1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to misdescription of beneficiaries and 3 banks; amending s. 670.207, F.S.; revising 4 requirements for rights as a beneficiary of the order 5 and acceptance of the order when the beneficiary is a 6 nonexistent or unidentifiable person or account; 7 removing rules relating to accepted payment orders; amending s. 670.208, F.S.; revising requirements 8 9 relating to the misdescription of banks for intermediaries and beneficiaries; providing an 10 11 effective date. 12 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 14 Section 670.207, Florida Statutes, is amended 15 Section 1. 16 to read: Misdescription of beneficiary.-17 670.207 18 (1)(a) Subject to subsection (2), if, in a payment order 19 received by the beneficiary's bank, the name, bank account 20 number, or other identification of the beneficiary refers to a 21 nonexistent or unidentifiable person or account, no person has 22 rights as a beneficiary of the order and acceptance of the order 23 cannot occur. 24 (b) (2) If A payment order received by the beneficiary's bank must identify identifies the beneficiary both by name and 25

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by an identifying or bank account number. If and the name and number identify different persons, no person has rights as a the following rules apply:

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), if the beneficiary's bank does not know that the name and number refer to different persons, it may rely on the number as the proper identification of the beneficiary of the order and acceptance of the order cannot occur.
- (2)(a) The beneficiary's bank <u>must</u> need not determine <u>in</u> good faith, and using reasonable care, whether the name and number refer to the same person. <u>The duty of reasonable care</u> must include, at a minimum, an automated system for name and number match which escalates any transaction with any discrepancy to a human reviewer.
- bank pays the person identified by name or knows that the name and number refer to the same person identify different persons, no person has rights as beneficiary except the person paid by the beneficiary's bank if that person was entitled to receive payment from the originator of the funds transfer. If no person has rights as beneficiary, acceptance of the order cannot occur until the bank has verified with the originator or the receiving bank that the payment order should be processed and any discrepancy is corrected.
  - (3) If a payment order described in subsection (2) is

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accepted, the originator's payment order described the beneficiary inconsistently by name and number, and the beneficiary's bank pays any person who the originator did not intend to pay, then the originator is not obliged to pay its order, unless the originator was grossly negligent in sending the original instructions, and the beneficiary's bank was diligent in ascertaining whether the number and name referred to the same person. the person identified by number as permitted by paragraph (2)(a), the following rules apply:

(a) If the originator is a bank, the originator is obliged to pay its order.

(b) If the originator is not a bank and proves that the person identified by number was not entitled to receive payment from the originator, the originator is not obliged to pay its order unless the originator's bank proves that the originator, before acceptance of the originator's order, had notice that payment of a payment order issued by the originator might be made by the beneficiary's bank on the basis of an identifying or bank account number even if it identifies a person different from the named beneficiary. Proof of notice may be made by any admissible evidence. The originator's bank satisfies the burden of proof if it proves that the originator, before the payment order was accepted, signed a writing stating the information to which the notice relates.

(4) In a case governed by paragraph (2)(a), If the

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beneficiary's bank <a href="improperly rightfully">improperly rightfully</a> pays <a href="any the">any the</a> person <a href="identified by number and that person was not entitled or <a href="intended">intended</a> to receive payment from the originator, the amount paid may be recovered from that person to the extent allowed by the law governing mistake and restitution. <a href="as follows:">as follows:</a>

- (a) If the originator is obliged to pay its payment order due to gross negligence as stated in subsection (3), the originator has the right to recover. Otherwise, the bank who has borne the loss of the order has the right to recover.
- (b) If the originator is not a bank and is not obliged to pay its payment order, the originator's bank has the right to recover.
- (5) (a) A bank accepting orders at a location in this state, or from a customer whose resides in this state, must comply with this section.
- (b) The bank shall enter into an agreement with any counterparty bank requiring name identification as described in this section and, if any beneficiary bank does not engage in name identification and any loss occurs, the receiving bank shall indemnify the originator.
- Section 2. Section 670.208, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 670.208 Misdescription of intermediary bank or beneficiary's bank.—
  - (1) This subsection applies to a Any payment order

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identifying an intermediary bank or the beneficiary's bank <u>must</u> <u>use both</u> only by an identifying number <u>and a name</u>.

- (a) The receiving bank <u>must</u> <u>may rely on the number as the</u> <u>proper identification of the intermediary or beneficiary's bank</u> <u>and need not</u> determine whether the number identifies a bank <u>and</u> whether the bank identified by number matches the name provided.
- (b) The sender is obliged to compensate the receiving bank for any loss and expenses incurred by the receiving bank as a result of its reliance on the number in executing or attempting to execute the order.
- (2) This subsection applies to a payment order identifying an intermediary bank or the beneficiary's bank both by name and an identifying number if the name and number identify different persons.
- (a) If the sender is a bank, the receiving bank may rely on the number as the proper identification of the intermediary or beneficiary's bank if the receiving bank, when it executes the sender's order, does not know that the name and number identify different persons. The receiving bank need not determine whether the name and number refer to the same person or whether the number refers to a bank. The sender is obliged to compensate the receiving bank for any loss and expenses incurred by the receiving bank as a result of its reliance on the number in executing or attempting to execute the order.
  - (b) If the sender is not a bank and the receiving bank

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proves that the sender, before the payment order was accepted, had notice that the receiving bank might rely on the number as the proper identification of the intermediary or beneficiary's bank even if it identifies a person different from the bank identified by name, the rights and obligations of the sender and the receiving bank are governed by paragraph (a), as though the sender were a bank. Proof of notice may be made by any admissible evidence. The receiving bank satisfies the burden of proof if it proves that the sender, before the payment order was accepted, signed a writing stating the information to which the notice relates.

(c) Regardless of whether the sender is a bank, the receiving bank may rely on the name as the proper identification of the intermediary or beneficiary's bank if the receiving bank, at the time it executes the sender's order, does not know that the name and number identify different persons. The receiving bank must need not determine whether the name and number refer to the same intermediary or beneficiary bank person.

 $\frac{\text{(d)}}{\text{(d)}}$  If the receiving bank <u>determines</u> knows that the name and number identify different <u>banks</u> persons, reliance on either the name or the number in executing the sender's payment order is a breach of the obligation stated in s. 670.302(1)(a).

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.