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1
 2 An act relating to disaster relief; creating s.
 3 193.4518, F.S.; defining terms; providing a tangible
 4 personal property assessment limitation, during a
 5 certain timeframe and in certain counties, for certain
 6 agricultural equipment rendered unable to be used due
 7 to Hurricane Idalia; specifying conditions for
 8 applying for and receiving the assessment limitation;
 9 providing procedures for petitioning the value
 10 adjustment board if an application is denied;
 11 providing applicability; providing a sales tax
 12 exemption for the purchase, within a certain timeframe
 13 and in certain counties, of certain fencing materials
 14 used to replace or repair fences damaged by Hurricane
 15 Idalia on agricultural lands; specifying that the
 16 exemption is available only through a refund by the
 17 Department of Revenue of previously paid taxes;
 18 specifying requirements for applying for the refund;
 19 providing criminal penalties for furnishing a false
 20 affidavit; providing construction and retroactive
 21 applicability; authorizing the department to adopt
 22 emergency rules; providing a sales tax exemption for
 23 the purchase, within a certain timeframe and in
 24 certain counties, of building materials used to
 25 replace or repair nonresidential farm buildings

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26 | damaged by Hurricane Idalia; specifying that the
 27 | exemption is available only through a refund by the
 28 | department of previously paid taxes; defining the
 29 | terms "building materials" and "nonresidential farm
 30 | building"; specifying requirements for applying for
 31 | the refund; providing criminal penalties for
 32 | furnishing a false affidavit; providing construction
 33 | and retroactive applicability; authorizing the
 34 | department to adopt emergency rules; providing an
 35 | exemption from certain fuel taxes for fuel purchased,
 36 | within a certain timeframe, for use for agricultural
 37 | shipment or hurricane debris removal after Hurricane
 38 | Idalia; specifying that the exemption is available
 39 | only through a refund by the department; defining
 40 | terms; specifying requirements for applying for the
 41 | refund; providing criminal penalties for furnishing a
 42 | false affidavit; providing applicability and
 43 | construction; providing for retroactive operation;
 44 | authorizing the department to adopt emergency rules;
 45 | amending s. 215.5586, F.S.; revising legislative
 46 | intent; specifying a requirement for the Department of
 47 | Financial Services in implementing the My Safe Florida
 48 | Home Program; authorizing the department to accept
 49 | applications for the program up to the amount of
 50 | available funds; providing an appropriation for

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51 certain applications for the program; prohibiting the
 52 department from continuing to accept certain
 53 applications or creating a waiting list in
 54 anticipation of additional funding in the absence of
 55 express authority from the Legislature to do so;
 56 providing an appropriation for administration of the
 57 My Safe Florida Home program; amending s. 252.37,
 58 F.S.; providing legislative intent; requiring the
 59 Division of Emergency Management and local governments
 60 to enter into certain agreements to receive specified
 61 funds; providing requirements for such agreements;
 62 providing for allocation of funds; requiring the
 63 division to report progress on a certain timetable to
 64 specified parties; providing for expiration; providing
 65 an appropriation for the Public Assistance Program;
 66 providing requirements for appropriated funds;
 67 authorizing the undisbursed appropriation to carry
 68 forward to a certain date; amending s. 252.71, F.S.;
 69 extending the date for future review and repeal of
 70 provisions related to the Florida Emergency Management
 71 Assistance Foundation; amending s. 288.066, F.S.;
 72 revising the maximum length of a loan term under the
 73 Local Government Emergency Revolving Bridge Loan
 74 Program; authorizing the Department of Commerce to
 75 amend certain previously executed loan agreements

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76 | under certain circumstances; providing an
 77 | appropriation for the Hurricane Housing Recovery
 78 | Program; requiring such appropriations to be used for
 79 | specified purposes; requiring the Florida Housing
 80 | Finance Corporation to coordinate with the division
 81 | and the Department of Commerce for a specified
 82 | purpose; providing an appropriation for hurricane
 83 | repair and recovery projects within counties with a
 84 | certain Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster
 85 | designation; authorizing certain entities to apply for
 86 | such appropriated funds; requiring such entities
 87 | requesting funding for certain purposes to secure
 88 | certain matching funds by the time of making the
 89 | application; requiring certain certifications for
 90 | applications for appropriated funds; authorizing the
 91 | division to request budget amendments up to a
 92 | specified amount to fund gaps in certain projects;
 93 | requiring the division and certain entities to
 94 | coordinate for a specified purpose; specifying
 95 | criteria for providing appropriated funds as grants or
 96 | loans; requiring reimbursed funds to be deposited into
 97 | the General Revenue Fund; providing for appropriations
 98 | for the Small County Outreach Program for certain
 99 | counties; amending chapter 2023-304, Laws of Florida;
 100 | revising a prohibition on counties and municipalities

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101 proposing or adopting certain amendments to specified
102 regulations; revising the expiration date of such
103 prohibition; providing an appropriation for certain
104 planning and design grants; authorizing certain
105 fiscally constrained counties to apply for
106 appropriated funds; requiring the division to
107 prioritize certain applications; requiring the
108 division to conduct a certain assessment and consider
109 certain information; amending s. 288.0655, F.S.;
110 authorizing the Department of Commerce to award
111 certain grants to certain fiscally constrained
112 counties; providing a purpose and eligible uses for
113 such grants; providing for expiration; providing an
114 appropriation for the grants; repealing s. 570.82,
115 F.S., relating to Agricultural Economic Development
116 Program disaster loans and grants and aid; creating s.
117 570.822, F.S.; defining terms; establishing the
118 Agriculture and Aquaculture Producers Natural Disaster
119 Recovery Loan Program within the Department of
120 Agriculture and Consumer Services; providing the
121 purpose of the program; establishing the authorized
122 use of the loans; requiring that structures or
123 buildings constructed with loan funds meet certain
124 standards; requiring the department to adopt such
125 standards by rule; requiring that the loans be low-

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126 interest or interest-free; providing loan limits;
 127 establishing eligibility requirements for loans;
 128 establishing application periods; setting the terms of
 129 repayment; providing for a reduction in the principal
 130 balance by a certain amount each year; restricting the
 131 amount the department may use for deferred loans;
 132 requiring repayment upon the sale of the property
 133 within a certain timeframe; specifying requirements
 134 for the department in administering the program;
 135 requiring the department to create and maintain a
 136 separate account in the General Inspection Trust Fund
 137 for the program; requiring that loan payments be
 138 returned to the loan program; providing that
 139 appropriated funds are not subject to reversion;
 140 requiring the department, or a specified third-party
 141 administrator, to manage the loan fund; requiring the
 142 department to coordinate with certain entities;
 143 requiring the department to adopt rules; requiring the
 144 department to provide an annual report to the
 145 Legislature by a specified date; specifying
 146 requirements for the report; providing for the
 147 expiration of the program on a specified date, unless
 148 reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature;
 149 amending s. 201.25, F.S.; exempting loans made by the
 150 Agriculture and Aquaculture Producers Natural Disaster

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151 Recovery Loan Program from certain taxes; requiring
 152 the department to adopt emergency rules to implement
 153 the program; providing for the expiration of such
 154 authority; requiring the transfer of specified amounts
 155 from the General Revenue Fund to the General
 156 Inspection Trust Fund within the department within a
 157 specified timeframe; providing appropriations for
 158 specified programs; providing requirements for grant
 159 administration under such programs; specifying the
 160 amount the department may use to administer the
 161 programs; authorizing the department to adopt
 162 emergency rules to implement the cost-sharing grant
 163 program; requiring the department to coordinate with
 164 certain entities; providing an effective date.

