 112 Department of Financial Services, or the Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration, the Governor or 113 114 his or her designee, or the Commissioner of Education or his or 115 her designee of the failure of a local governmental entity, district school board, charter school, or charter technical 116 117 career center to comply with the applicable provisions within s. 118 11.45(5)-(7), s. 218.32(1), s. 218.38, or s. 218.503(3), the 119 Legislative Auditing Committee may schedule a hearing to determine if the entity should be subject to further state 120 121 action. If the committee determines that the entity should be 122 subject to further state action, the committee shall: In the case of a local governmental entity or district 123 (a) 124 school board, direct the Department of Revenue and the 125 Department of Financial Services to withhold any funds not Page 5 of 41

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126 pledged for bond debt service satisfaction which are payable to 127 such entity until the entity complies with the law. The 128 committee shall specify the date that such action must shall 129 begin, and the directive must be received by the Department of 130 Revenue and the Department of Financial Services 30 days before 131 the date of the distribution mandated by law. The Department of 132 Revenue and the Department of Financial Services may implement 133 the provisions of this paragraph.

134

(b) In the case of a special district created by:

135 1. A special act, notify the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the standing committees 136 of the Senate and the House of Representatives charged with 137 special district oversight as determined by the presiding 138 139 officers of each respective chamber, the legislators who 140 represent a portion of the geographical jurisdiction of the special district, and the Department of Economic Opportunity 141 142 that the special district has failed to comply with the law. 143 Upon receipt of notification, the Department of Economic 144 Opportunity shall proceed pursuant to s. 189.062 or s. 189.067. 145 If the special district remains in noncompliance after the 146 process set forth in s. 189.0651, or if a public hearing is not held, the Legislative Auditing Committee may request the 147 department to proceed pursuant to s. 189.067(3). 148

149 2. A local ordinance, notify the chair or equivalent of150 the local general-purpose government pursuant to s. 189.0652 and

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151 the Department of Economic Opportunity that the special district 152 has failed to comply with the law. Upon receipt of notification, 153 the department shall proceed pursuant to s. 189.062 or s. 154 189.067. If the special district remains in noncompliance after 155 the process set forth in s. 189.0652, or if a public hearing is 156 not held, the Legislative Auditing Committee may request the 157 department to proceed pursuant to s. 189.067(3).

158 3. Any manner other than a special act or local ordinance, 159 notify the Department of Economic Opportunity that the special 160 district has failed to comply with the law. Upon receipt of 161 notification, the department shall proceed pursuant to s. 162 189.062 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.

Section 2. Subsection (1), paragraph (j) of subsection (2), paragraph (u) of subsection (3), and paragraph (i) of subsection (7) of section 11.45, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (x) is added to subsection (3) of that section to read:

171 11.45 Definitions; duties; authorities; reports; rules.172 (1) DEFINITIONS.-As used in ss. 11.40-11.51, the term:

(a) "Abuse" means behavior that is deficient or improper
 when compared with behavior that a prudent person would consider
 a reasonable and necessary operational practice given the facts

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176 and circumstances. The term includes the misuse of authority or 177 position for personal gain.

178 <u>(b) (a)</u> "Audit" means a financial audit, operational audit, 179 or performance audit.

180 (c) (b) "County agency" means a board of county 181 commissioners or other legislative and governing body of a 182 county, however styled, including that of a consolidated or 183 metropolitan government, a clerk of the circuit court, a separate or ex officio clerk of the county court, a sheriff, a 184 185 property appraiser, a tax collector, a supervisor of elections, or any other officer in whom any portion of the fiscal duties of 186 187 a body or officer expressly stated in this paragraph are the 188 above are under law separately placed by law.

189 (d) (c) "Financial audit" means an examination of financial statements in order to express an opinion on the fairness with 190 191 which they are presented in conformity with generally accepted 192 accounting principles and an examination to determine whether 193 operations are properly conducted in accordance with legal and 194 regulatory requirements. Financial audits must be conducted in 195 accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the 196 United States and government auditing standards as adopted by 197 the Board of Accountancy. When applicable, the scope of financial audits must shall encompass the additional activities 198 necessary to establish compliance with the Single Audit Act 199 200 Amendments of 1996, 31 U.S.C. ss. 7501-7507, and other

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201 applicable federal law.

202 "Fraud" means obtaining something of value through (e) 203 willful misrepresentation, including, but not limited to, the 204 intentional misstatements or intentional omissions of amounts or 205 disclosures in financial statements to deceive users of financial statements, theft of an entity's assets, bribery, or 206 207 the use of one's position for personal enrichment through the 208 deliberate misuse or misapplication of an organization's 209 resources.

210 <u>(f)(d)</u> "Governmental entity" means a state agency, a 211 county agency, or any other entity, however styled, that 212 independently exercises any type of state or local governmental 213 function.

214 <u>(g) (c)</u> "Local governmental entity" means a county agency, 215 municipality, <u>tourist development council, county tourism</u> 216 <u>promotion agency</u>, or special district as defined in s. 189.012. 217 <u>The term</u>, but does not include any housing authority established 218 under chapter 421.

219 (h) (f) "Management letter" means a statement of the 220 auditor's comments and recommendations.

