A bill to be entitled

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is repealed.

2 An act relating to local business taxes; repealing ch. 3 205, F.S., which established the Local Business Tax 4 Act; amending ss. 202.24, 213.0535, 213.756, 290.0057, 5 337.401, 376.84, 379.3761, 482.071, 482.242, 489.119, 489.127, 489.128, 489.131, 489.516, 489.521, 489.5315, 6 7 489.532, 489.533, 489.537, 500.511, 501.016, 501.143, 8 501.160, 507.13, 539.001, and 559.939, F.S.; 9 conforming references and cross-references; 10 authorizing the continuation of local business 11 taxation, notwithstanding the repeal of ch. 205, F.S., to the extent necessary to meet specified debt 12 obligations secured by local business tax revenues; 13 14 requiring that certain excess amounts of revenue collected from the continuation of local business 15 16 taxation be refunded to taxpayers on a pro rata basis; 17 providing an effective date. 18 19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 20 21 Section 1. Chapter 205, Florida Statutes, consisting of 22 sections 205.013, 205.022, 205.023, 205.0315, 205.032, 205.033, 23 205.042, 205.043, 205.045, 205.053, 205.0532, 205.0535, 24 205.0536, 205.0537, 205.054, 205.063, 205.064, 205.065, 205.066, 25 205.162, 205.171, 205.191, 205.192, 205.193, 205.194, 205.196, 205.1965, 205.1967, 205.1969, 205.1971, 205.1973, and 205.1975, 26

Page 1 of 18

Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 202.24, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 202.24 Limitations on local taxes and fees imposed on dealers of communications services.—
- (2)

- (c) This subsection does not apply to:
- 1. Local communications services taxes levied under this chapter.
 - 2. Ad valorem taxes levied pursuant to chapter 200.
 - 3. Business taxes levied under chapter 205.
 - 3.4. "911" service charges levied under chapter 365.
- 4.5. Amounts charged for the rental or other use of property owned by a public body which is not in the public rights-of-way to a dealer of communications services for any purpose, including, but not limited to, the placement or attachment of equipment used in the provision of communications services.
- 5.6. Permit fees of general applicability which are not related to placing or maintaining facilities in or on public roads or rights-of-way.
- $\underline{6.7.}$ Permit fees related to placing or maintaining facilities in or on public roads or rights-of-way pursuant to s. 337.401.
- 7.8. Any in-kind requirements, institutional networks, or contributions for, or in support of, the use or construction of public, educational, or governmental access facilities allowed under federal law and imposed on providers of cable or video service pursuant to any existing ordinance or an existing

Page 2 of 18

franchise agreement granted by each municipality or county, under which ordinance or franchise agreement service is provided prior to July 1, 2007, or as permitted under chapter 610. Nothing in this subparagraph shall prohibit the ability of providers of cable or video service to recover such expenses as allowed under federal law.

8.9. Special assessments and impact fees.

- 9.10. Pole attachment fees that are charged by a local government for attachments to utility poles owned by the local government.
- 10.11. Utility service fees or other similar user fees for utility services.
- 11.12. Any other generally applicable tax, fee, charge, or imposition authorized by general law on July 1, 2000, which is not specifically prohibited by this subsection or included as a replaced revenue source in s. 202.20.
- Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 213.0535, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 213.0535 Registration Information Sharing and Exchange Program.—
 - (4) There are two levels of participation:
- (a) Each unit of state or local government responsible for administering one or more of the provisions specified in subparagraphs 1.-7. 1.-8. is a level-one participant. Level-one participants shall exchange, monthly or quarterly, as determined jointly by each participant and the department, the data enumerated in subsection (2) for each new registrant, new filer, or initial reporter, permittee, or licensee, with respect to the

Page 3 of 18

84 following taxes, licenses, or permits:

