FIRST REGULAR SESSION

[PERFECTED]

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 215

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

0821H.03P

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 67.2800 and 67.2815, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof seven new sections relating to residential property assessment clean energy.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 67.2800 and 67.2815, RSMo, are repealed and seven new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 67.2800, 67.2815, 67.2816, 67.2817, 67.2818, 67.2819, and 67.2822, to read as follows:

67.2800. 1. Sections 67.2800 to 67.2815 shall be known and may be cited as the 2 "Property Assessment Clean Energy Act".

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2. As used in sections 67.2800 to 67.2835, the following words and terms shall mean:

4 (1) "Assessment contract", a contract entered into between a clean energy development 5 board and a property owner under which the property owner agrees to pay an annual assessment 6 for a period of up to twenty years **not to exceed the weighted average useful life of the** 7 **qualified improvements** in exchange for financing of an energy efficiency improvement or a 8 renewable energy improvement;

9 (2) "Authority", the state environmental improvement and energy resources authority 10 established under section 260.010;

(3) "Bond", any bond, note, or similar instrument issued by or on behalf of a cleanenergy development board;

(4) "Clean energy conduit financing", the financing of energy efficiency improvements
 or renewable energy improvements for a single parcel of property or a unified development
 consisting of multiple adjoining parcels of property under section 67.2825;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

16 (5) "Director", the director of the division of finance within the department of 17 insurance, financial institutions and professional registration;

(6) "Division", the division of finance within the department of insurance, financial
 institutions and professional registration;

20 (7) "Clean energy development board", a board formed by one or more municipalities 21 under section 67.2810, also referred to as the PACE board;

[(6)] (8) "Energy efficiency improvement", any acquisition, installation, or modification
 on or of publicly or privately owned property designed to reduce the energy consumption of such
 property, including but not limited to:

(a) Insulation in walls, roofs, attics, floors, foundations, and heating and coolingdistribution systems;

(b) Storm windows and doors, multiglazed windows and doors, heat-absorbing or
 heat-reflective windows and doors, and other window and door improvements designed to reduce
 energy consumption;

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(c) Automatic energy control systems;

31 (d) Heating, ventilating, or air conditioning distribution system modifications and 32 replacements;

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(e) Caulking and weatherstripping;

(f) Replacement or modification of lighting fixtures to increase energy efficiency of the
 lighting system without increasing the overall illumination of the building unless the increase in
 illumination is necessary to conform to applicable state or local building codes;

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(g) Energy recovery systems; and

38 (h) Daylighting systems;

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[(7)] (9) "Municipality", any county, city, or incorporated town or village of this state;

40 (10) "Program administrator", an individual or entity selected by the clean energy 41 development board to administer the PACE program, but this term does not include an 42 employee of a county or municipal government assigned to a PACE board or a public

employee employed by a PACE board who is paid from appropriated general tax revenues;
[(8)] (11) "Project", any energy efficiency improvement or renewable energy

45 improvement;

46 [(9)] (12) "Property assessed clean energy local finance fund", a fund that may be 47 established by the authority for the purpose of making loans to clean energy development boards 48 to establish and maintain property assessed clean energy programs;

49 [(10)] (13) "Property assessed clean energy program", a program established by a [clean
 50 energy development] PACE board to finance energy efficiency improvements or renewable
 51 energy improvements under section 67.2820;

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[(11)] (14) "Renewable energy improvement", any acquisition and installation of a fixture, product, system, device, or combination thereof on publicly or privately owned property that produces energy from renewable resources, including, but not limited to photovoltaic

systems, solar thermal systems, wind systems, biomass systems, or geothermal systems;
3. All projects undertaken under sections 67.2800 to 67.2835 are subject to the

57 applicable municipality's ordinances and regulations, including but not limited to those 58 ordinances and regulations concerning zoning, subdivision, building, fire safety, and historic or 59 architectural review.

