

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to local government ethics reform;  
3           amending s. 99.061, F.S.; requiring certain candidates  
4           for the governing body of a municipality to file a  
5           full and public financial disclosure upon qualifying;  
6           amending s. 112.313, F.S.; providing that contractual  
7           relationships held by business entities are deemed  
8           held by public officers or employees in certain  
9           situations; amending s. 112.3142, F.S.; requiring  
10          certain ethics training for governing board members of  
11          special districts and water management districts;  
12          authorizing certain continuing education to satisfy  
13          the ethics training requirement; deleting a  
14          requirement that the Commission on Ethics adopt  
15          certain rules relating to ethics training class course  
16          content; providing course content requirements;  
17          encouraging training providers to seek accreditation;  
18          amending s. 112.3143, F.S.; prohibiting governing  
19          board members of special districts or school districts  
20          from voting in an official capacity on specified  
21          matters; prohibiting county, municipal, or other local  
22          public officers or governing board members of special  
23          districts or school districts from participating in  
24          specified matters; amending s. 112.3144, F.S.;  
25          requiring certain governing board members of

26 municipalities to file a full and public disclosure of  
27 financial interests; providing disclosure  
28 requirements; amending s. 112.3145, F.S.; providing  
29 disclosure requirements; providing applicability;  
30 amending s. 112.31455, F.S.; applying provisions  
31 relating to collecting unpaid fines for failing to  
32 file such disclosures to school districts; providing  
33 for the future repeal of s. 112.3261, F.S., relating  
34 to registration and reporting for lobbying water  
35 management districts; creating s. 112.32612, F.S.;

36 providing definitions; requiring lobbyists to register  
37 with the commission before lobbying governmental  
38 entities; providing registration requirements;  
39 providing responsibilities of the commission;  
40 providing civil penalties; authorizing the suspension  
41 of certain lobbyists; providing responsibilities of  
42 the governmental entity; authorizing the commission to  
43 adopt rules; requiring the commission to render  
44 advisory opinions under certain conditions; declaring  
45 that the act fulfills an important state interest;  
46 providing effective dates.

47  
48 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

49  
50 Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 99.061, Florida

51 Statutes, is amended to read:

52 99.061 Method of qualifying for nomination or election to  
53 federal, state, county, municipal, or district office.—

54 (5) At the time of qualifying for office, each candidate  
55 for the governing body of a municipality that had \$5 million or  
56 more in total revenue as determined by the annual financial  
57 report submitted to the Department of Financial Services in  
58 accordance with s. 218.32 for the fiscal year ending prior to  
59 the year the disclosure covers or a constitutional office shall  
60 file a full and public disclosure of financial interests  
61 pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, which must  
62 be verified under oath or affirmation pursuant to s.  
63 92.525(1) (a), and a candidate for any other office, ~~including~~  
64 ~~local elective office,~~ shall file a statement of financial  
65 interests pursuant to s. 112.3145.

66 Section 2. Subsection (7) of section 112.313, Florida  
67 Statutes, is amended to read:

68 112.313 Standards of conduct for public officers,  
69 employees of agencies, and local government attorneys.—

70 (7) CONFLICTING EMPLOYMENT OR CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP.—

71 (a) A ~~No~~ public officer or employee of an agency may not  
72 ~~shall~~ have or hold any employment or contractual relationship  
73 with any business entity or any agency that ~~which~~ is subject to  
74 the regulation of, or is doing business with, an agency of which  
75 he or she is an officer or employee, excluding those

76 organizations and their officers who, when acting in their  
 77 official capacity, enter into or negotiate a collective  
 78 bargaining contract with the state or any municipality, county,  
 79 or other political subdivision of the state; and ~~nor shall~~ an  
 80 officer or employee of an agency may not have or hold any  
 81 employment or contractual relationship that will create a  
 82 continuing or frequently recurring conflict between his or her  
 83 private interests and the performance of his or her public  
 84 duties or that would impede the full and faithful discharge of  
 85 his or her public duties. For purposes of this subsection, if a  
 86 public officer or employee of an agency holds a material  
 87 interest in a business entity other than a publicly traded  
 88 entity, or is an officer, a director, or a member who manages  
 89 such an entity, any contractual relationship held by the  
 90 business entity is deemed to be held by the public officer or  
 91 employee of the agency.

