1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to the Gulf Coast Economic Corridor; 3 amending s. 288.80, F.S., conforming provisions; 4 amending s. 288.8012, F.S.; providing and revising 5 definitions; amending s. 288.8013, F.S.; repealing the 6 creation and identification of purposes of the 7 Recovery Fund; requiring a specified percentage of 8 payments to the state from the Deepwater Horizon 9 lawsuit to be transferred from the General Revenue 10 Fund to the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund; revising provisions concerning the trust account managed by 11 12 Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.; requiring interest in the 13 trust account to be deposited into the Triumph Gulf 14 Coast Trust Fund; revising provisions related to the investment of funds in the trust account; revising 15 16 annual reporting requirements; authorizing the submission of supplemental spending plans to address 17 unforeseen circumstances; authorizing the Legislative 18 19 Budget Commission, under specified conditions, to approve or reject projects and programs in the 20 21 proposed spending plans or supplemental spending plans; authorizing the release of funds to the trust 22 23 account for use by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., upon approval by the Legislative Budget Commission; 24 25 authorizing Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., to transfer

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excess funds from one project or program to another project or program under specified circumstances; requiring the Department of Economic Opportunity to facilitate the processing of necessary budget amendments; amending s. 288.8014, F.S.; deleting references to the Recovery Fund; deleting obsolete language; revising conflict of interest restrictions imposed on board members of the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.; requiring the board members to develop and approve annual spending plans and supplemental spending plans; removing the requirement that Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., retain an independent financial advisor and an economic advisor; deleting provisions relating to conflict of interest restrictions imposed on retained staff; amending s. 288.8015, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made by the act; amending s. 288.8017, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; revising provisions governing the uses of awards from Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.; requiring Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., to ensure that a minimum percentage of funds appropriated for such awards from the trust fund be expended in certain affected counties; repealing s. 377.43, F.S., relating to the disbursement of funds received for damages caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill; providing

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51	appropriations; authorizing appropriations in the
52	2017-2018 fiscal year to be spent in the 2018-2019
53	fiscal year; specifying that the conflict of interest
54	restrictions imposed on board members of the Triumph
55	Gulf Coast, Inc., apply to members after a specified
56	date; providing an effective date.
57	
58	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
59	
60	Section 1. Section 288.80, Florida Statutes, is amended to
61	read:
62	288.80 Short title—This section and ss. $288.8011-288.8018$
63	288.8011-288.8017 may be cited as the "Gulf Coast Economic
64	Corridor Act."
65	Section 2. Section 288.8012, Florida Statutes, is amended
66	to read:
67	288.8012 Definitions.—As used in ss. 288.80-288.8017, the
68	term:
69	(1) "Awardee" means a person, organization, or local
70	government granted an award of funds as authorized in s.
71	288.8017 from the Recovery Fund for a project or program.
72	(2) "Department" means the Department of Economic
73	Opportunity.
74	(3) (2) "Disproportionately affected county" means Bay
75	County, Escambia County, Franklin County, Gulf County, Okaloosa

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County, Santa Rosa County, Walton County, or Wakulla County.

- (3) "Earnings" means all the income generated by investments and interest.
- entered into between the parties on October 5, 2015, in the case styled In re: Oil Spill by the Oil Rig "Deepwater Horizon" in the Gulf of Mexico, on April 20, 2010, MDL 2179 in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana "Recovery Fund" means a trust account established by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., for the benefit of the disproportionately affected counties.
- Section 3. Section 288.8013, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 288.8013 Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.; Recovery Fund; creation; funding; investment.—
- Opportunity a nonprofit corporation, to be known as Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., which shall be registered, incorporated, organized, and operated in compliance with chapter 617, and which is not a unit or entity of state government. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., may receive, hold, invest, and administer the Recovery Fund in support of this act. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., is a separate budget entity and is not subject to control, supervision, or direction by the department of Economic Opportunity in any manner, including, but not limited to, personnel, purchasing,

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transactions involving real or personal property, and budgetary matters.

- pursuant to the settlement agreement shall be transferred immediately from the General Revenue Fund to the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund within the department. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., must create and administer the Recovery Fund for the benefit of the disproportionately affected counties. The principal of the fund shall derive from 75 percent of all funds recovered by the Attorney General for economic damage to the state resulting from the Deepwater Horizon disaster, after payment of reasonable and necessary attorney fees, costs, and expenses pursuant to s. 16.0155.
- and stable source of revenue, which shall decline over a 30-year period in equal amounts each year. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., shall establish a trust account at a federally insured financial institution to hold funds released to it from the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund pursuant to subsection (6) and make deposits and payments. Interest earned in the trust account shall be deposited monthly into the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund.