4. Property assessed clean energy programs under sections 67.2800 to 67.2835 shall
be defined as merchandise for the purposes of chapter 407 and shall be subject to the
provisions of chapter 407.

67.2815. 1. A clean energy development board shall not enter into an assessment contract or levy or collect a special assessment for a project without making a finding that there are sufficient resources to complete the project and that the estimated economic benefit expected from the project during the financing period is equal to or greater than the cost of the project.

5 2. An assessment contract shall be executed by the clean energy development board and 6 the benefitted property owner or property owners and shall provide:

7 (1) A description of the project, including the estimated cost of the project and details 8 on how the project will either reduce energy consumption or create energy from renewable 9 sources;

10 (2) A mechanism for:

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(a) Verifying the final costs of the project upon its completion; and

12 (b) Ensuring that any amounts advanced or otherwise paid by the clean energy 13 development board toward costs of the project will not exceed the final cost of the project;

(3) An acknowledgment by the property owner that the property owner has received or
will receive a special benefit by financing a project through the clean energy development board
that equals or exceeds the total assessments due under the assessment contract;

17 (4) An agreement by the property owner to pay annual special assessments for a period18 not to exceed twenty years, as specified in the assessment contract;

19 (5) A statement that the obligations set forth in the assessment contract, including the 20 obligation to pay annual special assessments, are a covenant that shall run with the land and be 21 obligations upon future owners of such property; and

(6) An acknowledgment that no subdivision of property subject to the assessment contract shall be valid unless the assessment contract or an amendment thereof divides the total annual special assessment due between the newly subdivided parcels pro rata to the special benefit realized by each subdivided parcel. 4

26 3. The total special assessments levied against a property under an assessment contract 27 shall not exceed the sum of the cost of the project, including any required energy audits and 28 inspections, or portion thereof financed through the participation in a property assessed clean 29 energy program or clean energy conduit financing, including the costs of any audits or 30 inspections required by the clean energy development board, plus such administration fees, interest, and other financing costs reasonably required by the clean energy development board. 31 32 4. The clean energy development board shall provide a copy of each signed assessment 33 contract to the local county assessor and county collector or city collections official, if the city 34 has joined a clean energy development board and the county has not, and shall cause a copy of such assessment contract to be recorded in the real estate records of the county recorder of 35 36 deeds.

37 5. Special assessments agreed to under an assessment contract shall be a lien on the 38 property against which it is assessed on behalf of the applicable clean energy development board 39 from the date that each annual assessment under the assessment contract becomes due. Such 40 special assessments shall be collected by the county collector, or city collections official if the 41 city has joined a clean energy development board and the county has not, in the same 42 manner and with the same priority as ad valorem real property taxes. Once collected, the county 43 collector or city collections official shall pay over such special assessment revenues to the clean 44 energy development board in the same manner in which revenues from ad valorem real property 45 taxes are paid to other taxing districts. Such special assessments shall be collected as provided 46 in this subsection from all subsequent property owners, including the state and all political 47 subdivisions thereof, for the term of the assessment contract.

6. Any clean energy development board that contracts for outside administrative services to provide financing origination for a project shall offer the right of first refusal to enter into such a contract to a federally insured depository institution with a physical presence in Missouri upon the same terms and conditions as would otherwise be approved by the clean energy development board. Such right of first refusal shall not be applicable to the origination of any transaction that involves the issuance of bonds by the clean energy development board.

67.2816. 1. This section shall apply only to a PACE board that implements or that has implemented a program for projects to improve residential properties of four or fewer units.

2. Before July 1, 2020, any residential program administrator under contract to a
PACE board and having responsibilities to administer a program for residential properties
shall obtain a license and maintain an annual registration with the Missouri division of
finance.

8 3. The director may issue a referral under chapter 407 regarding any residential 9 program administrator or person or entity who may be acting as a residential program 10 administrator who fails to obtain and maintain a license and annual registration.