92 1. When the agency referred to is a ~~that certain kind of~~  
 93 special tax district created by general or special law and is  
 94 limited specifically to constructing, maintaining, managing, and  
 95 financing improvements in the land area over which the agency  
 96 has jurisdiction, or when the agency has been organized pursuant  
 97 to chapter 298, ~~then~~ employment with, or entering into a  
 98 contractual relationship with, such a business entity by a  
 99 public officer or employee of such an agency is ~~shall~~ not ~~be~~  
 100 prohibited by this subsection or ~~be~~ deemed a conflict per se.

101 However, conduct by such officer or employee that is prohibited  
 102 by, or otherwise frustrates the intent of, this section must  
 103 ~~shall~~ be deemed a conflict of interest in violation of the  
 104 standards of conduct set forth by this section.

105 2. When the agency referred to is a legislative body and  
 106 the regulatory power over the business entity resides in another  
 107 agency, or when the regulatory power that ~~which~~ the legislative  
 108 body exercises over the business entity or agency is strictly  
 109 through the enactment of laws or ordinances, ~~then~~ employment or  
 110 a contractual relationship with such a business entity by a  
 111 public officer or employee of a legislative body is ~~shall~~ not ~~be~~  
 112 prohibited by this subsection or ~~be~~ deemed a conflict.

113 (b) This subsection does ~~shall~~ not prohibit a public  
 114 officer or employee from practicing in a particular profession  
 115 or occupation when such practice by persons holding such public  
 116 office or employment is required or permitted by law or  
 117 ordinance.

118 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 112.3142, Florida  
 119 Statutes, is amended to read:

120 112.3142 Ethics training for specified constitutional  
 121 officers, ~~and~~ and elected municipal officers, and members of a  
 122 governing board of a special district or water management  
 123 district.—

124 (2) (a) All constitutional officers must complete 4 hours  
 125 of ethics training each calendar year which addresses, at a

126 minimum, s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, the Code of  
127 Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, and the public records  
128 and public meetings laws of this state. ~~This requirement may be~~  
129 ~~satisfied by completion of a continuing legal education class or~~  
130 ~~other continuing professional education class, seminar, or~~  
131 ~~presentation if the required subjects are covered.~~

132 (b) ~~Beginning January 1, 2015,~~ All elected municipal  
133 officers must complete 4 hours of ethics training each calendar  
134 year which addresses, at a minimum, s. 8, Art. II of the State  
135 Constitution, the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and  
136 Employees, and the public records and public meetings laws of  
137 this state. ~~This requirement may be satisfied by completion of a~~  
138 ~~continuing legal education class or other continuing~~  
139 ~~professional education class, seminar, or presentation if the~~  
140 ~~required subjects are covered.~~

141 (c) Beginning January 1, 2018, all members of the  
142 governing board of a special district or water management  
143 district must complete 4 hours of ethics training each calendar  
144 year which addresses, at a minimum, s. 8, Art. II of the State  
145 Constitution, the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and  
146 Employees, and the public records and public meetings laws of  
147 this state.

148 (d) The requirements specified in paragraphs (a), (b), and  
149 (c) may be satisfied by completion of a continuing legal  
150 education class or other continuing professional education

151 class, seminar, or presentation if the required subjects are  
152 covered.

153 (e) The commission shall adopt rules establishing minimum  
154 Course content for the portion of an ethics training class which  
155 addresses s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution and the Code  
156 of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees must include one or  
157 more of the following:

- 158 1. Doing business with one's own agency;
- 159 2. Conflicting employment or contractual relationships;
- 160 3. Misuse of position;
- 161 4. Disclosure or use of certain information;
- 162 5. Gifts and honoraria, including solicitation and  
163 acceptance of gifts, and unauthorized compensation;
- 164 6. Post-officeholding restrictions;
- 165 7. Restrictions on the employment of relatives;
- 166 8. Voting conflicts if the officer is a member of a  
167 collegial body and votes in his or her official capacity;
- 168 9. Financial disclosure requirements, including the  
169 automatic fine and appeal process;
- 170 10. Commission procedures on ethics complaints and  
171 referrals; and
- 172 11. The importance of and process for obtaining advisory  
173 opinions rendered by the commission.