- 1. The sales and use tax imposed under chapter 212.
- 2. The tourist development tax imposed under s. 125.0104.
- 3. The tourist impact tax imposed under s. 125.0108.
 - 4. Local business taxes imposed under chapter 205.
- $\underline{4.5.}$ Convention development taxes imposed under s. 212.0305.
- 91 <u>5.6.</u> Public lodging and food service establishment 92 licenses issued pursuant to chapter 509.
 - 6.7. Beverage law licenses issued pursuant to chapter 561.
 - 7.8. A municipal resort tax as authorized under chapter 67-930, Laws of Florida.
 - Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 213.756, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 213.756 Funds collected are state tax funds.-

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- (b) This subsection applies to those taxes enumerated in s. 72.011, excluding chapter 202 and that portion of chapter 203 collected thereunder, and also applies to taxes imposed under chapter 205.
- Section 5. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section 290.0057, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 290.0057 Enterprise zone development plan.-
- (1) Any application for designation as a new enterprise zone must be accompanied by a strategic plan adopted by the governing body of the municipality or county, or the governing bodies of the county and one or more municipalities together. At a minimum, the plan must:

Page 4 of 18

(e) Commit the governing body or bodies to enact and maintain local fiscal and regulatory incentives, if approval for the area is received under s. 290.0065. These incentives may include the municipal public service tax exemption provided by s. 166.231, the economic development ad valorem tax exemption provided by s. 196.1995, the business tax exemption provided by s. 205.054, local impact fee abatement or reduction, or lowinterest or interest-free loans or grants to businesses to encourage the revitalization of the nominated area.

Section 6. Paragraph (f) of subsection (3) of section 337.401, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

337.401 Use of right-of-way for utilities subject to regulation; permit; fees.—

(3)

(f) Except as expressly allowed or authorized by general law and except for the rights-of-way permit fees subject to paragraph (c), a municipality or county may not levy on a provider of communications services a tax, fee, or other charge or imposition for operating as a provider of communications services within the jurisdiction of the municipality or county which is in any way related to using its roads or rights-of-way. A municipality or county may not require or solicit in-kind compensation, except as otherwise provided in s.202.24(2)(c)8. or s. 610.109. Nothing in this paragraph shall impair any ordinance or agreement in effect on May 22, 1998, or any voluntary agreement entered into subsequent to that date, which provides for or allows in-kind compensation by a telecommunications company.

Section 7. Paragraphs (e) through (o) of subsection (1) of section 376.84, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (d) through (n), respectively, and present paragraph (d) of that subsection is amended to read:

376.84 Brownfield redevelopment economic incentives.—It is the intent of the Legislature that brownfield redevelopment activities be viewed as opportunities to significantly improve the utilization, general condition, and appearance of these sites. Different standards than those in place for new development, as allowed under current state and local laws, should be used to the fullest extent to encourage the redevelopment of a brownfield. State and local governments are encouraged to offer redevelopment incentives for this purpose, as an ongoing public investment in infrastructure and services, to help eliminate the public health and environmental hazards, and to promote the creation of jobs in these areas. Such incentives may include financial, regulatory, and technical assistance to persons and businesses involved in the redevelopment of the brownfield pursuant to this act.

- (1) Financial incentives and local incentives for redevelopment may include, but not be limited to:
- (d) Waiver, reduction, or limitation by line of business with respect to business taxes pursuant to chapter 205.

Section 8. Subsections (5) and (6) of section 379.3761, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (4) and (5), respectively, and present subsection (4) of that section is amended to read:

379.3761 Exhibition or sale of wildlife; fees;

Page 6 of 18

classifications.-

(4) The provisions of this section relative to licensing for exhibition do not apply to any municipal, county, state, or other publicly owned wildlife exhibit or any traveling zoo, circus, or exhibit licensed under chapter 205.

Section 9. Subsection (5) of section 482.071, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

482.071 Licenses.-

(5) A license under this section is a prerequisite for the issuance of a local occupational license to engage in pest control, as provided in s. 205.1967.