11 4. The director may establish reasonable license and annual registration fees for 12 any individual or company that seeks to perform the duties of a residential program 13 administrator for residential programs in the state of Missouri. The director may charge 14 an initial license fee not to exceed five hundred dollars and may also require an annual 15 registration fee not to exceed five hundred dollars. The license and any annual registration 16 shall not be transferrable. If an annual registration fee is unpaid for ninety days, the 17 registration shall expire and the individual or company shall be required to reapply for the 18 license.

19 5. The director shall not issue a license to a residential program administrator 20 unless the director makes, at a minimum, the following findings:

(1) The applicant or the applicant's executive officers have designated an individual
 as a primary Missouri contact who shall have authority to communicate with the division
 and its examiners and respond to examination requests;

(2) The applicant or the applicant's executive officers have never had any type of
 financial services license or registration revoked in any governmental jurisdiction; except
 that, a subsequent formal vacation of such revocation shall not be deemed a revocation;

(3) The applicant is in compliance with Missouri corporate registration
 requirements to be in good standing and is not delinquent on any Missouri state or local
 taxes or license fees; and

30 (4) The applicant is applying on behalf of a clean energy development board that
 31 has properly registered with the Missouri ethics commission and the state auditor as a
 32 valid political subdivision.

33 6. Residential program administrators for programs for residential properties in 34 the state of Missouri shall be subject to examination by the division for compliance with 35 the provisions of this chapter related to the administration of programs for residential 36 properties and particularly compliance with this section and sections 67.2817, 67.2818, and 37 67.2819. The division shall include in the compliance examination process and procedures 38 any applicable residential requirements and consumer protections established by the 39 federal Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection under section 307 of the Economic 40 Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010, Section 2155. 41 The division shall conduct an examination of each residential program administrator at 42 least once in twenty-four months and such other times as the director may determine. The 43 division shall conduct lending audits under the Truth-in-Lending Act, 15 U.S.C. 1601 et

seq., as it relates to consumer loans, on a property assessed clean energy program. The
division shall share the results of each audit with the PACE board.

46 7. The residential program administrator shall be responsible for paying the costs 47 of examinations which the director may assess upon the completion of an exam. The 48 director may also assess all licensed residential program administrators on an annual basis 49 taking into account the relative annual volume and amount of residential projects 50 approved or the value of assessment contracts outstanding or such other factors as the director determines to equitably spread the costs of the division's administrative expenses 51 52 incurred to maintain the licensing program and compliance examination program. The 53 division shall document the examinations and annual assessments and make the records 54 of the examinations and annual assessments available for public inspection. All license and 55 registration payments and assessments paid by a residential program administrator to the 56 division shall be credited to the division of finance fund established under section 361.170 57 and subject to the provisions thereof.

8. The division shall provide the residential program administrator an opportunity to review each completed examination report and provide written responses to any findings or recommendations of the division. The written responses, if any, shall be included in a final examination report that shall be delivered to the PACE board and made available to the public.

9. The division may refer any matter related to the conduct of a residential program administrator to the applicable PACE board, and to the governing board of any participating municipality or county, and to the state auditor or to the state attorney general as deemed appropriate by the director. The referral to the Missouri attorney general may include a referral under chapter 407.

68 10. The division may refer any consumer complaint related to the conduct of a 69 residential program administrator or contractor providing residential PACE project 70 services to the state attorney general.

67.2817. 1. This section shall apply only to residential properties of four or fewer 2 units.