174 (f) Training providers are encouraged to seek  
175 accreditation from any applicable licensing body for courses

176 | offered pursuant to this subsection.

177 |       (g)~~(d)~~ The Legislature intends that a constitutional  
178 | officer, ~~or~~ elected municipal officer, or member of the  
179 | governing board of a special district or water management  
180 | district who is required to complete ethics training pursuant to  
181 | this section receive the required training as close as possible  
182 | to the date that he or she assumes office. A constitutional  
183 | officer, ~~or~~ elected municipal officer, or member of the  
184 | governing board of a special district or water management  
185 | district assuming a new office or new term of office on or  
186 | before March 31 must complete the annual training on or before  
187 | December 31 of the year in which the term of office began. A  
188 | constitutional officer, ~~or~~ elected municipal officer, or member  
189 | of the governing board of a special district or water management  
190 | district assuming a new office or new term of office after March  
191 | 31 is not required to complete ethics training for the calendar  
192 | year in which the term of office began.

193 |       Section 4. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 112.3143,  
194 | Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

195 |       112.3143 Voting conflicts.—

196 |       (3) (a) A ~~No~~ county, municipal, or other local public  
197 | officer or governing board member of a special district or  
198 | school district may not ~~shall~~ vote in an official capacity upon  
199 | any measure which would inure to his or her special private gain  
200 | or loss; which he or she knows would inure to the special

201 private gain or loss of any principal by whom he or she is  
202 retained or to the parent organization or subsidiary of a  
203 corporate principal by which he or she is retained, other than  
204 an agency as defined in s. 112.312(2); or which he or she knows  
205 would inure to the special private gain or loss of a relative or  
206 business associate of the public officer or board member. Such  
207 public officer or board member shall, prior to the vote being  
208 taken, publicly state to the assembly the nature of the  
209 officer's or member's interest in the matter from which he or  
210 she is abstaining from voting and, within 15 days after the vote  
211 occurs, disclose the nature of his or her interest as a public  
212 record in a memorandum filed with the person responsible for  
213 recording the minutes of the meeting, who shall incorporate the  
214 memorandum in the minutes.

215 (b) However, a commissioner of a community redevelopment  
216 agency created or designated pursuant to s. 163.356 or s.  
217 163.357, or an officer of an independent special tax district  
218 elected on a one-acre, one-vote basis, is not prohibited from  
219 voting, when voting in said capacity.

220 (4) A county, municipal, other local public officer,  
221 governing board member of a special district or school district,  
222 or ~~Ne~~ appointed public officer, may not ~~shall~~ participate in any  
223 matter which would inure to the officer's or member's special  
224 private gain or loss; which the officer or member knows would  
225 inure to the special private gain or loss of any principal by

226 | whom he or she is retained or to the parent organization or  
227 | subsidiary of a corporate principal by which he or she is  
228 | retained; or which he or she knows would inure to the special  
229 | private gain or loss of a relative or business associate of the  
230 | public officer or board member, without first disclosing the  
231 | nature of his or her interest in the matter.

232 |       (a) Such disclosure, indicating the nature of the  
233 | conflict, shall be made in a written memorandum filed with the  
234 | person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting,  
235 | prior to the meeting in which consideration of the matter will  
236 | take place, and shall be incorporated into the minutes. Any such  
237 | memorandum shall become a public record upon filing, shall  
238 | immediately be provided to the other members of the agency, and  
239 | shall be read publicly at the next meeting held subsequent to  
240 | the filing of this written memorandum.

241 |       (b) In the event that disclosure has not been made prior  
242 | to the meeting or that any conflict is unknown prior to the  
243 | meeting, the disclosure shall be made orally at the meeting when  
244 | it becomes known that a conflict exists. A written memorandum  
245 | disclosing the nature of the conflict shall then be filed within  
246 | 15 days after the oral disclosure with the person responsible  
247 | for recording the minutes of the meeting and shall be  
248 | incorporated into the minutes of the meeting at which the oral  
249 | disclosure was made. Any such memorandum shall become a public  
250 | record upon filing, shall immediately be provided to the other

251 members of the agency, and shall be read publicly at the next  
 252 meeting held subsequent to the filing of this written  
 253 memorandum.