Section 10. Paragraphs (b) through (g) of subsection (1) of section 482.242, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (a) through (f), respectively, and present paragraph (a) of that subsection is amended to read:

482.242 Preemption.-

- (1) This chapter is intended as comprehensive and exclusive regulation of pest control in this state. The provisions of this chapter preempt to the state all regulation of the activities and operations of pest control services, including the pesticides used pursuant to labeling and registration approved under part I of chapter 487. No local government or political subdivision of the state may enact or enforce an ordinance that regulates pest control, except that the preemption in this section does not prohibit a local government or political subdivision from enacting an ordinance regarding any of the following:
 - (a) Local business taxes adopted pursuant to chapter 205.

Page 7 of 18

196 Section 11. Subsections (5), (6), and (7) of section 197 489.119, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (4), 198 (5), and (6), respectively, and present subsection (4) of that section is amended to read: 199 200 489.119 Business organizations; qualifying agents.-201 (4) When a certified qualifying agent, on behalf of a 202 business organization, makes application for a business tax 203 receipt in any municipality or county of this state, the 204 application shall be made with the tax collector in the name of 205 the business organization and the qualifying agent; and the license, when issued, shall be issued to the business 206 207 organization, upon payment of the appropriate licensing fee and 208 exhibition to the tax collector of a valid certificate for the 209 qualifying agent issued by the department, and the state license 210 numbers shall be noted thereon. 211 Section 12. Subsection (1) of section 489.127, Florida 212 Statutes, is amended to read: 213 489.127 Prohibitions; penalties.-214 (1)No person shall: 215 Falsely hold himself or herself or a business 216 organization out as a licensee, certificateholder, or 217 registrant; 218 Falsely impersonate a certificateholder or registrant; 219 Present as his or her own the certificate or registration of another; 220 Knowingly give false or forged evidence to the board 221 222 or a member thereof;

Page 8 of 18

(e) Use or attempt to use a certificate or registration

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

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that has been suspended or revoked;

- (f) Engage in the business or act in the capacity of a contractor or advertise himself or herself or a business organization as available to engage in the business or act in the capacity of a contractor without being duly registered or certified;
- (g) Operate a business organization engaged in contracting after 60 days following the termination of its only qualifying agent without designating another primary qualifying agent, except as provided in ss. 489.119 and 489.1195;
- (h) Commence or perform work for which a building permit is required pursuant to part IV of chapter 553 without such building permit being in effect; or
- (i) Willfully or deliberately disregard or violate any municipal or county ordinance relating to uncertified or unregistered contractors.

For purposes of this subsection, a person or business organization operating on an inactive or suspended certificate or registration is not duly certified or registered and is considered unlicensed. A business tax receipt issued under the authority of chapter 205 is not a license for purposes of this part.

Section 13. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 489.128, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (b), and present paragraph (b) of that subsection is amended to read:

489.128 Contracts entered into by unlicensed contractors unenforceable.—

Page 9 of 18

(1) As a matter of public policy, contracts entered into on or after October 1, 1990, by an unlicensed contractor shall be unenforceable in law or in equity by the unlicensed contractor.

(b) For purposes of this section, an individual or business organization may not be considered unlicensed for failing to have a business tax receipt issued under the authority of chapter 205.

Section 14. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 489.131, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

489.131 Applicability.-

- (3) Nothing in this part limits the power of a municipality or county:
- inspection fees for engaging in contracting or examination fees from persons who are registered with the board pursuant to local examination requirements and issue business tax receipts.

 However, nothing in this part shall be construed to require general contractors, building contractors, or residential contractors to obtain additional business tax receipts for specialty work when such specialty work is performed by employees of such contractors on projects for which they have substantially full responsibility and such contractors do not hold themselves out to the public as being specialty contractors.