3 2. A residential program administrator shall not approve, execute, submit, or
4 otherwise present for recordation any assessment contract unless the following criteria are
5 satisfied:

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(1) The PACE assessments are assessed in equal annual installments;

7 (2) The PACE assessment contract may be paid in full at any time without 8 prepayment penalty;

9 (3) The assessment contract shall disclose applicable penalties, interest penalties, 10 or late fees under the contract and describe generally the interest and penalties imposed 11 under law for the collection of delinquent taxes. The PACE board or residential program 12 administrator shall provide a separate statement to the owner of the residential property 13 of the penalties or late fees authorized under the assessment contract and of the penalties 14 and interest penalties under the law for the applicable tax collector as of the date of the 15 assessment contract;

16 (4) The residential program administrator has confirmed that the property owner
 17 is current on property taxes for the project property;

18 (5) The property that shall be subject to the assessment contract has no recorded
 19 and outstanding involuntary liens in excess of one thousand dollars;

(6) The property owner shall not have been a party to any bankruptcy proceedings
within the last three years, except that the property owner may have been party to a
bankruptcy proceeding that was discharged or dismissed between two and seven years
before the application date;

(7) The term of the assessment contract shall not exceed the weighted average useful life of the qualified improvements to which the greatest portion of funds disbursed under the assessment contract is attributable, not to exceed twenty years. The residential program administrator shall determine useful life for purposes of this subdivision based upon credible third-party standards or certification criteria that have been established by appropriate government agencies or nationally recognized standards and testing organizations or as established by the authority; and

31 (8) The property owner is current on all mortgage debt on the subject property and
32 has no more than one late payment during the twelve months immediately preceding the
33 application date on any mortgage debt.

34 3. The property owner executing the PACE assessment contract shall have a three-day right to cancel the qualifying improvements proposed for financing under the 35 36 PACE assessment contract. The three-day right shall expire on or before midnight of the 37 third business day after a property owner signs the assessment contract. The board or 38 residential program administrator shall be required to provide a printed form that is 39 presented to the property owner no later than the time of signing of the assessment 40 contract detailing the property owner's right to cancel. An electronic form may be 41 provided if the owner consents electronically to receiving an electronic form.

42 **4.** Prior to execution of an assessment contract, the PACE board or residential 43 program administrator shall advise the property owner in writing that any delinquent 44 assessment shall be a lien on the property subject to the assessment contract and that the

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45 obligations under the PACE assessment contract continue as an obligation against the 46 improved property if the property owner sells or refinances the property and that a 47 purchaser or lender may require that before the owner may sell or refinance the property 48 that the owner may be required to pay the assessment contract in full.

49 5. Prior to the execution of an assessment contract, the PACE board or residential program administrator shall advise the property owner in writing that if the property 50 51 owner pays his or her property taxes and special assessments via a lender or loan servicer's 52 escrow program, the special assessment will cause the owner's monthly escrow 53 requirements to increase and increase the owner's total monthly payment to the lender or 54 the loan servicer. The PACE board or residential program administrator shall further 55 advise the property owner that if the special assessment results in an escrow shortage that 56 the owner will be required to pay the shortage in a lump-sum payment or catch-up the 57 shortage over twelve months.

6. The PACE board or residential program administrator within three days of entering an assessment contract, shall provide any holder of a first mortgage loan a copy of the assessment contract and a statement that includes a brief description of the project, the cost of the project, the annual assessment that will be levied, and the number of annual assessments. Transmittal shall be by United States mail to the holder of the first mortgage loan of record.

64 7. The PACE board or residential program administrator shall maintain a public 65 website with current information about the PACE program as the board or residential 66 program administrator deems appropriate to inform consumers regarding the PACE 67 program. The website shall list approved contractors for the PACE program. The website 68 shall disclose the process for property owners or their successors to request information 69 about their assessment contract, the status of the assessment contract, and for all questions 70 including contact information to obtain a payoff amount for the release of an assessment 71 contract.

728. The PACE board, residential program administrator, contractor, or other third73party shall not make any representation as to the income tax deductibility of an assessment.

67.2818. 1. This section shall apply only to residential properties of four or fewer 2 units.