165

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

167

168 Section 1. Section 193.4518, Florida Statutes, is created
 169 to read:

170 193.4518 Assessment of agricultural equipment rendered
 171 unable to be used due to Hurricane Idalia.-

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

173 (a) "Farm" has the same meaning as provided in s.

174 823.14(3).

175 (b) "Farm operation" has the same meaning as provided in

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176 s. 823.14(3).

177 (c) "Unable to be used" means the tangible personal
 178 property was damaged, or the farm, farm operation, or
 179 agricultural processing facility was affected, to such a degree
 180 that the tangible personal property could not be used for its
 181 intended purpose.

182 (2) For purposes of ad valorem taxation and applying to
 183 the 2024 tax roll only, tangible personal property owned and
 184 operated by a farm, a farm operation, or an agriculture
 185 processing facility located in Charlotte, Citrus, Columbia,
 186 Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Jefferson, Lafayette,
 187 Levy, Madison, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota, Suwannee, or
 188 Taylor County is deemed to have a market value no greater than
 189 its value for salvage if the tangible personal property was
 190 unable to be used for at least 60 days due to the effects of
 191 Hurricane Idalia.

192 (3) The deadline for an applicant to file an application
 193 with the property appraiser for assessment pursuant to this
 194 section is March 1, 2024.

195 (4) If the property appraiser denies an application, the
 196 applicant may file, pursuant to s. 194.011(3), a petition with
 197 the value adjustment board which requests that the tangible
 198 personal property be assessed pursuant to this section. Such
 199 petition must be filed on or before the 25th day after the
 200 mailing by the property appraiser during the 2024 calendar year

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201 of the notice required under s. 194.011(1).

202 (5) This section applies to tax rolls beginning January 1,
 203 2024.

204 Section 2. Fencing materials purchased for use on
 205 agricultural lands due to Hurricane Idalia damage.-

206 (1) The purchase of fencing materials used to replace or
 207 repair farm fences on land classified as agricultural under s.
 208 193.461, Florida Statutes, is exempt from the tax imposed under
 209 chapter 212, Florida Statutes, during the period from August 30,
 210 2023, through June 30, 2024, if the fencing materials will be or
 211 were used to replace or repair fences located in Charlotte,
 212 Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando,
 213 Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas,
 214 Sarasota, Suwannee, or Taylor County that were damaged as a
 215 direct result of the impact of Hurricane Idalia. The exemption
 216 provided by this section is available only through a refund from
 217 the Department of Revenue of previously paid taxes.

218 (2) To receive a refund pursuant to this section, the
 219 owner of the fencing materials or the real property into which
 220 the fencing materials were incorporated must apply to the
 221 Department of Revenue by December 31, 2024. The refund
 222 application must include the following information:

223 (a) The name and address of the person claiming the
 224 refund.

225 (b) The address and assessment roll parcel number of the

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226 agricultural land on which the fencing materials were or will be
227 used.

228 (c) The sales invoice or other proof of purchase of the
229 fencing materials which shows the amount of sales tax paid, the
230 date of purchase, and the name and address of the dealer from
231 whom the materials were purchased.

232 (d) An affidavit executed by the owner of the fencing
233 materials or the real property into which the fencing materials
234 were or will be incorporated, including a statement that the
235 fencing materials were or will be used to replace or repair
236 fencing damaged as a direct result of the impact of Hurricane
237 Idalia.

238 (3) A person furnishing a false affidavit to the
239 Department of Revenue pursuant to subsection (2) is subject to
240 the penalties set forth in s. 212.085, Florida Statutes, and as
241 otherwise authorized by law.

242 (4) This section is deemed a revenue law for the purposes
243 of ss. 213.05 and 213.06, Florida Statutes, and s. 72.011,
244 Florida Statutes, applies to this section.

245 (5) This section operates retroactively to August 30,
246 2023.

247 (6) The Department of Revenue is authorized, and all
248 conditions are deemed met, to adopt emergency rules pursuant to
249 s. 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, for the purpose of implementing
250 this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,

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251 emergency rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are
 252 effective until December 31, 2024, and may be renewed during the
 253 pendency of procedures to adopt permanent rules addressing the
 254 subject of the emergency rules.

255 Section 3. Building materials used to replace or repair
 256 nonresidential farm buildings damaged by Hurricane Idalia.—

257 (1) Building materials used to replace or repair a
 258 nonresidential farm building located in Charlotte, Citrus,
 259 Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Jefferson,
 260 Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota,
 261 Suwannee, or Taylor County that was damaged as a direct result
 262 of the impact of Hurricane Idalia and purchased during the
 263 period from August 30, 2023, through June 30, 2024, are exempt
 264 from the tax imposed under chapter 212, Florida Statutes. The
 265 exemption provided by this section is available only through a
 266 refund from the Department of Revenue of previously paid taxes.

267 (2) As used in this section, the term:

268 (a) "Building materials" means tangible personal property
 269 that becomes a component part of a nonresidential farm building.

270 (b) "Nonresidential farm building" has the same meaning as
 271 provided in s. 604.50(2), Florida Statutes.

272 (3) To receive a refund pursuant to this section, the
 273 owner of the building materials or of the real property into
 274 which the building materials will be or were incorporated must
 275 apply to the Department of Revenue by December 31, 2024. The

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276 refund application must include all of the following
 277 information:

278 (a) The name and address of the person claiming the
 279 refund.

280 (b) The address and assessment roll parcel number of the
 281 real property where the building materials were or will be used.

282 (c) The sales invoice or other proof of purchase of the
 283 building materials which shows the amount of sales tax paid, the
 284 date of purchase, and the name and address of the dealer from
 285 whom the materials were purchased.

286 (d) An affidavit executed by the owner of the building
 287 materials or the real property into which the building materials
 288 will be or were incorporated, including a statement that the
 289 building materials were or will be used to replace or repair the
 290 nonresidential farm building damaged as a direct result of the
 291 impact of Hurricane Idalia.