(i) (g) "Operational audit" means an audit whose purpose is to evaluate management's performance in establishing and maintaining internal controls, including controls designed to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse, and in administering assigned responsibilities in accordance with applicable laws,

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226 administrative rules, contracts, grant agreements, and other 227 quidelines. Operational audits must be conducted in accordance 228 with government auditing standards. Such audits examine internal 229 controls that are designed and placed in operation to promote 230 and encourage the achievement of management's control objectives 231 in the categories of compliance, economic and efficient 232 operations, reliability of financial records and reports, and 233 safequarding of assets, and identify weaknesses in those 234 internal controls.

235 <u>(j)(h)</u> "Performance audit" means an examination of a 236 program, activity, or function of a governmental entity, 237 conducted in accordance with applicable government auditing 238 standards or auditing and evaluation standards of other 239 appropriate authoritative bodies. The term includes an 240 examination of issues related to:

241

1. Economy, efficiency, or effectiveness of the program.

242 2. Structure or design of the program to accomplish its243 goals and objectives.

3. Adequacy of the program to meet the needs identified bythe Legislature or governing body.

246 4. Alternative methods of providing program services or247 products.

5. Goals, objectives, and performance measures used by the agency to monitor and report program accomplishments.

250 6. The accuracy or adequacy of public documents, reports,

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251 or requests prepared under the program by state agencies.

252 Compliance of the program with appropriate policies, 7. 253 rules, or laws.

254 Any other issues related to governmental entities as 8. 255 directed by the Legislative Auditing Committee.

256 (k) (i) "Political subdivision" means a separate agency or 257 unit of local government created or established by law and 258 includes, but is not limited to, the following and the officers 259 thereof: authority, board, branch, bureau, city, commission, 260 consolidated government, county, department, district, 261 institution, metropolitan government, municipality, office, 262 officer, public corporation, town, or village.

(1) (j) "State agency" means a separate agency or unit of 263 264 state government created or established by law and includes, but 265 is not limited to, the following and the officers thereof: 266 authority, board, branch, bureau, commission, department, 267 division, institution, office, officer, or public corporation, 268 as the case may be, except any such agency or unit within the 269 legislative branch of state government other than the Florida 270 Public Service Commission.

271 (m) "Waste" means the act of using or expending resources unreasonably, carelessly, extravagantly, or for no useful 272 273 purpose.

- 274 (2)
- 275

DUTIES.-The Auditor General shall:

Conduct audits of local governmental entities when (j)

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276 determined to be necessary by the Auditor General, when directed 277 by the Legislative Auditing Committee, or when otherwise 278 required by law. No later than 18 months after the release of 279 the audit report, the Auditor General shall perform such 280 appropriate followup procedures as he or she deems necessary to 281 determine the audited entity's progress in addressing the 282 findings and recommendations contained within the Auditor 283 General's previous report. The Auditor General shall notify each 284 member of the audited entity's governing body and the 285 Legislative Auditing Committee of the results of his or her 286 determination. For purposes of this paragraph, local 287 governmental entities do not include water management districts. 288 289 The Auditor General shall perform his or her duties 290 independently but under the general policies established by the 291 Legislative Auditing Committee. This subsection does not limit 292 the Auditor General's discretionary authority to conduct other 293 audits or engagements of governmental entities as authorized in 294 subsection (3). 295 AUTHORITY FOR AUDITS AND OTHER ENGAGEMENTS.-The (3) 296 Auditor General may, pursuant to his or her own authority, or at the direction of the Legislative Auditing Committee, conduct 297 298 audits or other engagements as determined appropriate by the Auditor General of: 299 The Florida Virtual School pursuant to s. 1002 37

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(u)

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301 Tourist development councils and county tourism (X) 302 promotion agencies. 303 (7) AUDITOR GENERAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.-304 The Auditor General shall annually transmit by July (i) 305 15, to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of 306 Representatives, and the Department of Financial Services, a 307 list of all school districts, charter schools, charter technical 308 career centers, Florida College System institutions, state 309 universities, and local governmental entities water management districts that have failed to comply with the transparency 310 311 requirements as identified in the audit reports reviewed 312 pursuant to paragraph (b) and those conducted pursuant to 313 subsection (2). 314 Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section 315 28.35, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 28.35 Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation.-316 317 (2) The duties of the corporation shall include the 318 following: 319 Developing and certifying a uniform system of workload (d) measures and applicable workload standards for court-related 320 321 functions as developed by the corporation and clerk workload 322 performance in meeting the workload performance standards. These workload measures and workload performance standards shall be 323 324 designed to facilitate an objective determination of the 325 performance of each clerk in accordance with minimum standards

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326 for fiscal management, operational efficiency, and effective collection of fines, fees, service charges, and court costs. The 327 328 corporation shall develop the workload measures and workload 329 performance standards in consultation with the Legislature. When 330 the corporation finds a clerk has not met the workload 331 performance standards, the corporation shall identify the nature 332 of each deficiency and any corrective action recommended and 333 taken by the affected clerk of the court. For quarterly periods 334 ending on the last day of March, June, September, and December of each year, the corporation shall notify the Legislature of 335 any clerk not meeting workload performance standards and provide 336 337 a copy of any corrective action plans. Such notifications shall be submitted no later than 45 days after the end of the 338 339 preceding quarterly period. As used in this subsection, the 340 term:

341 1. "Workload measures" means the measurement of the 342 activities and frequency of the work required for the clerk to 343 adequately perform the court-related duties of the office as 344 defined by the membership of the Florida Clerks of Court 345 Operations Corporation.