254 (c) For purposes of this subsection, the term  
 255 "participate" means any attempt to influence the decision by  
 256 oral or written communication, whether made by the officer or  
 257 member or at the officer's or member's direction.

258 Section 5. Subsections (1) and (2) and paragraph (c) of  
 259 subsection (8) of section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, are  
 260 amended to read:

261 112.3144 Full and public disclosure of financial  
 262 interests.—

263 (1) In addition to officers specified in s. 8, Art. II of  
 264 the State Constitution or any other state law, a member of the  
 265 governing board of a municipality that had \$5 million or more in  
 266 total revenue as determined by the annual financial report  
 267 submitted to the Department of Financial Services in accordance  
 268 with s. 218.32 for the fiscal year ending prior to the year the  
 269 disclosure covers is required to file a full and public  
 270 disclosure of financial interests. An officer or a member who is  
 271 required by s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution to file a  
 272 full and public disclosure of his or her financial interests for  
 273 any calendar or fiscal year shall file that disclosure with the  
 274 Florida Commission on Ethics. Additionally, beginning January 1,  
 275 2015, An officer or a member who is required to complete annual

276 ethics training pursuant to s. 112.3142 must certify on his or  
277 her full and public disclosure of financial interests that he or  
278 she has completed the required training. Additionally, beginning  
279 January 1, 2018, an officer or a member who is required to  
280 complete annual ethics training pursuant to s. 112.3142 must  
281 provide the name of the training provider on his or her full and  
282 public disclosure of financial interests.

283 (2) An officer or a member ~~person~~ who is required,  
284 ~~pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution,~~ to file a  
285 full and public disclosure of financial interests and who has  
286 filed a full and public disclosure of financial interests for  
287 any calendar or fiscal year is ~~shall~~ not ~~be~~ required to file a  
288 statement of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145(2) and  
289 (3) for the same year or for any part thereof notwithstanding  
290 any requirement of this part. If an incumbent in an elective  
291 office has filed the full and public disclosure of financial  
292 interests to qualify for election to the same office or if a  
293 candidate for office holds another office subject to the annual  
294 filing requirement, the qualifying officer shall forward an  
295 electronic copy of the full and public disclosure of financial  
296 interests to the commission no later than July 1. The electronic  
297 copy of the full and public disclosure of financial interests  
298 satisfies the annual disclosure requirement of this section. A  
299 candidate who does not qualify until after the annual full and  
300 public disclosure of financial interests has been filed pursuant

301 to this section shall file a copy of his or her disclosure with  
 302 the officer before whom he or she qualifies.

303 (8)

304 (c) For purposes of this section, an error or omission is  
 305 immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis if the original  
 306 filing provided sufficient information for the public to  
 307 identify potential conflicts of interest. However, failure to  
 308 certify completion of annual ethics training required under s.  
 309 112.3142 or provide the name of the training provider does not  
 310 constitute an immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis error  
 311 or omission.

312 Section 6. Subsection (4) and paragraph (c) of subsection  
 313 (10) of section 112.3145, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

314 112.3145 Disclosure of financial interests and clients  
 315 represented before agencies.—

316 (4) Beginning January 1, 2015, an officer who is required  
 317 to complete annual ethics training pursuant to s. 112.3142 must  
 318 certify on his or her statement of financial interests that he  
 319 or she has completed the required training. Additionally,  
 320 beginning January 1, 2018, an officer or a member who is  
 321 required to complete annual ethics training pursuant to s.  
 322 112.3142 must provide the name of the training provider on his  
 323 or her statement of financial interests.

324 (10)

325 (c) For purposes of this section, an error or omission is

326 immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis if the original  
327 filing provided sufficient information for the public to  
328 identify potential conflicts of interest. However, failure to  
329 certify completion of annual ethics training required under s.  
330 112.3142 or provide the name of the training provider does not  
331 constitute an immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis error  
332 or omission.

333 Section 7. The amendments made to ss. 112.3144 and  
334 112.3145, Florida Statutes, by this act apply to disclosures  
335 filed for the 2017 calendar year and all subsequent calendar  
336 years.