292 (4) A person furnishing a false affidavit to the
 293 Department of Revenue pursuant to subsection (3) is subject to
 294 the penalties set forth in s. 212.085, Florida Statutes, and as
 295 otherwise provided by law.

296 (5) This section is deemed a revenue law for the purposes
 297 of ss. 213.05 and 213.06, Florida Statutes, and s. 72.011,
 298 Florida Statutes, applies to this section.

299 (6) This section operates retroactively to August 30,
 300 2023.

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301 (7) The Department of Revenue is authorized, and all
 302 conditions are deemed met, to adopt emergency rules pursuant to
 303 s. 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, for the purpose of implementing
 304 this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
 305 emergency rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are
 306 effective until December 31, 2024, and may be renewed during the
 307 pendency of procedures to adopt permanent rules addressing the
 308 subject of the emergency rules.

309 Section 4. Refund of taxes on fuel used for agricultural
 310 shipment or hurricane debris removal after Hurricane Idalia.-

311 (1) Fuel purchased and used in this state during the
 312 period from August 30, 2023, through June 30, 2024, which is or
 313 was used in any motor vehicle driven or operated upon the public
 314 highways of this state for agricultural shipment or hurricane
 315 debris removal is exempt from all state and county taxes
 316 authorized or imposed under parts I and II of chapter 206,
 317 Florida Statutes, excluding the taxes imposed under s.
 318 206.41(1)(a) and (h), Florida Statutes. The exemption provided
 319 by this section is available to the fuel purchaser in an amount
 320 equal to the fuel tax imposed on fuel that was purchased for
 321 agricultural shipment or hurricane debris removal during the
 322 period from August 30, 2023, through June 30, 2024. The
 323 exemption provided by this section is only available through a
 324 refund from the Department of Revenue.

325 (2) As used in this section, the term:

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326 (a) "Agricultural processing or storage facility" means
 327 property used or useful in separating, cleaning, processing,
 328 converting, packaging, handling, storing, and other activities
 329 necessary to prepare crops, livestock, related products, and
 330 other products of agriculture, and includes nonfarm facilities
 331 that produce agricultural products, in whole or in part, through
 332 natural processes, animal husbandry, and apiaries.

333 (b) "Agricultural product" means the natural products of a
 334 farm, nursery, forest, grove, orchard, vineyard, garden, or
 335 apiary, including livestock as defined in s. 585.01, Florida
 336 Statutes.

337 (c) "Agricultural shipment" means the transport of any
 338 agricultural product from a farm, nursery, forest, grove,
 339 orchard, vineyard, garden, or apiary located in Charlotte,
 340 Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando,
 341 Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas,
 342 Sarasota, Suwannee, or Taylor County to an agricultural
 343 processing or storage facility.

344 (d) "Fuel" means motor fuel or diesel fuel, as those terms
 345 are defined in ss. 206.01(9) and 206.86(1), Florida Statutes,
 346 respectively.

347 (e) "Fuel tax" means all state and county taxes authorized
 348 or imposed on fuel under chapter 206, Florida Statutes.

349 (f) "Hurricane debris removal" means the transport of
 350 Hurricane Idalia debris from a farm, nursery, forest, grove,

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351 orchard, vineyard, garden, or apiary located in Charlotte,
 352 Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando,
 353 Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas,
 354 Sarasota, Suwannee, or Taylor County.

355 (g) "Motor vehicle" has the same meaning as provided in s.
 356 206.01(23), Florida Statutes.

357 (h) "Public highways" has the same meaning as provided in
 358 s. 206.01(11), Florida Statutes.

359 (3) To receive a refund pursuant to this section, the fuel
 360 purchaser must apply to the Department of Revenue by December
 361 31, 2024. The refund application must include all of the
 362 following information:

363 (a) The name and address of the person claiming the
 364 refund.

365 (b) The names and addresses of up to three owners of
 366 farms, nurseries, forests, groves, orchards, vineyards, gardens,
 367 or apiaries whose agricultural products were shipped or
 368 hurricane debris was removed by the person seeking the refund
 369 pursuant to this section.

370 (c) The sales invoice or other proof of purchase of the
 371 fuel which shows the number of gallons of fuel purchased, the
 372 type of fuel purchased, the date of purchase, and the name and
 373 place of business of the dealer from whom the fuel was
 374 purchased.

375 (d) The license number or other identification number of

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376 the motor vehicle that used the exempt fuel.

377 (e) An affidavit executed by the person seeking the refund
 378 pursuant to this section, including a statement that he or she
 379 purchased and used the fuel for which the refund is being
 380 claimed during the period from August 30, 2023, through June 30,
 381 2024, for an agricultural shipment or hurricane debris removal.

382 (4) A person furnishing a false affidavit to the
 383 Department of Revenue pursuant to subsection (3) is subject to
 384 the penalties set forth in s. 206.11, Florida Statutes, and as
 385 otherwise provided by law.

386 (5) The tax imposed under s. 212.0501, Florida Statutes,
 387 does not apply to fuel that is exempt under this section and for
 388 which a fuel purchaser received a refund under this section.

389 (6) This section is deemed a revenue law for the purposes
 390 of ss. 213.05 and 213.06, Florida Statutes, and s. 72.011,
 391 Florida Statutes, applies to this section.

392 (7) This section operates retroactively to August 30,
 393 2023.

394 (8) The Department of Revenue is authorized, and all
 395 conditions are deemed met, to adopt emergency rules pursuant to
 396 s. 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, for the purpose of implementing
 397 this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
 398 emergency rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are
 399 effective until December 31, 2024, and may be renewed during the
 400 pendency of procedures to adopt permanent rules addressing the

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401 subject of the emergency rules.

402 Section 5. Section 215.5586, Florida Statutes, is amended
403 to read:

404 215.5586 My Safe Florida Home Program.—There is
405 established within the Department of Financial Services the My
406 Safe Florida Home Program. The department shall provide fiscal
407 accountability, contract management, and strategic leadership
408 for the program, consistent with this section. This section does
409 not create an entitlement for property owners or obligate the
410 state in any way to fund the inspection or retrofitting of
411 residential property in this state. Implementation of this
412 program is subject to annual legislative appropriations. It is
413 the intent of the Legislature that, subject to the availability
414 of funds, the My Safe Florida Home Program provide licensed
415 inspectors to perform inspections for owners of site-built,
416 single-family, residential properties and grants to eligible
417 applicants ~~as funding allows.~~ The department shall implement the
418 program in such a manner that the total amount of funding
419 requested by accepted applications, whether for inspections,
420 grants, or other services or assistance, does not exceed the
421 total amount of available funds. If, after applications are
422 processed and approved, funds remain available, the department
423 may accept applications up to the available amount. The program
424 shall develop and implement a comprehensive and coordinated
425 approach for hurricane damage mitigation that may include the

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426 following:

427 (1) HURRICANE MITIGATION INSPECTIONS.—

428 (a) Licensed inspectors are to provide home inspections of
 429 site-built, single-family, residential properties for which a
 430 homestead exemption has been granted, to determine what
 431 mitigation measures are needed, what insurance premium discounts
 432 may be available, and what improvements to existing residential
 433 properties are needed to reduce the property's vulnerability to
 434 hurricane damage. An inspector may inspect a townhouse as
 435 defined in s. 481.203 to determine if opening protection
 436 mitigation as listed in paragraph (2) (e) would provide
 437 improvements to mitigate hurricane damage.