346 2. "Workload performance standards" means the standards 347 developed to measure the timeliness and effectiveness of the 348 activities that are accomplished by the clerk in the performance 349 of the court-related duties of the office as defined by the 350 membership of the Florida Clerks of Court Operations

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351 Corporation. 352 Section 4. Subsections (6) and (7) of section 43.16, 353 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (7) and (8), 354 respectively, and a new subsection (6) is added to that section 355 to read: 356 43.16 Justice Administrative Commission; membership, 357 powers and duties.-358 The commission, each state attorney, each public (6) 359 defender, the criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, the 360 capital collateral regional counsel, and the Guardian Ad Litem 361 Program shall establish and maintain internal controls designed 362 to: 363 (a) Prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse as defined 364 in s. 11.45(1). 365 (b) Promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws, 366 rules, contracts, grant agreements, and best practices. 367 (c) Support economical and efficient operations. 368 Ensure reliability of financial records and reports. (d) 369 (e) Safeguard assets. 370 Section 5. Subsection (6) of section 112.061, Florida 371 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (16) is added to that 372 section, to read: 373 112.061 Per diem and travel expenses of public officers, employees, and authorized persons.-374 375 (6) RATES OF PER DIEM AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE.-For

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376 purposes of reimbursement rates and methods of calculation, per 377 diem and subsistence allowances are provided as follows: 378 All travelers shall be allowed for subsistence when (a) 379 traveling to a convention or conference or when traveling within 380 or outside the state in order to conduct bona fide state business, which convention, conference, or business serves a 381 382 direct and lawful public purpose with relation to the public 383 agency served by the person attending such meeting or conducting 384 such business, either of the following for each day of such 385 travel at the option of the traveler: 386 1. Eighty dollars per diem; or 387 2. If actual expenses exceed \$80, the amounts permitted in 388 paragraph (b) for subsistence, plus actual expenses for lodging 389 at a single-occupancy rate, except as provided in paragraph (c), 390 to be substantiated by paid bills therefor. 391 392 When lodging or meals are provided at a state institution, the 393 traveler shall be reimbursed only for the actual expenses of 394 such lodging or meals, not to exceed the maximum provided for in 395 this subsection. 396 All travelers shall be allowed the following amounts (b) 397 for subsistence while on Class C travel on official business as 398 provided in paragraph (5) (b): Breakfast.....\$6 399 1. 400 2. Lunch......\$11

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401	3. Dinner\$19
402	(c) Actual expenses for lodging associated with the
403	attendance of an employee of a state agency or the judicial
404	branch at a meeting, conference, or convention organized or
405	sponsored in whole or in part by a state agency or the judicial
406	branch may not exceed \$150 per day. However, an employee may
407	expend his or her own funds for any lodging expenses that exceed
408	\$150 per day. For purposes of this paragraph, a meeting does not
409	include travel activities for conducting an audit, examination,
410	inspection, or investigation or travel activities related to a
411	litigation or emergency response.
412	<u>(d)</u> No one, whether traveling out of state or in state,
413	shall be reimbursed for any meal or lodging included in a
414	convention or conference registration fee paid by the state.
415	(16) STATEWIDE TRAVEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
416	(a) For purposes of this subsection, "statewide travel
417	management system" means the system acquired by the Department
418	of Management Services to:
419	1. Standardize and automate agency travel management;
420	2. Allow for travel planning and approval, expense
421	reporting, and reimbursement; and
422	3. Allow a person to query travel information by public
423	employee or officer name and position title, purpose of travel,
424	dates and location of travel, mode of travel, confirmation of
425	agency head or designee authorization if required, and total

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426	travel cost.
427	(b) All agencies and the judicial branch must report
428	public officer and employee travel information in the statewide
429	travel management system, including, but not limited to, officer
430	or employee name and position title, purpose of travel, dates
431	and location of travel, mode of travel, confirmation of agency
432	head or designee authorization if required, and total travel
433	cost. At a minimum, such information must be reported in the
434	statewide travel management system on a monthly basis.
435	(c) All executive branch state agencies and the judicial
436	branch must use the statewide travel management system for
437	purposes of travel authorization and reimbursement.
438	Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section
439	129.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
440	129.03 Preparation and adoption of budget
441	(3) The county budget officer, after tentatively
442	ascertaining the proposed fiscal policies of the board for the
443	next fiscal year, shall prepare and present to the board a
444	tentative budget for the next fiscal year for each of the funds
445	provided in this chapter, including all estimated receipts,
446	taxes to be levied, and balances expected to be brought forward
447	and all estimated expenditures, reserves, and balances to be
448	carried over at the end of the year.
449	(c) The board shall hold public hearings to adopt
450	tentative and final budgets pursuant to s. 200.065. The hearings
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451 shall be primarily for the purpose of hearing requests and 452 complaints from the public regarding the budgets and the 453 proposed tax levies and for explaining the budget and any 454 proposed or adopted amendments. The tentative budget must be 455 posted on the county's official website at least 2 days before 456 the public hearing to consider such budget and must remain on 457 the website for at least 45 days. The final budget must be posted on the website within 30 days after adoption and must 458 459 remain on the website for at least 2 years. The tentative budgets, adopted tentative budgets, and final budgets shall be 460 461 filed in the office of the county auditor as a public record. 462 Sufficient reference in words and figures to identify the 463 particular transactions must shall be made in the minutes of the 464 board to record its actions with reference to the budgets.