3 2. The PACE board or residential program administrator shall provide a disclosure
4 form to homeowners that shows the financing terms of the assessment contract including,
5 but not limited to:

6 (1) The total amount funded and borrowed, including the cost of the installed 7 improvements, the program fees, and capitalized interest, if any;

8 (2) The annual tax assessment, billing process, and payment due date;

- 9 (3) The annual payment amounts;
- 10 (4) The term of the assessment;
- 11 (5) The fixed rate of interest charged;
- 12 (6) The annual percentage rate;
- 13 (7) A payment schedule that fully amortizes the amount financed;
- 14 (8) The improvements to be installed;

15 (9) A statement that if the property owner sells or refinances their property that 16 the owner may be required by a mortgage lender or a purchaser to pay off the assessment 17 as a condition of refinancing or sale;

(10) A statement that no penalty shall be assessed or collected for prepayment of
 the assessment;

(11) That any potential utility savings are not guaranteed, and shall not reduce the
 assessment payments or total assessment amount;

(12) That the PACE annual assessment shall be collected along with property taxes and that any taxes and annual assessment not paid on or before December thirty-first shall result in a lien on the improved property for the unpaid taxes, unpaid annual assessment, interest, and penalties as provided by law;

(13) That if the owner pays property taxes and insurance through his or her mortgage payment and an escrow account, that the special assessment will cause the owner's monthly escrow requirements to increase and increase the owner's total monthly payment to the lender or the loan servicer and that if the special assessment results in an escrow shortage that the owner shall be required to pay the shortage in a lump-sum payment or catch-up the shortage over twelve months;

(14) That failure to timely pay the annual assessment and taxes will result in a tax lien, will result in penalties and fees being assessed and added to the annual assessment and taxes, and that if the delinquency is not paid, the property could be sold at a tax sale resulting in issuance of a tax certificate or collector's deed to a purchaser that could result in the property owner losing his or her home; and

(15) That the property owner should seek professional tax advice if he or she has
 questions regarding tax credits related to a PACE project or the tax matters presented by
 the assessment contract or financing agreement and payments thereunder.

3. The PACE board or residential program administrator shall be required to
present the disclosure form to a property owner for acknowledgment prior to the execution
of an assessment contract.

43 4. Before a property owner executes an assessment contract, the PACE board or
 44 residential program administrator shall do the following:

(1) Make an oral confirmation that at least one owner of the property has a copy
of the assessment contract documents with all the key terms completed, the financing
estimate and disclosure form, and the right to cancel form with a hard copy available upon
request; and

49 (2) Make an oral confirmation of the key terms of the assessment contract, in plain 50 language, with the property owner, or to the verified authorized representative of the 51 owner, and shall obtain acknowledgment from the property owner or representative to 52 whom the oral confirmation is given.

53 **5.** The oral confirmation shall include, but is not limited to, all the following 54 information:

55 (1) The property owner has the right to have other persons present, and an inquiry 56 as to whether the property owner would like to exercise the right to include other 57 individuals. This shall occur immediately after the determination of the preferred language 58 of communication;

59 (2) The property owner is informed that they should review the assessment contract 60 and financing estimate and disclosure form with all other owners of the property;

61 (3) The qualified improvement being installed is being financed by an assessment
 62 contract;

63 (4) The total estimated annual costs the property owner will have to pay under the 64 assessment contract, including applicable fees;

65 (5) The total estimated average monthly amount of funds the property owner would 66 have to save in order to pay the annual costs under the assessment contract, including 67 applicable fees;

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(6) The term of the assessment contract;

69 (7) That payments on the assessment contract shall be made through an additional 70 annual assessment on the property and paid either directly to the county tax collector's 71 office as part of the total annual secured property tax bill, or through the property owner's 72 mortgage escrow account, and that if the property owner pays his or her taxes through an 73 escrow account, he or she should notify his or her mortgage lender to discuss adjusting his 74 or her monthly mortgage payment or otherwise providing additional funds to avoid a 75 shortage in the owner's mortgage escrow account;

(8) That the property shall be subject to a lien during the term of the assessment
 contract for any delinquent assessments;

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(9) That before the owner may sell or refinance the property, a purchaser or lender
 may require the obligation under the assessment contract to be paid in full;

80 (10) That any potential utility savings are not guaranteed, and that such savings
 81 may not offset the assessment payments or total assessment amount;

- (11) That the residential program administrator and contractor do not provide tax
 advice, and that the property owner should seek professional tax advice if he or she has
 questions regarding tax credits related to the project the tax matters presented by the
 PACE assessment or assessment contract; and
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(12) The date the first payment shall be due.