438 (b) The Department of Financial Services shall contract
 439 with wind certification entities to provide hurricane mitigation
 440 inspections. The inspections provided to homeowners, at a
 441 minimum, must include:

442 1. A home inspection and report that summarizes the
 443 results and identifies recommended improvements a homeowner may
 444 take to mitigate hurricane damage.

445 2. A range of cost estimates regarding the recommended
 446 mitigation improvements.

447 3. Information regarding estimated premium discounts,
 448 correlated to the current mitigation features and the
 449 recommended mitigation improvements identified by the
 450 inspection.

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451 (c) To qualify for selection by the department as a wind
 452 certification entity to provide hurricane mitigation
 453 inspections, the entity must, at a minimum, meet the following
 454 requirements:

455 1. Use hurricane mitigation inspectors who are licensed or
 456 certified as:

457 a. A building inspector under s. 468.607;

458 b. A general, building, or residential contractor under s.
 459 489.111;

460 c. A professional engineer under s. 471.015;

461 d. A professional architect under s. 481.213; or

462 e. A home inspector under s. 468.8314 and who have
 463 completed at least 3 hours of hurricane mitigation training
 464 approved by the Construction Industry Licensing Board, which
 465 training must include hurricane mitigation techniques,
 466 compliance with the uniform mitigation verification form, and
 467 completion of a proficiency exam.

468 2. Use hurricane mitigation inspectors who also have
 469 undergone drug testing and a background screening. The
 470 department may conduct criminal record checks of inspectors used
 471 by wind certification entities. Inspectors must submit a set of
 472 fingerprints to the department for state and national criminal
 473 history checks and must pay the fingerprint processing fee set
 474 forth in s. 624.501. The fingerprints must be sent by the
 475 department to the Department of Law Enforcement and forwarded to

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476 the Federal Bureau of Investigation for processing. The results
477 must be returned to the department for screening. The
478 fingerprints must be taken by a law enforcement agency,
479 designated examination center, or other department-approved
480 entity.

481 3. Provide a quality assurance program including a
482 reinspection component.

483 (d) An application for an inspection must contain a signed
484 or electronically verified statement made under penalty of
485 perjury that the applicant has submitted only a single
486 application for that home.

487 (e) The owner of a site-built, single-family, residential
488 property or townhouse as defined in s. 481.203, for which a
489 homestead exemption has been granted, may apply for and receive
490 an inspection without also applying for a grant pursuant to
491 subsection (2) and without meeting the requirements of paragraph
492 (2)(a).

493 (2) MITIGATION GRANTS.—Financial grants shall be used to
494 encourage single-family, site-built, owner-occupied, residential
495 property owners to retrofit their properties to make them less
496 vulnerable to hurricane damage.

497 (a) For a homeowner to be eligible for a grant, the
498 following criteria must be met:

499 1. The homeowner must have been granted a homestead
500 exemption on the home under chapter 196.

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501 2. The home must be a dwelling with an insured value of
 502 \$700,000 or less. Homeowners who are low-income persons, as
 503 defined in s. 420.0004(11), are exempt from this requirement.

504 3. The home must undergo an acceptable hurricane
 505 mitigation inspection as provided in subsection (1).

506 4. The building permit application for initial
 507 construction of the home must have been made before January 1,
 508 2008.

509 5. The homeowner must agree to make his or her home
 510 available for inspection once a mitigation project is completed.

511
 512 An application for a grant must contain a signed or
 513 electronically verified statement made under penalty of perjury
 514 that the applicant has submitted only a single application and
 515 must have attached documents demonstrating the applicant meets
 516 the requirements of this paragraph.

517 (b) All grants must be matched on the basis of \$1 provided
 518 by the applicant for \$2 provided by the state up to a maximum
 519 state contribution of \$10,000 toward the actual cost of the
 520 mitigation project.

521 (c) The program shall create a process in which
 522 contractors agree to participate and homeowners select from a
 523 list of participating contractors. All mitigation must be based
 524 upon the securing of all required local permits and inspections
 525 and must be performed by properly licensed contractors.

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526 Hurricane mitigation inspectors qualifying for the program may
527 also participate as mitigation contractors as long as the
528 inspectors meet the department's qualifications and
529 certification requirements for mitigation contractors.

530 (d) Matching fund grants shall also be made available to
531 local governments and nonprofit entities for projects that will
532 reduce hurricane damage to single-family, site-built, owner-
533 occupied, residential property. The department shall liberally
534 construe those requirements in favor of availing the state of
535 the opportunity to leverage funding for the My Safe Florida Home
536 Program with other sources of funding.

537 (e) When recommended by a hurricane mitigation inspection,
538 grants for eligible homes may be used for the following
539 improvements:

- 540 1. Opening protection.
- 541 2. Exterior doors, including garage doors.
- 542 3. Reinforcing roof-to-wall connections.
- 543 4. Improving the strength of roof-deck attachments.
- 544 5. Secondary water barrier for roof.

545 (f) When recommended by a hurricane mitigation inspection,
546 grants for townhouses, as defined in s. 481.203, may only be
547 used for opening protection.

548
549 The department may require that improvements be made to all
550 openings, including exterior doors and garage doors, as a

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551 condition of reimbursing a homeowner approved for a grant. The
552 department may adopt, by rule, the maximum grant allowances for
553 any improvement allowable under paragraph (e) or this paragraph.

554 (g) Grants may be used on a previously inspected existing
555 structure or on a rebuild. A rebuild is defined as a site-built,
556 single-family dwelling under construction to replace a home that
557 was destroyed or significantly damaged by a hurricane and deemed
558 unlivable by a regulatory authority. The homeowner must be a
559 low-income homeowner as defined in paragraph (h), must have had
560 a homestead exemption for that home before the hurricane, and
561 must be intending to rebuild the home as that homeowner's
562 homestead.