Section 15. Subsection (3) of section 489.516, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

489.516 Qualifications to practice; restrictions;

Page 10 of 18

prerequisites.-

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When a certificateholder desires to engage in contracting in any area of the state, as a prerequisite therefor, he or she shall only be required to exhibit to the local building official, tax collector, or other authorized person in charge of the issuance of licenses and building or electrical permits in the area evidence of holding a current certificate and a current business tax receipt issued by the jurisdiction in which the certificateholder's principal place of business is located and having paid the fee for the permit required of other persons. However, a local construction regulation board may deny the issuance of an electrical permit to a certified contractor, or issue a permit with specific conditions, if the local construction regulation board has found such contractor, through the public hearing process, to be guilty of fraud or a willful building code violation within the county or municipality that the local construction regulation board represents, or if the local construction regulation board has proof that such contractor, through the public hearing process, has been found guilty, in another county or municipality within the past 12 months, of fraud or a willful building code violation and finds, after providing notice to the contractor, that such fraud or violation would have been fraud or a violation if committed in the county or municipality that the local construction board represents. Notification of and information concerning such permit denial shall be submitted to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation within 15 days after the local construction regulation board decides to

Page 11 of 18

deny the permit.

Section 16. Subsections (7) through (10) of section 489.521, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6) through (9), respectively, and present subsection (6) of that section is amended to read:

489.521 Business organizations; qualifying agents.-

(6) When a business organization qualified to engage in contracting makes application for a business tax receipt in any municipality or county of this state, the application shall be made with the tax collector in the name of the business organization, and the business tax receipt, when issued, shall be issued to the business organization upon payment of the appropriate licensing fee and exhibition to the tax collector of a valid certificate issued by the department.

Section 17. Section 489.5315, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

489.5315 Proprietary electrical or alarm contractors.— Businesses that obtain an electrical or burglar alarm system license to work only on their own equipment, and that do not offer electrical or alarm contracting services to the public, are not electrical or burglar alarm system contracting businesses and do not have to obtain a business tax receipt in addition to any they are otherwise required to have.

Section 18. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 489.532, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (b), and present paragraph (b) of that subsection is amended to read:

489.532 Contracts entered into by unlicensed contractors unenforceable.—

(1) As a matter of public policy, contracts entered into on or after October 1, 1990, by an unlicensed contractor shall be unenforceable in law or in equity by the unlicensed contractor.

(b) For purposes of this section, an individual or

- (b) For purposes of this section, an individual or business organization shall not be considered unlicensed for failing to have a business tax receipt issued under the authority of chapter 205.
- Section 19. Paragraph (q) of subsection (1) of section 489.533, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 489.533 Disciplinary proceedings.-

- (1) The following acts shall constitute grounds for disciplinary actions as provided in subsection (2):
- (q) Failing to affix a registration or certification number as required by s. 489.521(6) s. 489.521(7).

For the purposes of this subsection, construction is considered to be commenced when the contract is executed and the contractor has accepted funds from the customer or lender.

Section 20. Subsection (9) of section 489.537, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (8), and paragraph (b) of subsection (3) and present subsection (8) of that section are amended to read:

489.537 Application of this part.

- (3) Nothing in this act limits the power of a municipality or county:
- (b) To collect fees for business tax receipts and inspections for engaging in contracting or examination fees from

Page 13 of 18

persons who are registered with the local boards pursuant to local examination requirements.

- (8) Persons licensed under this part are subject to ss. 205.0535(1) and 205.065, as applicable.
- Section 21. Subsection (3) of section 500.511, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 500.511 Fees; enforcement; preemption.—

- (3) PREEMPTION OF AUTHORITY TO REGULATE.—Regulation of bottled water plants, water vending machines, water vending machine operators, and packaged ice plants is preempted by the state. No county or municipality may adopt or enforce any ordinance that regulates the licensure or operation of bottled water plants, water vending machines, or packaged ice plants, unless it is determined that unique conditions exist within the county which require the county to regulate such entities in order to protect the public health. This subsection does not prohibit a county or municipality from requiring a business tax pursuant to chapter 205.
- Section 22. Subsection (1) of section 501.016, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 501.016 Health studios; security requirements.—Each health studio that sells contracts for health studio services shall meet the following requirements:
- (1) Each health studio shall maintain for each separate business location a bond issued by a surety company admitted to do business in this state. The principal sum of the bond shall be \$50,000, and the bond, when required, shall be obtained before a business tax receipt may be issued under chapter 205.