67.2819. 1. This section shall apply only to residential properties of four or fewer 2 units.

2. The PACE board and residential program administrator shall not permit contractors or other third parties to advertise the availability of residential assessment contracts that are administered by the board or residential program administrator, or to solicit property owners on behalf of the board or residential program administrator, unless both of the following requirements are met:

8 (1) The contractor maintains any permits, licenses, or registrations required for 9 engaging in its business in the jurisdiction where it operates and maintains bond and 10 insurance coverage in minimum amounts determined by the PACE board or higher 11 amounts as required in the jurisdiction where the contractor is licensed or registered; and

(2) The PACE board or residential program administrator obtains the contractor's
 written agreement that the contractor or third party shall act in accordance with chapter
 407 and other applicable advertising and marketing laws and regulations.

15 3. The PACE board or residential program administrator shall not provide any 16 direct or indirect cash payment or other thing of material value to a contractor or third 17 party in excess of the actual price charged by that contractor or third party to the property 18 owner for one or more qualified improvements financed by an assessment contract.

4. The PACE board or residential program administrator shall not provide to a contractor engaged in soliciting financing agreements on behalf the PACE board or residential program administrator any information that discloses the maximum amount of funds for which a property owner may be eligible for qualifying improvements or the amount of equity in a property.

5. The PACE board or residential program administrator shall not reimburse a contractor or third party for expenses for advertising and marketing campaigns that solely benefit the contractor. 6. The PACE board or residential program administrator may reimburse a contractor's bona fide and reasonable training expenses related to PACE financing, provided that:

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(1) The training expenses are actually incurred by the contractor; and

(2) The reimbursement is paid directly to the contractor, and is not paid to its sales
 persons or agents.

7. The PACE board or residential program administrator shall not provide any direct cash payment or other thing of value to a property owner explicitly conditioned upon the property owner entering into an assessment contract. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, programs or promotions that offer reduced fees or interest rates to property owners are not a direct cash payment or other thing of value, provided that the reduced fee or interest rate is reflected in the assessment contract and in no circumstance provided to the property owner as cash consideration.

40 **8.** A contractor shall not provide a different price for a project financed under this 41 section than the contractor would provide if paid in cash by the property owner.

67.2822. 1. Any program administrator who fails, refuses, or neglects to comply with the provisions of sections 67.2817, 67.2818, or 67.2819 may have its license suspended or revoked by the director of finance after a hearing before the director on an order of the director. The order of the director shall be served on the licensee at least ten days prior to the hearing. The order of the director shall require the program administrator to show cause why the license should not be suspended or revoked. The order of the director shall specify the grounds for the proposed license suspension or revocation.

8 2. Before taking any action under subdivision 1 of this section, whenever it shall 9 appear to the director that any program administrator is failing, refusing, or neglecting to 10 make a good faith effort to comply with the provisions of sections 67.2817, 67.2818, or 11 67.2819, the director may issue an order to cease and desist. The cease and desist order may be enforceable by a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars per day for 12 13 each day that the neglect, failure, or refusal to comply continues. The civil penalty shall be 14 assessed and collected by the director. In determining the amount of the penalty, the 15 director shall take into account the appropriateness of the penalty with respect to the 16 gravity of the violation, the history of previous violations, and such other matters as justice 17 may require.

3. The director shall have the power to adopt and promulgate all rules and regulations necessary to carry out the intent and purposes of sections 67.2817, 67.2818, and 67.2819. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010 that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it

22 complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, and, if applicable,

23 section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers

vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the

26 grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2019,

27 shall be invalid and void.

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