563 (h) Low-income homeowners, as defined in s. 420.0004(11),
564 who otherwise meet the requirements of paragraphs (a), (c), (e),
565 and (g) are eligible for a grant of up to \$10,000 and are not
566 required to provide a matching amount to receive the grant. The
567 program may accept a certification directly from a low-income
568 homeowner that the homeowner meets the requirements of s.
569 420.0004(11) if the homeowner provides such certification in a
570 signed or electronically verified statement made under penalty
571 of perjury.

572 (i) The department shall develop a process that ensures
573 the most efficient means to collect and verify grant
574 applications to determine eligibility and may direct hurricane
575 mitigation inspectors to collect and verify grant application

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576 information or use the Internet or other electronic means to
 577 collect information and determine eligibility.

578 (3) EDUCATION, CONSUMER AWARENESS, AND OUTREACH.—

579 (a) The department may undertake a statewide multimedia
 580 public outreach and advertising campaign to inform consumers of
 581 the availability and benefits of hurricane inspections and of
 582 the safety and financial benefits of residential hurricane
 583 damage mitigation. The department may seek out and use local,
 584 state, federal, and private funds to support the campaign.

585 (b) The program may develop brochures for distribution to
 586 Citizens Property Insurance Corporation, general contractors,
 587 roofing contractors, and real estate brokers and sales
 588 associates who are licensed under part I of chapter 475 which
 589 provide information on the benefits to homeowners of residential
 590 hurricane damage mitigation. Citizens Property Insurance
 591 Corporation is encouraged to distribute the brochure to
 592 policyholders of the corporation. Contractors are encouraged to
 593 distribute the brochures to homeowners at the first meeting with
 594 a homeowner who is considering contracting for home or roof
 595 repair or contracting for the construction of a new home. Real
 596 estate brokers and sales associates are encouraged to distribute
 597 the brochure to clients before the purchase of a home. The
 598 brochures may be made available electronically.

599 (4) FUNDING.—The department may seek out and leverage
 600 local, state, federal, or private funds to enhance the financial

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601 resources of the program.

602 (5) RULES.—The Department of Financial Services shall
 603 adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to govern the
 604 program; implement the provisions of this section; including
 605 rules governing hurricane mitigation inspections and grants,
 606 mitigation contractors, and training of inspectors and
 607 contractors; and carry out the duties of the department under
 608 this section.

609 (6) HURRICANE MITIGATION INSPECTOR LIST.—The department
 610 shall develop and maintain as a public record a current list of
 611 hurricane mitigation inspectors authorized to conduct hurricane
 612 mitigation inspections pursuant to this section.

613 (7) CONTRACT MANAGEMENT.—

614 (a) The department may contract with third parties for
 615 grants management, inspection services, contractor services for
 616 low-income homeowners, information technology, educational
 617 outreach, and auditing services. Such contracts are considered
 618 direct costs of the program and are not subject to
 619 administrative cost limits. The department shall contract with
 620 providers that have a demonstrated record of successful business
 621 operations in areas directly related to the services to be
 622 provided and shall ensure the highest accountability for use of
 623 state funds, consistent with this section.

624 (b) The department shall implement a quality assurance and
 625 reinspection program that determines whether initial inspections

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626 and home improvements are completed in a manner consistent with
 627 the intent of the program. The department may use valid random
 628 sampling in order to perform the quality assurance portion of
 629 the program.

630 (8) INTENT.—It is the intent of the Legislature that
 631 grants made to residential property owners under this section
 632 shall be considered disaster-relief assistance within the
 633 meaning of s. 139 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as
 634 amended.

635 (9) REPORTS.—The department shall make an annual report on
 636 the activities of the program that shall account for the use of
 637 state funds and indicate the number of inspections requested,
 638 the number of inspections performed, the number of grant
 639 applications received, the number and value of grants approved,
 640 and the estimated average annual amount of insurance premium
 641 discounts and total estimated annual amount of insurance premium
 642 discounts homeowners received from insurers as a result of
 643 mitigation funded through the program. The report must be
 644 delivered to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
 645 House of Representatives by February 1 of each year.

646 Section 6. (1) For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the sum of
 647 \$176,170,000 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the
 648 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Financial Services to
 649 provide mitigation grants pursuant to s. 215.5586(2), Florida
 650 Statutes, under the My Safe Florida Home Program. Funds must be

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651 used for applications submitted on or before October 15, 2023.
652 The department may not continue to accept applications or to
653 create a waiting list in anticipation of additional funding
654 unless the Legislature provides express authority to implement
655 such actions.

656 (2) For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the sum of \$5,285,100
657 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General Revenue
658 Fund to the Department of Financial Services for administrative
659 costs related to implementation of mitigation grants pursuant to
660 s. 215.5586(2), Florida Statutes, under the My Safe Florida Home
661 Program.

662 Section 7. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (5) of
663 section 252.37, Florida Statutes, to read:

664 252.37 Financing.—

665 (5) Unless otherwise specified in the General
666 Appropriations Act:

667 (d) Subject to appropriation, and notwithstanding
668 paragraph (a), the Legislature intends to provide the entire
669 match requirement for Public Assistance Program grants to local
670 governments within a county designated for individual assistance
671 and public assistance (categories A-G) in the Federal Emergency
672 Management Agency disaster declaration for Hurricane Idalia.
673 Such local governments must enter into agreements with the
674 division to have their portions of the match requirements waived
675 and must agree to use an equal amount of funds toward further

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676 disaster recovery or mitigation. Funds shall be allocated on a
677 first-come, first-served basis. Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a
678 local government in an agreement with the division under this
679 paragraph is not required to provide one-half of the required
680 match before it receives Public Assistance Program financial
681 assistance. The division shall report quarterly to the Executive
682 Office of the Governor and the chair of each legislative
683 appropriations committee on the amount of match requirements
684 waived, agreements entered into with local governments, and the
685 amount of remaining appropriated funds. This paragraph expires
686 June 30, 2028.

687 Section 8. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the nonrecurring
688 sum of \$30 million from the General Revenue Fund is appropriated
689 to the Division of Emergency Management within the Executive
690 Office of the Governor to provide the match requirement for
691 Public Assistance Program grants pursuant to s. 252.37(5)(d),
692 Florida Statutes, as created by this act. Appropriated funds may
693 only be used to meet federal match requirements as provided in
694 s. 252.37(5)(d), Florida Statutes, as created by this act.
695 Notwithstanding s. 216.301, Florida Statutes, and pursuant to s.
696 216.351, Florida Statutes, the balance of this appropriation
697 which is not disbursed by June 30, 2024, may be carried forward
698 for up to 5 years after the effective date of this act.

699 Section 9. Subsection (8) of section 252.71, Florida
700 Statutes, is amended to read:

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701 252.71 Florida Emergency Management Assistance
702 Foundation.—

703 (8) This section is repealed October 1, 2027 ~~December 31,~~
704 ~~2024~~, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.