465 Section 7. Paragraph (f) of subsection (2) of section 466 129.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

467

129.06 Execution and amendment of budget.-

468 (2) The board at any time within a fiscal year may amend a 469 budget for that year, and may within the first 60 days of a 470 fiscal year amend the budget for the prior fiscal year, as 471 follows:

(f) Unless otherwise prohibited by law, if an amendment to a budget is required for a purpose not specifically authorized in paragraphs (a)-(e), the amendment may be authorized by resolution or ordinance of the board of county commissioners

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476 adopted following a public hearing.

477 1. The public hearing must be advertised at least 2 days, 478 but not more than 5 days, before the date of the hearing. The 479 advertisement must appear in a newspaper of paid general 480 circulation and must identify the name of the taxing authority, 481 the date, place, and time of the hearing, and the purpose of the 482 hearing. The advertisement must also identify each budgetary 483 fund to be amended, the source of the funds, the use of the funds, and the total amount of each fund's appropriations. 484

485 2. If the board amends the budget pursuant to this 486 paragraph, the adopted amendment must be posted on the county's 487 official website within 5 days after adoption <u>and must remain on</u> 488 the website for at least 2 years.

489 Section 8. Subsections (3) and (5) of section 166.241,
490 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

166.241 Fiscal years, budgets, and budget amendments.-

492 (3) The tentative budget must be posted on the 493 municipality's official website at least 2 days before the 494 budget hearing, held pursuant to s. 200.065 or other law, to 495 consider such budget and must remain on the website for at least 496 45 days. The final adopted budget must be posted on the 497 municipality's official website within 30 days after adoption and must remain on the website for at least 2 years. If the 498 municipality does not operate an official website, the 499 500 municipality must, within a reasonable period of time as

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501 established by the county or counties in which the municipality 502 is located, transmit the tentative budget and final budget to 503 the manager or administrator of such county or counties who 504 shall post the budgets on the county's website.

505 (5) If the governing body of a municipality amends the 506 budget pursuant to paragraph (4)(c), the adopted amendment must 507 be posted on the official website of the municipality within 5 508 days after adoption and must remain on the website for at least 509 2 years. If the municipality does not operate an official 510 website, the municipality must, within a reasonable period of time as established by the county or counties in which the 511 512 municipality is located, transmit the adopted amendment to the manager or administrator of such county or counties who shall 513 514 post the adopted amendment on the county's website.

515 Section 9. Section 215.86, Florida Statutes, is amended to 516 read:

517 215.86 Management systems and controls.—Each state agency 518 and the judicial branch as defined in s. 216.011 shall establish 519 and maintain management systems and <u>internal</u> controls <u>designed</u> 520 <u>to:</u>

521 (1) Prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse as defined 522 in s. 11.45(1). that

523 (2) Promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws, 524 rules, contracts, and grant agreements.;

525

(3) Support economical and economic, efficient, and

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526 effective operations.+ 527 Ensure reliability of financial records and reports.+ (4) 528 (5) Safeguard and safeguarding of assets. Accounting 529 systems and procedures shall be designed to fulfill the 530 requirements of generally accepted accounting principles. 531 Section 10. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 532 215.97, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 533 215.97 Florida Single Audit Act.-As used in this section, the term: 534 (2) "Audit threshold" means the threshold amount used to 535 (a) 536 determine when a state single audit or project-specific audit of 537 a nonstate entity shall be conducted in accordance with this 538 section. Each nonstate entity that expends a total amount of 539 state financial assistance equal to or in excess of \$750,000 in 540 any fiscal year of such nonstate entity shall be required to 541 have a state single audit τ or a project-specific audit τ for such 542 fiscal year in accordance with the requirements of this section. 543 Every 2 years the Auditor General, After consulting with the 544 Executive Office of the Governor, the Department of Financial 545 Services, and all state awarding agencies, the Auditor General 546 shall periodically review the threshold amount for requiring 547 audits under this section and may recommend any appropriate statutory change to revise the threshold amount in the annual 548 report submitted pursuant to s. 11.45(7)(h) to the Legislature 549 550 adjust such threshold amount consistent with the purposes of

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551 this section. 552 Section 11. Subsection (11) of section 215.985, Florida 553 Statutes, is amended to read: 554 215.985 Transparency in government spending.-555 (11) Each water management district shall provide a 556 monthly financial statement in the form and manner prescribed by 557 the Department of Financial Services to the district's its 558 governing board and make such monthly financial statement 559 available for public access on its website. 560 Section 12. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) and subsection (2) of section 218.32, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 561 562 218.32 Annual financial reports; local governmental 563 entities.-564 (1)565 Each local governmental entity that is required to (d) 566 provide for an audit under s. 218.39(1) must submit a copy of 567 the audit report and annual financial report to the department 568 within 45 days after the completion of the audit report but no 569 later than 9 months after the end of the fiscal year. In 570 conducting an audit of a local governmental entity pursuant to 571 s. 218.39, an independent certified public accountant shall 572 determine whether the entity's annual financial report is in 573 agreement with the audited financial statements. If the audited 574 financial statements are not in agreement with the annual 575 financial report, the accountant shall specify and explain the

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576 significant differences that exist between the audited financial 577 statements and the annual financial report.