Page 14 of 18

Upon issuance of a business tax receipt, the licensing authority shall immediately notify the department of such issuance in a manner established by the department by rule. The bond shall be in favor of the state for the benefit of any person injured as a result of a violation of ss. 501.012-501.019. The aggregate liability of the surety to all persons for all breaches of the conditions of the bonds provided herein shall in no event exceed the amount of the bond. The original surety bond required by this section shall be filed with the department.

Section 23. Paragraphs (c) through (f) of subsection (3) of section 501.143, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (b) through (e), respectively, and present paragraph (b) of that subsection is amended to read:

501.143 Dance Studio Act.-

- (3) REGISTRATION OF BALLROOM DANCE STUDIOS. -
- (b) Any person applying for or renewing a local business tax receipt to engage in business as a ballroom dance studio must exhibit an active registration certificate from the department before the local business tax receipt may be issued or reissued under chapter 205.

Section 24. Subsection (9) 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.—
- (9) Upon a declaration of a state of emergency by the Governor, in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents, any person who offers goods and services for sale to

Page 15 of 18

the public during the duration of the emergency and who does not possess a business tax receipt under s. 205.032 or s. 205.042 commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. During a declared emergency, this subsection does not apply to religious, charitable, fraternal, civic, educational, or social organizations. During a declared emergency and when there is an allegation of price gouging against the person, failure to possess a license constitutes reasonable cause to detain the person, provided that the detention shall only be made in a reasonable manner and only for a reasonable period of time sufficient for an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the failure to possess a license.

Section 25. Subsection (1) of section 507.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

507.13 Local regulation.

- (1) (a) Except as provided in <u>paragraph</u> paragraphs (b) and (c), this chapter preempts a local ordinance or regulation of a county or municipality which regulates transactions relating to movers of household goods or moving brokers.
- (b) This chapter does not preempt an ordinance or regulation originally enacted by a county before January 1, 2011, or a subsequent amendment to such an ordinance or regulation. However, registration fees required by such an ordinance or regulation must be reasonable and may not exceed the cost of administering the ordinance or regulation. In addition, registration and bonding may be required only of a mover or moving broker whose principal place of business is

Page 16 of 18

located within that county's jurisdiction.

(c) This section does not preempt a local government's authority to levy a local business tax pursuant to chapter 205.

Section 26. Paragraph (f) of subsection (3) of section 539.001, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

539.001 The Florida Pawnbroking Act.-

(3) LICENSE REQUIRED.-

(f) Any person applying for or renewing a local occupational license to engage in business as a pawnbroker must exhibit a current license from the agency before the local business tax receipt may be issued or reissued.

Section 27. Section 559.939, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

other political subdivision of this state shall have authority to levy or collect any registration fee or tax, as a regulatory measure, or to require the registration or bonding in any manner of any seller of travel who is registered or complies with all applicable provisions of this part, unless that authority is provided for by special or general act of the Legislature. Any ordinance, resolution, or regulation of any municipality or county or other political subdivision of this state which is in conflict with any provision of this part is preempted by this part. The provisions of this section do not apply to any local business tax levied pursuant to chapter 205.

Section 28. Notwithstanding the repeal of chapter 205,

Florida Statutes, by this act, counties or municipalities

imposing a local business tax as of March 9, 2012, pursuant to

Page 17 of 18

chapter 205, Florida Statutes, may continue to levy such tax to
the extent necessary to meet all obligations to or for the
benefit of holders of bonds or certificates that were issued
before March 9, 2012, and for which taxes levied pursuant to
chapter 205, Florida Statute, are explicitly pledged as
security. Expenditures of revenues from tax levies continued
pursuant to this section are limited to meeting obligations
required by bonds or certificates that were issued before March
9, 2012. Revenues collected in excess of amounts necessary to
meet obligations of bonds or certificates must be refunded to
taxpayers in proportion to the amount of taxes paid by each
taxpayer.

Section 29. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.