705 Section 10. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section
706 288.066, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

707 288.066 Local Government Emergency Revolving Bridge Loan
708 Program.—

709 (3) LOAN TERMS.—

710 (c) The term of the loan is up to 5 years ~~24 months~~.
711 ~~However, the department may extend loan terms for up to 6 months~~
712 ~~based on the local government's financial condition.~~

713 Section 11. The Department of Commerce is authorized to
714 amend a loan agreement executed before November 1, 2023, and
715 made pursuant to s. 288.066, Florida Statutes, in order to
716 increase the loan term to a total of 5 years from the original
717 date of execution, as authorized by this act, upon request of
718 the local government and as determined by the department to be
719 in the best interests of the state.

720 Section 12. (1) For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the
721 nonrecurring sum of \$25 million from the Local Government
722 Housing Trust Fund is appropriated in the Affordable Housing for
723 Hurricane Recovery appropriation category to the Florida Housing
724 Finance Corporation. The corporation shall use these funds for
725 hurricane recovery purposes through the Hurricane Housing

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726 Recovery Program, to be administered in accordance with part VII
 727 of chapter 420, Florida Statutes, for eligible counties and
 728 municipalities based on Hurricane Idalia Federal Emergency
 729 Management Agency damage assessment data and population.
 730 Hurricane recovery purposes may include, but are not limited to,
 731 any of the following:

732 (a) Site preparation, demolition, repair, and replacement
 733 of housing.

734 (b) Repair, replacement, and relocation assistance for
 735 manufactured homes.

736 (c) Acquisition of building materials for home repair and
 737 construction.

738 (d) Assistance to homeowners to pay insurance deductibles.

739 (e) Down payment assistance.

740 (f) Housing reentry assistance, such as security deposits,
 741 utility deposits, and temporary storage of household
 742 furnishings.

743 (2) The Florida Housing Finance Corporation shall
 744 coordinate with the Division of Emergency Management within the
 745 Executive Office of the Governor and the Department of Commerce
 746 to prevent duplication of benefits related to other state or
 747 federal programs for recipients of funds appropriated under this
 748 section.

749 Section 13. (1) For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the
 750 nonrecurring sum of \$50 million from the General Revenue Fund is

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751 appropriated to the Division of Emergency Management within the
752 Executive Office of the Governor to provide grants or loans for
753 hurricane repair and recovery projects within counties
754 designated for individual assistance and public assistance
755 (categories A-G) in the Federal Emergency Management Agency
756 disaster declaration for Hurricane Idalia. Local governments,
757 independent special districts, and school boards, including
758 charter schools, may apply to the division for the appropriated
759 funds in a manner designated by the division. At the time of the
760 application, a local government, an independent special
761 district, or a school board requesting funding for
762 infrastructure repair, beach renourishment projects, or dredging
763 of public waterway projects must have secured matching funds of
764 at least 50 percent of the project costs. The matching
765 requirement for a project within a fiscally constrained county
766 may be waived.

767 (2) Applications to the division must contain a
768 certification that includes, but is not limited to, both of the
769 following statements:

770 (a) That the funding requested is necessary to maintain
771 services or infrastructure essential to support health, safety,
772 and welfare functions, and to reimburse the local government,
773 independent special district, or school board for unanticipated
774 expenses related to responding to Hurricane Idalia or for the
775 loss of revenues related to the impact of Hurricane Idalia.

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776 (b) That insufficient state funds, federal funds, private
 777 funds, or insurance proceeds are available and that should
 778 sufficient funds subsequently become available to meet the need
 779 of the original application, the local government or entity will
 780 reimburse the state in the amount of such funds subsequently
 781 received.

782 (3) The division is authorized to request budget
 783 amendments up to \$50 million which request the release of funds
 784 pursuant to chapter 216, Florida Statutes, to provide resources
 785 to fund gaps in the following projects:

786 (a) Mitigation of local and county revenue losses and
 787 operating deficits.

788 (b) Infrastructure repair and replacement, including road,
 789 sewer, and water facilities.

790 (c) Beach renourishment.

791 (d) Debris removal.

792 (e) Dredging of public waterways.

793 (4) The division shall coordinate with other state
 794 agencies and the local government, independent special district,
 795 or school board to ensure there is no duplication of benefits
 796 between these funds and other funding sources, such as insurance
 797 proceeds and any other federal or state programs, including
 798 Public Assistance Program requests to the Federal Emergency
 799 Management Agency and Community Development Block Grant Disaster
 800 Recovery grants. Applications approved by the division for

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801 funding which are for projects ineligible for any other funding
 802 sources, whether federal or state programs, may be provided as
 803 grants. Funding for requests approved by the division, which
 804 requests are for projects eligible for other funding sources,
 805 must be provided as loans that must be repayable up to the
 806 amount of other funding sources subsequently received. Any funds
 807 reimbursed to the state must be deposited in the General Revenue
 808 Fund.

809 Section 14. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the
 810 nonrecurring sum of \$10 million from the State Transportation
 811 Trust Fund is appropriated to the Department of Transportation
 812 for transportation projects under the Small County Outreach
 813 Program under s. 339.2818, Florida Statutes, within counties
 814 designated for individual assistance and public assistance
 815 (categories A-G) in the Federal Emergency Management Agency
 816 disaster declaration for Hurricane Idalia.

817 Section 15. Section 14 of chapter 2023-304, Laws of
 818 Florida, is amended to read:

819 Section 14. (1) Due to the impacts of Hurricane Ian,
 820 Charlotte, Collier, Desoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands,
 821 Lee, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties, and any a county or
 822 municipality located within one of those counties, may entirely
 823 or partially within 100 miles of where either Hurricane Ian or
 824 Hurricane Nicole made landfall shall not propose or adopt any
 825 moratorium on construction, reconstruction, or redevelopment of

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826 any property damaged by Hurricane Ian ~~or Hurricane Nicole~~;
 827 propose or adopt more restrictive or burdensome amendments to
 828 its comprehensive plan or land development regulations; or
 829 propose or adopt more restrictive or burdensome procedures
 830 concerning review, approval, or issuance of a site plan,
 831 development permit, or development order, to the extent that
 832 those terms are defined by s. 163.3164, Florida Statutes, before
 833 October 1, 2026 ~~2024~~, and any such moratorium or restrictive or
 834 burdensome comprehensive plan amendment, land development
 835 regulation, or procedure shall be null and void ab initio. This
 836 subsection applies retroactively to September 28, 2022.

837 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), any comprehensive plan
 838 amendment, land development regulation amendment, site plan,
 839 development permit, or development order approved or adopted by
 840 a county or municipality before or after the effective date of
 841 this section may be enforced if:

842 (a) The associated application is initiated by a private
 843 party other than the county or municipality.