578 The department shall annually by December 1 file a (2)579 verified report with the Governor, the Legislature, the Auditor 580 General, and the Special District Accountability Program of the 581 Department of Economic Opportunity showing the revenues, both 582 locally derived and derived from intergovernmental transfers, 583 and the expenditures of each local governmental entity, regional 584 planning council, local government finance commission, and municipal power corporation that is required to submit an annual 585 586 financial report. In preparing the verified report, the 587 department may request additional information from the local 588 governmental entity. The information requested must be provided 589 to the department within 45 days after the request. If the local 590 governmental entity does not comply with the request, the department shall notify the Legislative Auditing Committee, 591 592 which may take action pursuant to s. 11.40(2). The report must 593 include, but is not limited to:

(a) The total revenues and expenditures of each local
governmental entity that is a component unit included in the
annual financial report of the reporting entity.

(b) The amount of outstanding long-term debt by each local governmental entity. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "long-term debt" means any agreement or series of agreements to pay money, which, at inception, contemplate terms of payment

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601	exceeding 1 year in duration.
602	Section 13. Subsection (3) of section 218.33, Florida
603	Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (4), and a new subsection
604	(3) is added to that section to read:
605	218.33 Local governmental entities; establishment of
606	uniform fiscal years and accounting practices and procedures
607	(3) Each local governmental entity shall establish and
608	maintain internal controls designed to:
609	(a) Prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse as defined
610	<u>in s. 11.45(1).</u>
611	(b) Promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws,
612	rules, contracts, grant agreements, and best practices.
613	(c) Support economical and efficient operations.
614	(d) Ensure reliability of financial records and reports.
615	(e) Safeguard assets.
616	Section 14. Subsections (8) through (12) of section
617	218.39, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (9)
618	through (13), respectively, and a new subsection (8) is added to
619	that section to read:
620	218.39 Annual financial audit reports
621	(8) If the audit report includes a recommendation that was
622	included in the preceding financial audit report but remains
623	unaddressed, the governing body of the audited entity, within 60
624	days after the delivery of the audit report to the governing
625	body, shall indicate during a regularly scheduled public meeting

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whether it intends to take corrective action, the intended
corrective action, and the timeframe for the corrective action.
If the governing body indicates that it does not intend to take
corrective action, it must explain its decision at the public
meeting.
Section 15. Subsection (2) of section 218.391, Florida

632 Statutes, is amended, and subsections (9) through (13) are added 633 to that section, to read:

634

218.391 Auditor selection procedures.-

(2) The governing body of a charter county, municipality,
special district, district school board, charter school, or
charter technical career center shall establish an audit
committee.

639 (a) The audit committee for a county Each noncharter 640 county shall establish an audit committee that, at a minimum, 641 shall consist of each of the county officers elected pursuant to 642 the county charter or s. 1(d), Art. VIII of the State 643 Constitution, or their respective designees $\frac{1}{2}$ designee, and one 644 member of the board of county commissioners or its designee. 645 (b) The audit committee for a municipality, special 646 district, district school board, charter school, or charter technical career center shall consist of at least three members. 647 One member of the audit committee must be a member of the 648 governing body of an entity specified in this paragraph, who 649 650 shall also serve as the chair of the committee.

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(a) In employee, chief executive officer, on chief
(c) An employee, chief executive officer, or chief
financial officer of the county, municipality, special district,
district school board, charter school, or charter technical
career center may not serve as a voting member of an audit
committee established under this subsection but may serve in a
nonvoting advisory capacity.
(d) At least one member of the audit committee should have
experience in finance, business, or government operations.
(e) The primary purpose of the audit committee is to
assist the governing body in selecting an auditor to conduct the
annual financial audit required in s. 218.39; however, the audit
committee may serve other audit oversight purposes as determined
by the entity's governing body. The public <u>may</u> shall not be
excluded from the proceedings under this section.
(9) For each audit required by s. 218.39, the auditor
shall include the following information in the management letter
prepared pursuant to s. 218.39(4):
(a) The date the entity's governing body approved the
selection of the auditor and the date the entity and the auditor
executed the most recent contract pursuant to subsection (7);
(b) The first fiscal year for which the auditor conducted
the audit under the most recently executed contract pursuant to
subsection (7); and
(c) The contract period, including renewals, and
conditions under which the contract may be terminated or
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676	renewed.
677	(10) On each occasion that an entity contracts with an
678	auditor to conduct an audit pursuant to s. 218.39, an affidavit
679	shall be executed by the chair of the entity's governing body in
680	a format prescribed in accordance with rules adopted by the
681	Auditor General, affirming that the auditor was selected in
682	compliance with the requirements of subsections (3)-(6). The
683	affidavit must, as a separate document, accompany the entity's
684	first audit report prepared by the auditor under the most
685	recently executed contract pursuant to subsection (7). The
686	affidavit shall include the following information:
687	(a) The date the entity's governing body approved the
688	selection of the auditor;
689	(b) The first fiscal year for which the auditor conducted
690	the audit; and
691	(c) The contract period, including renewals, and
692	conditions under which the contract may be terminated or
693	renewed.
694	(11) If the entity fails to select the auditor in
695	accordance with the requirements of subsections $(3)-(6)$, the
696	entity shall again perform the auditor selection process in
697	accordance with this section to select an auditor to conduct
698	audits for subsequent fiscal years if the original audit was
699	performed under a multiyear contract.
700	(a) If performing the auditor selection process again in
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701	accordance with this section would preclude the entity from
702	timely completing the annual financial audit required by s.
703	218.39, the entity shall again perform the auditor selection
704	process in accordance with this section for the subsequent
705	annual financial audit. A multiyear contract entered into
706	between an entity and an auditor after the effective date of
707	this act may not prohibit or restrict an entity from complying
708	with the section.
709	(b) If the entity fails to perform the auditor selection
710	process again, pursuant to this subsection, the Legislative
711	Auditing Committee shall determine whether the entity should be
712	subject to state action pursuant to s. 11.40(2).
713	(12) If the entity fails to provide the Auditor General
714	with the affidavit required by subsection (10), the Auditor
715	General shall request that the entity provide the affidavit. The
716	affidavit must be provided within 45 days after the date of the
717	request. If the entity does not comply with the Auditor
718	General's request, the Legislative Auditing Committee shall
719	determine whether the entity should be subject to state action
720	pursuant to s. 11.40(2).
721	(13) If the entity provides the Auditor General with the
722	affidavit required in subsection (10) but failed to select the
723	auditor in accordance with the requirements of subsections (3)-
724	(6), the Legislative Auditing Committee shall determine whether
725	the entity should be subject to state action pursuant to s.