337 Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 112.31455, Florida  
338 Statutes, is amended to read:

339 112.31455 Collection methods for unpaid automatic fines  
340 for failure to timely file disclosure of financial interests.—

341 (1) Before referring any unpaid fine accrued pursuant to  
342 s. 112.3144(5) or s. 112.3145(7) to the Department of Financial  
343 Services, the commission shall attempt to determine whether the  
344 individual owing such a fine is a current public officer or  
345 current public employee. If so, the commission may notify the  
346 Chief Financial Officer or the governing body of the appropriate  
347 county, municipality, school district, or special district of  
348 the total amount of any fine owed to the commission by such  
349 individual.

350 (a) After receipt and verification of the notice from the

351 commission, the Chief Financial Officer or the governing body of  
352 the county, municipality, school district, or special district  
353 shall begin withholding the lesser of 10 percent or the maximum  
354 amount allowed under federal law from any salary-related  
355 payment. The withheld payments shall be remitted to the  
356 commission until the fine is satisfied.

357 (b) The Chief Financial Officer or the governing body of  
358 the county, municipality, school district, or special district  
359 may retain an amount of each withheld payment, as provided in s.  
360 77.0305, to cover the administrative costs incurred under this  
361 section.

362 Section 9. Effective October 1, 2018, section 112.3261,  
363 Florida Statutes, is repealed.

364 Section 10. Section 112.32612, Florida Statutes, is  
365 created to read:

366 112.32612 Lobbying before governmental entities.—

367 (1) As used in this section, the term:

368 (a) "Governmental entity" or "entity" means a water  
369 management district created in s. 373.069 and operating under  
370 the authority of chapter 373, a hospital district, a children's  
371 services district, an expressway authority as the term  
372 "authority" is defined in s. 348.0002, a port authority as  
373 defined in s. 315.02, a county, a municipality, a school  
374 district, or a special district.

375 (b) "Lobbies," "Lobby," or "Lobbying" means seeking, on

376 behalf of another person, to influence a governmental entity  
377 with respect to a decision of the entity in an area of policy or  
378 procurement or an attempt to obtain the goodwill of an official  
379 or employee of a governmental entity. The term does not include  
380 making application for or seeking approval of an application for  
381 a license, permit, or waiver of a regulation so long as the  
382 issuance or granting of such application does not require  
383 legislative discretion.

384 (c) "Lobbyist" means a person who is employed and receives  
385 payment, or who contracts for economic consideration, for the  
386 purpose of lobbying, or a person who is principally employed for  
387 governmental affairs by another person or governmental entity to  
388 lobby on behalf of such person or governmental entity. The term  
389 does not include a person who:

390 1. Represents a client in a judicial proceeding or in a  
391 formal administrative proceeding before a governmental entity.

392 2. Is an employee of an agency or of a legislative or  
393 judicial branch entity acting in the normal course of his or her  
394 duties.

395 3. Is a confidential informant who is providing, or wishes  
396 to provide, confidential information to be used for law  
397 enforcement purposes.

398 4. Lobbies to procure a contract which is less than  
399 \$20,000 or a contract pursuant s. 287.056.

400 (d) "Principal" has the same meaning as in s. 112.3215.

401       (2) Beginning October 1, 2018, a person may not lobby a  
402 governmental entity until such person has electronically  
403 registered as a lobbyist with the commission in the local  
404 government lobbyist registration system. Such initial  
405 registration shall be due upon being retained to lobby and may  
406 be renewed thereafter on a calendar-year basis. After initial  
407 registration, the lobbyist shall provide a statement signed by  
408 the principal or the principal's representative stating that he  
409 or she is authorized to represent the principal and designating  
410 the principal's main type of business pursuant to a  
411 classification system approved by the commission. Any changes to  
412 the information required by this subsection must be disclosed  
413 within 15 days by the lobbyist updating his or her registration.  
414 A person required to register as a lobbyist under this  
415 subsection must register through the electronic system and  
416 disclose in his or her registration:

417       (a) Name, email address, and business address.  
418       (b) Name and business address of each principal.  
419       (c) Name of each governmental entity lobbied or intended  
420 to be lobbied on behalf of the principal.  
421       (d) Any direct or indirect business association,  
422 partnership, or financial relationship with an official or  
423 employee of a governmental entity lobbied or intended to be  
424 lobbied on behalf of the principal.