  Earnings generated by investments and interest of the fund, plus the amount of principal available each year, shall be available to make awards pursuant to this act and pay administrative

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costs. Earnings shall be accounted for separately from principal funds set forth in subsection (2). Administrative costs are limited to amounts appropriated for this purpose 2.25 percent of the earnings in a calendar year. Administrative costs include payment of investment fees, travel and per diem expenses of board members, audits, salary or other costs for employed or contracted staff, including required staff under s. 288.8014(9), and other allowable costs. The annual salary for any employee or contracted staff may not exceed \$130,000 and associated benefits may not exceed 35 percent of salary. Any funds remaining in the Recovery Fund after 30 years shall revert to the State Treasury.

(4) Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., shall invest and reinvest the principal of the Recovery Fund in accordance with s. 617.2104, in such a manner not to subject the funds to state or federal taxes, and consistent with an investment policy statement adopted by the corporation.

(a) The board of directors shall formulate an investment policy governing the investment of the principal of the Recovery Fund. The policy shall pertain to the types, kinds, or nature of investment of any of the funds, and any limitations, conditions or restrictions upon the methods, practices, or procedures for investment, reinvestments, purchases, sales, or exchange transactions, provided such policies shall not conflict with nor be in derogation of any state constitutional provision or law. The policy shall be formulated with the advice of the financial

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advisor in consultation with the State Board of Administration.

(b) Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., must competitively procure one or more money managers, under the advice of the financial advisor in consultation with the State Board of Administration, to invest the principal of the Recovery Fund. The applicant manager or managers may not include representatives from the financial institution housing the trust account for the Recovery Fund. The applicant manager or managers must present a plan to invest the Recovery Fund to maximize carnings while prioritizing the preservation of Recovery Fund principal. Any agreement with a money manager must be reviewed by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., for continuance at least every 5 years. Plans should include investment in technology and growth businesses domiciled in, or that will be domiciled in, this state or businesses whose principal address is in this state.

- (c) Costs and fees for investment services shall be deducted from the earnings as administrative costs. Fees for investment services shall be no greater than 150 basis points.
- (d) Annually, Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., shall cause an audit to be conducted of the investment of the Recovery Fund by the independent certified public accountant retained in s. 288.8014. The expense of such audit shall be paid from earnings for administrative purposes.
- (4) (5) Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., shall report no later than on June 30 and December 30 each year to the Governor, the

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President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the chair and vice chair of the Legislative Budget Commission on the financial status of the Recovery Fund and its investments, the established priorities and, the project and program selection process. The annual report shall include a proposed spending plan that separately lists and describes, including a list of all submitted projects and programs and reasons for preliminary approval or denial, and the status of all approved awards. To address unforeseen circumstances which arise during the year, Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., may submit supplemental spending plans to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the chair and vice chair of the Legislative Budget Commission.

(6) Subject to the requirements in chapter 216, and upon recommendation by the Governor, the Legislative Budget

Commission may approve or reject the submitted projects and programs recommended in the spending plan or supplemental spending plan in their entirety or approve or reject each individual project or program recommended in the spending plan or supplemental spending plan. Upon approval by the Legislative Budget Commission, funds from the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund for specific projects and programs in the spending plan or supplemental spending plan approved by the Legislative Budget Commission shall be released to the trust account for use by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., may transfer

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a portion of the funds released for an approved project or program found to be in excess of that needed to complete the project or program to another approved project or program for which funds have been released in the same fiscal year where a deficiency is found to exist. A transfer of funds made under this subsection may not change the scope of a project or program and may not result in the initiation of a project or program that has not been approved by the Legislative Budget Commission. The department shall use existing resources to facilitate the processing of budget amendments necessary for Legislative Budget Commission consideration.