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726 11.40(2).

727 Section 16. Subsection (2) of section 286.0114, Florida728 Statutes, is amended to read:

729 286.0114 Public meetings; reasonable opportunity to be730 heard; attorney fees.-

731 (2) Members of the public shall be given a reasonable 732 opportunity to be heard on a proposition before a board or 733 commission. The opportunity to be heard need not occur at the 734 same meeting at which the board or commission takes official 735 action on the proposition if the opportunity occurs at a meeting 736 that is during the decisionmaking process and is within 737 reasonable proximity in time before the meeting at which the 738 board or commission takes the official action. A board or 739 commission may not require a member of the public to provide an 740 advance written copy of his or her testimony or comments as a 741 condition of being given the opportunity to be heard at a 742 meeting. This section does not prohibit a board or commission 743 from maintaining orderly conduct or proper decorum in a public 744 meeting. The opportunity to be heard is subject to rules or 745 policies adopted by the board or commission, as provided in 746 subsection (4).

747Section 17. Paragraph (e) of subsection (4), paragraph (d)748of subsection (5), and paragraph (d) of subsection (6) of749section 373.536, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

750

373.536 District budget and hearing thereon.-

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751 (4) BUDGET CONTROLS; FINANCIAL INFORMATION.-752 By September 1, 2012, Each district shall provide a (e) 753 monthly financial statement in the form and manner prescribed by 754 the Department of Financial Services to the district's governing 755 board and make such monthly financial statement available for 756 public access on its website. 757 (5) TENTATIVE BUDGET CONTENTS AND SUBMISSION; REVIEW AND 758 APPROVAL.-759 Each district shall, by August 1 of each year, submit (d) 760 for review a tentative budget and a description of any 761 significant changes from the preliminary budget submitted to the 762 Legislature pursuant to s. 373.535 to the Governor, the 763 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of 764 Representatives, the chairs of all legislative committees and 765 subcommittees having substantive or fiscal jurisdiction over 766 water management districts, as determined by the President of 767 the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as 768 applicable, the secretary of the department, and the governing 769 body of each county in which the district has jurisdiction or 770 derives any funds for the operations of the district. The 771 tentative budget must be posted on the district's official 772 website at least 2 days before budget hearings held pursuant to s. 200.065 or other law and must remain on the website for at 773 774 least 45 days.

775

(6) FINAL BUDGET; ANNUAL AUDIT; CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN;

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776	WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT WORK PROGRAM
777	(d) The final adopted budget must be posted on the water
778	management district's official website within 30 days after
779	adoption and must remain on the website for at least 2 years.
780	Section 18. Paragraph (1) of subsection (12) of section
781	1001.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
782	1001.42 Powers and duties of district school board.—The
783	district school board, acting as a board, shall exercise all
784	powers and perform all duties listed below:
785	(12) FINANCETake steps to assure students adequate
786	educational facilities through the financial procedure
787	authorized in chapters 1010 and 1011 and as prescribed below:
788	(1) Internal auditorMay employ an internal auditor to
789	perform ongoing financial verification of the financial records
790	of the school district and such other audits and reviews as the
791	district school board directs for the purpose of determining:
792	1. The adequacy of internal controls designed to prevent
793	and detect fraud, waste, and abuse as defined in s. 11.45(1).
794	2. Compliance with applicable laws, rules, contracts,
795	grant agreements, district school board-approved policies, and
796	best practices.
797	3. The efficiency of operations.
798	4. The reliability of financial records and reports.
799	5. The safeguarding of assets.
800	

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801	The internal auditor shall report directly to the district
802	school board or its designee.
803	Section 19. Paragraph (j) of subsection (9) of section
804	1002.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
805	1002.33 Charter schools
806	(9) CHARTER SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS
807	(j) The governing body of the charter school shall be
808	responsible for:
809	1. Establishing and maintaining internal controls designed
810	to:
811	a. Prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse as defined
812	<u>in s. 11.45(1).</u>
813	b. Promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws,
814	rules, contracts, grant agreements, and best practices.
815	c. Support economical and efficient operations.
816	d. Ensure reliability of financial records and reports.
817	e. Safeguard assets.
818	2.1. Ensuring that the charter school has retained the
819	services of a certified public accountant or auditor for the
820	annual financial audit, pursuant to s. 1002.345(2), who shall
821	submit the report to the governing body.
822	3.2. Reviewing and approving the audit report, including
823	audit findings and recommendations for the financial recovery
824	plan.
825	<u>4.a.</u> Performing the duties in s. 1002.345, including
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826 monitoring a corrective action plan.

b. Monitoring a financial recovery plan in order to ensurecompliance.