425       (3) The annual lobbyist registration fee shall be

426 established by the commission by rule and may not exceed \$40 for  
427 each principal represented.

428 (4) The commission shall publish a lobbyist directory of  
429 all lobbyist registrations on its website.

430 (5) A lobbyist shall promptly provide a written statement  
431 to the commission canceling the designation of a principal in  
432 his or her registration upon termination of such representation.  
433 The commission may cancel a lobbyist's designation of a  
434 principal upon the principal's notification that the lobbyist is  
435 no longer authorized to represent the principal.

436 (6) A governmental entity must ascertain whether a  
437 lobbyist has registered pursuant to this section. A governmental  
438 entity may not knowingly authorize an unregistered lobbyist to  
439 lobby the entity.

440 (7) (a) Upon a first complaint to the commission alleging a  
441 violation of subsection (2) against a lobbyist, or upon any  
442 complaint against a lobbyist received before January 1, 2020,  
443 the commission shall, within 30 days after receipt of the  
444 complaint, issue a warning letter to the lobbyist directing him  
445 or her to consult the obligations of lobbyists under this  
446 section and then dismiss the complaint.

447 (b) On or after January 1, 2020, notwithstanding the civil  
448 penalties in s. 112.317, a lobbyist found by the commission to  
449 have violated subsection (2) is subject to:

450 1. For a first violation, a civil penalty not to exceed

HB 7021

2017

451 \$500.

452 2. For a second or subsequent violation committed within  
453 12 months after the commission determines that a first violation  
454 has been committed, a civil penalty of at least \$200 but not  
455 more than \$1000 or a 1-year suspension from lobbying any  
456 governmental entity associated with the violation. A  
457 governmental entity may impose additional civil penalties not to  
458 exceed \$500 per violation, and, notwithstanding paragraph (c),  
459 may suspend the lobbyist from lobbying on its behalf for up to 2  
460 years.

461 (c) The civil penalties and suspensions provided in this  
462 subsection shall be applied on a per principal basis with  
463 suspensions affecting only those principals for whom  
464 unregistered lobbying occurred.

465 (8) By January 1, 2018, a governmental entity's governing  
466 body, or the entity's designee, shall notify the commission of  
467 any ordinance or rule that imposes additional or more stringent  
468 obligations with respect to lobbyist registration, reporting, or  
469 other conduct, and shall forward to the commission a copy of any  
470 associated form that has been established to facilitate  
471 compliance with such ordinance or rule. Beginning January 1,  
472 2019, a governmental entity shall conform its registration  
473 system, if any, to accommodate regular digital distribution of  
474 registration data from the commission so that initial  
475 registration of a lobbyist pursuant to subsection (2) is

476 accomplished without having to supply the lobbyist and principal  
477 information to more than one registration system. The commission  
478 shall cooperate to the extent reasonably practicable to assure  
479 such coordination of information.

480 (9) The commission may adopt rules to establish procedures  
481 to govern the local government lobbyist registration system,  
482 including the adoption of forms, exchange of information with  
483 local governmental entities, and establishment of an annual  
484 lobbyist registration fee.

485 (10) A person, when in doubt about the applicability and  
486 interpretation of this section, may submit in writing to the  
487 commission the facts of the situation with a request for an  
488 advisory opinion to establish a standard of duty. An advisory  
489 opinion shall be rendered by the commission and, until amended  
490 or revoked, is binding on the conduct of the person who sought  
491 the opinion, unless material facts were omitted or misstated in  
492 the request.

493 Section 11. As provided in s. 112.322(3), Florida  
494 Statutes, the Commission on Ethics shall render advisory  
495 opinions to any public officer, candidate for public office, or  
496 public employee regarding the application of part III of chapter  
497 112, Florida Statutes, including sections 1 through 9 of this  
498 act.

499 Section 12. The Legislature finds that a proper and  
500 legitimate state purpose is served when mechanisms are

HB 7021

2017

501 established to secure and sustain the public's trust in public  
502 officers. Therefore, the Legislature determines and declares  
503 that this act fulfills an important state interest.

504 Section 13. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
505 act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2017.