844 (b) The property that is the subject of the application is
 845 owned by the initiating private party.

846 (3) This section shall ~~take effect upon becoming a law and~~
 847 expire June 30, 2027 ~~2025~~.

848 Section 16. (1) For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the
 849 nonrecurring sum of \$3 million in Fixed Capital Outlay from the
 850 General Revenue Fund is appropriated to the Division of

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851 Emergency Management within the Executive Office of the Governor
852 to provide planning and design grants for new facilities for
853 emergency operations to the following fiscally constrained
854 counties impacted by Hurricane Idalia: Columbia, Dixie,
855 Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison,
856 Suwannee, and Taylor counties.

857 (2) Such fiscally constrained counties may apply to the
858 division in a manner designated by the division for a grant to
859 be used for engineering, planning, and design services. The
860 division shall prioritize applications for grants that will fund
861 public safety complexes, combining emergency operations, fire
862 services, police services, emergency medical services, or
863 dispatch in one facility.

864 (3) The division must also conduct an assessment of need
865 of the applicants and award grants based on the greatest need.
866 The division, in awarding a grant, shall consider all of the
867 following information:

868 (a) Whether current structures are damaged or unsafe.

869 (b) Whether current structures are aged or appropriately
870 hurricane rated for the geographic location or proposed site.

871 (c) The need for a consolidated and updated facility.

872 (d) Whether the proposed facility can be expanded in the
873 future as population increases or needs of the locality change.

874 Section 17. Subsection (7) is added to section 288.0655,
875 Florida Statutes, to read:

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876 288.0655 Rural Infrastructure Fund.—
 877 (7) For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Department of
 878 Commerce may award grants for the following fiscally constrained
 879 counties impacted by Hurricane Idalia: Columbia, Dixie,
 880 Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison,
 881 Suwannee, and Taylor. The purpose of the grants is to facilitate
 882 the planning, preparing, and financing of infrastructure
 883 projects. Eligible uses of the grants include roads or other
 884 remedies to transportation impediments, stormwater systems,
 885 water or wastewater facilities, and telecommunications
 886 facilities. This subsection expires July 1, 2024.

887 Section 18. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the
 888 nonrecurring sum of \$5 million in Fixed Capital Outlay from the
 889 General Revenue Fund is appropriated to the Department of
 890 Commerce for grants awarded pursuant to s. 288.0655(7), Florida
 891 Statutes, as created by this act.

892 Section 19. Section 570.82, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

893 Section 20. Section 570.822, Florida Statutes, is created
 894 to read:

895 570.822 Agriculture and Aquaculture Producers Natural
 896 Disaster Recovery Loan Program.—

897 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

898 (a) "Bona fide farm operation" means a farm operation
 899 engaged in a good faith commercial agricultural use of land on
 900 land classified as agricultural pursuant to s. 193.461 or on

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901 sovereign submerged land that is leased to the applicant by the
 902 department pursuant to s. 597.010 and that produces agricultural
 903 products within the definition of agriculture under s. 570.02.

904 (b) "Declared natural disaster" means a natural disaster
 905 for which a state of emergency is declared pursuant to s.
 906 252.36.

907 (c) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture and
 908 Consumer Services.

909 (d) "Essential physical property" means fences, equipment,
 910 structural production facilities, such as shade houses and
 911 greenhouses, or other agriculture or aquaculture facilities or
 912 infrastructure.

913 (e) "Program" means the Agriculture and Aquaculture
 914 Producers Natural Disaster Recovery Loan Program.

915 (2) USE OF LOAN FUNDS; LOAN TERMS.—

916 (a) The program is established within the department to
 917 make loans to agriculture and aquaculture producers that have
 918 experienced damage or destruction from a declared natural
 919 disaster. Loan funds may be used to restore, repair, or replace
 920 essential physical property or remove vegetative debris from
 921 essential physical property. A structure or building constructed
 922 using loan proceeds must comply with storm-hardening standards
 923 for nonresidential farm buildings as defined in s. 604.50(2).
 924 The department shall adopt such standards by rule.

925 (b) The department may make a low-interest or interest-

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926 free loan to an eligible applicant. The maximum amount that an
927 applicant may receive during the application period for a loan
928 is \$500,000. An applicant may not receive more than one loan per
929 application period and no more than two loans per year or no
930 more than five loans in any 3-year period. A loan term is 10
931 years.

932 (3) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—To be eligible for the program,
933 an applicant must:

934 (a) Own or lease a bona fide farm operation that is
935 located in a county named in a declared natural disaster and
936 that was damaged or destroyed as a result of such declared
937 natural disaster.

938 (b) Maintain complete and acceptable farm records,
939 pursuant to criteria published by the department, and present
940 them as proof of production levels and bona fide farm
941 operations.

942 (4) LOAN APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT.—

943 (a) Requests for loans must be made by application to the
944 department. Upon a determination that funding for loans is
945 available, the department shall publicly notice an application
946 period for the declared natural disaster, beginning within 60
947 days after the date of the declared natural disaster and running
948 up to 1 year after the date of the declared natural disaster or
949 until all available loan funds are exhausted, whichever occurs
950 first.

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951 (b) An applicant must demonstrate the need for financial
 952 assistance and an ability to repay or meet a standard credit
 953 rating determined by the department.

954 (c) Loans must be made pursuant to written agreements
 955 specifying the terms and conditions agreed to by the approved
 956 applicant and the department. The loan agreement must specify
 957 that the loan is due upon sale if the property or other
 958 collateral for the loan is sold.

959 (d) An approved applicant must agree to stay in production
 960 for the duration of the loan. A loan is not assumable.

961 (5) LOAN SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.—All loans must be secured
 962 by a lien, subordinate only to any mortgage held by a financial
 963 institution as defined in s. 655.005, on property or other
 964 collateral as set forth in the loan agreement. The specific type
 965 of collateral required may vary depending upon the loan purpose,
 966 repayment ability, and the particular circumstances of the
 967 applicant. The department shall record the lien in public
 968 records in the county where the property is located and, in the
 969 case of personal property, perfect the security interest by
 970 filing appropriate Uniform Commercial Code forms with the
 971 Florida Secured Transaction Registry as required pursuant to
 972 chapter 679.

973 (6) LOAN REPAYMENT.—

974 (a) A loan is due and payable in accordance with the terms
 975 of the loan agreement.

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976 (b) The department shall defer payments for the first 3
977 years of the loan. After 3 years, the department shall reduce
978 the principal balance annually through the end of the loan term
979 such that the original principal balance is reduced by 30
980 percent. If the principal balance is repaid before the end of
981 the 10th year, the applicant may not be required to pay more
982 than 70 percent of the original principal balance. The approved
983 applicant must continue to be actively engaged in production in
984 order to receive the original principal balance reductions and
985 must continue to meet the loan agreement terms to the
986 satisfaction of the department.