829 <u>5.4.</u> Participating in governance training approved by the
830 department which must include government in the sunshine,
831 conflicts of interest, ethics, and financial responsibility.

832 Section 20. Subsections (6) through (10) of section 833 1002.37, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (7) 834 through (11), respectively, present subsection (6) is amended, 835 and a new subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

836

1002.37 The Florida Virtual School.-

837 (6) The Florida Virtual School shall have an annual financial audit of its accounts and records conducted by an 838 839 independent auditor who is a certified public accountant 840 licensed under chapter 473. The independent auditor shall 841 conduct the audit in accordance with rules adopted by the 842 Auditor General pursuant to s. 11.45 and, upon completion of the 843 audit, shall prepare an audit report in accordance with such 844 rules. The audit report must include a written statement by the 845 board of trustees describing corrective action to be taken in 846 response to each of the recommendations of the independent 847 auditor included in the audit report. The independent auditor 848 shall submit the audit report to the board of trustees and the 849 Auditor General no later than 9 months after the end of the 850 preceding fiscal year.

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851 <u>(7)(6)</u> The board of trustees shall annually submit to the 852 Governor, the Legislature, the Commissioner of Education, and 853 the State Board of Education <u>the audit report prepared pursuant</u> 854 <u>to subsection (6) and</u> a complete and detailed report setting 855 forth:

(a) The operations and accomplishments of the Florida
Virtual School within the state and those occurring outside the
state as Florida Virtual School Global.

(b) The marketing and operational plan for the Florida
Virtual School and Florida Virtual School Global, including
recommendations regarding methods for improving the delivery of
education through the Internet and other distance learning
technology.

864 (c) The assets and liabilities of the Florida Virtual
865 School and Florida Virtual School Global at the end of the
866 fiscal year.

867 (d) A copy of an annual financial audit of the accounts and records of the Florida Virtual School and Florida Virtual 869 School Global, conducted by an independent certified public 870 accountant and performed in accordance with rules adopted by the 871 Auditor General.

872 <u>(d) (e)</u> Recommendations regarding the unit cost of 873 providing services to students through the Florida Virtual 874 School and Florida Virtual School Global. In order to most 875 effectively develop public policy regarding any future funding

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876	of the Florida Virtual School, it is imperative that the cost of
877	the program is accurately identified. The identified cost of the
878	program must be based on reliable data.
879	<u>(e)</u> Recommendations regarding an accountability
880	mechanism to assess the effectiveness of the services provided
881	by the Florida Virtual School and Florida Virtual School Global.
882	Section 21. Subsection (5) is added to section 1010.01,
883	Florida Statutes, to read:
884	1010.01 Uniform records and accounts
885	(5) Each school district, Florida College System
886	institution, and state university shall establish and maintain
887	internal controls designed to:
888	(a) Prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse as defined
889	<u>in s. 11.45(1).</u>
889 890	<u>(b)</u> Promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws,
890	(b) Promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws,
890 891	(b) Promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws, rules, contracts, grant agreements, and best practices.
890 891 892	(b) Promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws, rules, contracts, grant agreements, and best practices. (c) Support economical and efficient operations.
890 891 892 893	(b) Promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws, rules, contracts, grant agreements, and best practices. (c) Support economical and efficient operations. (d) Ensure reliability of financial records and reports. (e) Safeguard assets.
890 891 892 893 894	(b) Promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws, rules, contracts, grant agreements, and best practices. (c) Support economical and efficient operations. (d) Ensure reliability of financial records and reports. (e) Safeguard assets. Section 22. Subsection (2) of section 1010.30, Florida
890 891 892 893 894 895	(b) Promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws, rules, contracts, grant agreements, and best practices. (c) Support economical and efficient operations. (d) Ensure reliability of financial records and reports. (e) Safeguard assets. Section 22. Subsection (2) of section 1010.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
890 891 892 893 894 895 896	(b) Promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws, rules, contracts, grant agreements, and best practices. (c) Support economical and efficient operations. (d) Ensure reliability of financial records and reports. (e) Safeguard assets. Section 22. Subsection (2) of section 1010.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897	(b) Promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws, rules, contracts, grant agreements, and best practices. (c) Support economical and efficient operations. (d) Ensure reliability of financial records and reports. (e) Safeguard assets. Section 22. Subsection (2) of section 1010.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 1010.30 Audits required.— (2) If <u>a school district, Florida College System</u>
890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898	(b) Promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws, rules, contracts, grant agreements, and best practices. (c) Support economical and efficient operations. (d) Ensure reliability of financial records and reports. (e) Safeguard assets. Section 22. Subsection (2) of section 1010.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 1010.30 Audits required (2) If <u>a school district, Florida College System</u>

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901 audit report but remains unaddressed an audit contains a 902 significant finding, the district school board, the Florida 903 College System institution board of trustees, or the university 904 board of trustees, within 60 days after the delivery of the 905 audit report to the school district, Florida College System 906 institution, or university, shall indicate conduct an audit 907 overview during a regularly scheduled public meeting whether it 908 intends to take corrective action, the intended corrective 909 action, and the timeframe for the corrective action. If the 910 district school board, Florida College System institution board 911 of trustees, or university board of trustees indicates that it 912 does not intend to take corrective action, it shall explain its 913 decision at the public meeting. Section 23. Subsection (3) of section 218.503, Florida 914

915 Statutes, is amended to read:

916

218.503 Determination of financial emergency.-

917 (3) Upon notification that one or more of the conditions 918 in subsection (1) have occurred or will occur if action is not 919 taken to assist the local governmental entity or district school 920 board, the Governor or his or her designee shall contact the local governmental entity or the Commissioner of Education or 921 922 his or her designee shall contact the district school board, as appropriate, to determine what actions have been taken by the 923 924 local governmental entity or the district school board to 925 resolve or prevent the condition. The information requested must

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926 be provided within 45 days after the date of the request. If the 927 local governmental entity or the district school board does not 928 comply with the request, the Governor or his or her designee or 929 the Commissioner of Education or his or her designee shall 930 notify the members of the Legislative Auditing Committee, which 931 who may take action pursuant to s. 11.40(2) 11.40. The Governor 932 or the Commissioner of Education, as appropriate, shall 933 determine whether the local governmental entity or the district 934 school board needs state assistance to resolve or prevent the 935 condition. If state assistance is needed, the local governmental 936 entity or district school board is considered to be in a state 937 of financial emergency. The Governor or the Commissioner of 938 Education, as appropriate, has the authority to implement 939 measures as set forth in ss. 218.50-218.504 to assist the local 940 governmental entity or district school board in resolving the 941 financial emergency. Such measures may include, but are not 942 limited to:

943 (a) Requiring approval of the local governmental entity's
944 budget by the Governor or approval of the district school
945 board's budget by the Commissioner of Education.

946 (b) Authorizing a state loan to a local governmental947 entity and providing for repayment of same.

948 (c) Prohibiting a local governmental entity or district
949 school board from issuing bonds, notes, certificates of
950 indebtedness, or any other form of debt until such time as it is

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951 no longer subject to this section.

952 (d) Making such inspections and reviews of records,
953 information, reports, and assets of the local governmental
954 entity or district school board as are needed. The appropriate
955 local officials shall cooperate in such inspections and reviews.

956 (e) Consulting with officials and auditors of the local
957 governmental entity or the district school board and the
958 appropriate state officials regarding any steps necessary to
959 bring the books of account, accounting systems, financial
960 procedures, and reports into compliance with state requirements.

961 (f) Providing technical assistance to the local962 governmental entity or the district school board.

963 (g)1. Establishing a financial emergency board to oversee 964 the activities of the local governmental entity or the district 965 school board. If a financial emergency board is established for 966 a local governmental entity, the Governor shall appoint board 967 members and select a chair. If a financial emergency board is 968 established for a district school board, the State Board of 969 Education shall appoint board members and select a chair. The 970 financial emergency board shall adopt such rules as are 971 necessary for conducting board business. The board may:

a. Make such reviews of records, reports, and assets of
the local governmental entity or the district school board as
are needed.

975

b. Consult with officials and auditors of the local

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976 governmental entity or the district school board and the 977 appropriate state officials regarding any steps necessary to 978 bring the books of account, accounting systems, financial 979 procedures, and reports of the local governmental entity or the 980 district school board into compliance with state requirements.

981 c. Review the operations, management, efficiency,
982 productivity, and financing of functions and operations of the
983 local governmental entity or the district school board.

d. Consult with other governmental entities for the
consolidation of all administrative direction and support
services, including, but not limited to, services for asset
sales, economic and community development, building inspections,
parks and recreation, facilities management, engineering and
construction, insurance coverage, risk management, planning and
zoning, information systems, fleet management, and purchasing.

991 2. The recommendations and reports made by the financial 992 emergency board must be submitted to the Governor for local 993 governmental entities or to the Commissioner of Education and 994 the State Board of Education for district school boards for 995 appropriate action.

996 (h) Requiring and approving a plan, to be prepared by 997 officials of the local governmental entity or the district 998 school board in consultation with the appropriate state 999 officials, prescribing actions that will cause the local 1000 governmental entity or district school board to no longer be

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1001 subject to this section. The plan must include, but need not be 1002 limited to:

1003 1. Provision for payment in full of obligations outlined 1004 in subsection (1), designated as priority items, which are 1005 currently due or will come due.

Establishment of priority budgeting or zero-based
 budgeting in order to eliminate items that are not affordable.

1008 3. The prohibition of a level of operations which can be 1009 sustained only with nonrecurring revenues.

1010 4. Provisions implementing the consolidation, sourcing, or
1011 discontinuance of all administrative direction and support
1012 services, including, but not limited to, services for asset
1013 sales, economic and community development, building inspections,
1014 parks and recreation, facilities management, engineering and
1015 construction, insurance coverage, risk management, planning and
1016 zoning, information systems, fleet management, and purchasing.

Section 24. <u>The Legislature finds that a proper and</u> legitimate state purpose is served when internal controls are established to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse and to safeguard and account for government funds and property. Therefore, the Legislature determines and declares that this act

1022 1023

Section 25. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

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fulfills an important state interest.