987 (c) An approved applicant may make payments on the loan at
988 any time without penalty. Early repayment is encouraged as other
989 funding sources or revenues become available to the approved
990 applicant.

991 (d) All repayments of principal and interest, if
992 applicable, received by the department in a fiscal year must be
993 returned to the loan fund and made available for loans to other
994 applicants in the next application period.

995 (e) The department may periodically review an approved
996 applicant to determine whether he or she continues to be in
997 compliance with the terms of the loan agreement. If the
998 department finds that an applicant is no longer in production or
999 has otherwise violated the loan agreement, the department may
1000 seek repayment of the full original principal balance

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1001 outstanding, including any interest or costs, as applicable, and
 1002 excluding any applied or anticipated original principal balance
 1003 reductions.

1004 (7) ADMINISTRATION.—

1005 (a) The department shall create and maintain a separate
 1006 account in the General Inspection Trust Fund as a fund for the
 1007 program. All repayments must be returned to the loan fund and
 1008 made available as provided in this section. Notwithstanding s.
 1009 216.301, funds appropriated for the loan program are not subject
 1010 to reversion. The department shall manage the fund, establishing
 1011 loan practices that must include, but are not limited to,
 1012 procedures for establishing loan interest rates, uses of
 1013 funding, application procedures, and application review
 1014 procedures. The department is authorized to contract with a
 1015 third-party administrator to administer the program and manage
 1016 the loan fund. A contract for a third-party administrator that
 1017 includes management of the loan fund must, at a minimum, require
 1018 maintenance of the loan fund to ensure that the program may
 1019 operate in a revolving manner.

1020 (b) The department shall coordinate with other state
 1021 agencies and other entities to ensure to the greatest extent
 1022 possible that agriculture and aquaculture producers in this
 1023 state have access to the maximum financial assistance available
 1024 following a natural disaster. The coordination must endeavor to
 1025 ensure that there is no duplication of financial assistance

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1026 between the loan program and other funding sources, such as any
 1027 federal or other state programs, including public assistance
 1028 requests to the Federal Emergency Management Agency or financial
 1029 assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture,
 1030 which could render the approved applicant ineligible for other
 1031 financial assistance.

1032 (8) RULES.—The department shall adopt rules to implement
 1033 this section.

1034 (9) REPORTS.—By December 1, 2024, and each December 1
 1035 thereafter, the department shall provide a report on program
 1036 activities during the previous fiscal year to the President of
 1037 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The
 1038 report must include information on noticed application periods,
 1039 the number and value of loans awarded under the program for each
 1040 application period, the number and value of loans outstanding,
 1041 the number and value of any loan repayments received, and an
 1042 anticipated repayment schedule for all loans.

1043 (10) SUNSET.—This section expires July 1, 2043, unless
 1044 reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the
 1045 Legislature.

1046 Section 21. Subsection (3) of section 201.25, Florida
 1047 Statutes, is amended to read:

1048 201.25 Tax exemptions for certain loans.—There shall be
 1049 exempt from all taxes imposed by this chapter:

1050 (3) Any loan made by the Agriculture and Aquaculture

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1051 Producers Natural Disaster Recovery Loan Program pursuant to s.
 1052 570.822 Agricultural Economic Development Program pursuant to s.
 1053 570.82.

1054 Section 22. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer
 1055 Services shall, and all conditions are deemed met to, adopt
 1056 emergency rules pursuant to s. 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, for
 1057 the purpose of implementing s. 570.822, Florida Statutes.
 1058 Notwithstanding any other law, emergency rules adopted pursuant
 1059 to this section are effective for 6 months after adoption and
 1060 may be renewed during the pendency of the procedure to adopt
 1061 permanent rules addressing the subject of the emergency rules.

1062 Section 23. Within 30 days after this act becomes a law,
 1063 the Chief Financial Officer shall transfer \$75 million in
 1064 nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund to the General
 1065 Inspection Trust Fund within the Department of Agriculture and
 1066 Consumer Services. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the sum of \$75
 1067 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Inspection Trust
 1068 Fund is appropriated in fixed capital outlay to the Department
 1069 of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the Agriculture and
 1070 Aquaculture Producers Natural Disaster Recovery Loan Program
 1071 established pursuant to s. 570.822, Florida Statutes. The
 1072 department is authorized to use up to 5 percent of the
 1073 appropriated funds for administrative costs to implement the
 1074 program. Notwithstanding s. 570.822(4)(a), Florida Statutes, as
 1075 created by this act, in order for the department to adopt

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1076 emergency rules and establish the administration of the program,
1077 the department is authorized to publicly notice the opening of
1078 the application period for Hurricane Idalia no later than 60
1079 days after this act becomes a law.

1080 Section 24. (1) For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the sum of
1081 \$37.5 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue
1082 Fund in fixed capital outlay is appropriated to the Department
1083 of Agriculture and Consumer Services to administer a cost-
1084 sharing grant program to assist timber landowners in Charlotte,
1085 Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando,
1086 Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas,
1087 Sarasota, Suwannee, and Taylor Counties whose timber land was
1088 damaged as a result of Hurricane Idalia. Grants made to eligible
1089 timber landowners must be for up to 75 percent of the costs for
1090 site preparation and tree replanting on lands classified as
1091 agricultural lands under s. 193.461, Florida Statutes. The
1092 maximum grant award is \$250,000. Site preparation work may
1093 include downed tree removal by a variety of methods, including
1094 mechanical harvesting or prescribed burns authorized by the
1095 Florida Forest Service pursuant to s. 590.125, Florida Statutes.
1096 The department may use up to \$1 million of the appropriated
1097 funds for administrative costs to implement the grant program.

1098 (2) The department is authorized, and all conditions are
1099 deemed met, to adopt emergency rules pursuant to s. 120.54(4),
1100 Florida Statutes, for the purpose of implementing this section.

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1101 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, emergency rules
1102 adopted pursuant to this subsection are effective for 6 months
1103 after adoption and may be renewed during the pendency of
1104 procedures to adopt permanent rules addressing the subject of
1105 the emergency rules.

1106 (3) The department shall coordinate with other state
1107 agencies and other entities to ensure to the greatest extent
1108 possible that timber landowners have access to the maximum
1109 financial assistance available following Hurricane Idalia. The
1110 coordination must endeavor to ensure that there is no
1111 duplication of financial assistance between these funds and
1112 other funding sources, such as any federal or other state
1113 programs, including public assistance requests to the Federal
1114 Emergency Management Agency or financial assistance from the
1115 United States Department of Agriculture, which could render the
1116 approved applicant ineligible for other financial assistance.

1117 Section 25. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
1118 law.