- (7)(6) The Auditor General shall conduct an operational audit of the Recovery Fund and Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., annually. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., shall provide to the Auditor General any detail or supplemental data required.
- Section 4. Subsections (3), (4), (7), and (9) of section 288.8014, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 288.8014 Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.; organization; board of directors.—
- (3) Notwithstanding s. 20.052(4)(c), each initial appointment to the board of directors by the Board of Trustees of the State Board of Administration shall serve for a term that ends 4 years after the Legislature appropriates funds to <a href="Triumph">Triumph</a> Gulf Coast, Inc. the Recovery Fund. To achieve staggered terms among the members of the board, each initial appointment to the

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board of directors by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall serve for a term that ends 5 years after the Legislature appropriates funds to Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. the Recovery Fund. Thereafter, each member of the board of directors shall serve for a term of 4 years. A member is not eligible for reappointment to the board, except, however, any member appointed to fill a vacancy for a term of 2 years or less may be reappointed for an additional term of 4 years. The initial appointments to the board must be made by November 15, 2013. Vacancies on the board of directors shall be filled by the officer who originally appointed the member. A vacancy that occurs before the scheduled expiration of the term of the member shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(4) The Legislature determines that it is in the public interest for the members of the board of directors to be subject to the requirements of ss. 112.313, 112.3135, and 112.3143, notwithstanding the fact that the board members are not public officers or employees. For purposes of those sections, the board members shall be considered to be public officers or employees. In addition to the postemployment restrictions of s. 112.313(9), a person appointed to the board of directors must agree to refrain from having any direct interest in any contract, franchise, privilege, project, program, or other benefit arising from an award by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., during the term of

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his or her appointment and for  $\underline{6}$  2 years after the termination of such appointment. It is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, for a person to accept appointment to the board of directors in violation of this subsection or to accept a direct interest in any contract, franchise, privilege, project, program, or other benefit granted by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., to an awardee within  $\underline{6}$  2 years after the termination of his or her service on the board. Further, each member of the board of directors who is not otherwise required to file financial disclosure under s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3144 shall file disclosure of financial interests under s. 112.3145.

- (7) The board of directors shall meet at least quarterly, upon the call of the chairperson or at the request of a majority of the membership, to review the Recovery Fund, establish and review priorities for economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the in disproportionately affected counties, and develop and approve the annual spending plan and any supplemental spending plan required under s. 288.8013 determine use of the earnings available. A majority of the members of the board of directors constitutes a quorum. Members may not vote by proxy.
- (9)(a) Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., is permitted to hire or contract for all staff necessary to the proper execution of its powers and duties to implement this act. The corporation is

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276 required to retain:

- 1. An independent certified public accountant licensed in this state pursuant to chapter 473 to inspect the records of and to annually audit the expenditure of <u>funds</u> the earnings and available principal disbursed by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
- 2. An independent financial advisor to assist Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., in the development and implementation of a strategic plan consistent with the requirements of this act.
- 3. An economic advisor who will assist in the award process, including the development of priorities, allocation decisions, and the application and process; will assist the board in determining eligibility of award applications and the evaluation and scoring of applications; and will assist in the development of award documentation.
- 2.4. A legal advisor with expertise in not-for-profit investing and contracting and who is a member of The Florida Bar to assist with contracting and carrying out the intent of this act.
- (b) All Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., shall require all employees of the corporation shall to comply with the code of ethics for public employees under part III of chapter 112.

  Retained staff under paragraph (a) must agree to refrain from having any direct interest in any contract, franchise, privilege, project, program, or other benefit arising from an award of funds by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., during the term of

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301	his or her appointment and for $\underline{6}$ 2 years after the termination
302	of such appointment.
303	(c) Retained staff under paragraph (a) shall be available
304	to consult with the board of directors and shall attend meetings
305	of the board of directors. These individuals shall not be
306	permitted to vote on any matter before the board.
307	Section 5. Subsection (2) of section 288.8015, Florida
308	Statutes, is amended to read:
309	288.8015 Board of directors; powers.—In addition to the
310	powers and duties prescribed in chapter 617 and the articles and
311	bylaws adopted in compliance with that chapter, the board of
312	directors may:
313	(2) Make expenditures including any necessary
314	administrative expenditure from earnings consistent with its
315	powers.
316	
317	Under no circumstances may the credit of the State of Florida be
318	pledged on behalf of Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
319	Section 6. Section 288.8017, Florida Statutes, is amended
320	to read:
321	288.8017 Awards.—
322	(1) Subject to approval by the Legislative Budget
323	<pre>Commission, Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., shall make awards from</pre>
324	available appropriations earnings and principal derived under s.

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(2) to projects or programs that meet the priorities for

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325

326	economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the
327	disproportionately affected counties, notwithstanding s. 377.43.
328	Awards may be provided for:
329	(a) Ad valorem tax $\underline{\text{rate}}$ reduction within
330	disproportionately affected counties;
331	(b) Payment of impact fees adopted pursuant to s.
332	163.31801 and imposed within disproportionately affected
333	<del>counties;</del>
334	(c) Administrative funding for economic development
335	organizations located within the disproportionately affected
336	<del>counties;</del>
337	<u>(b)</u> (d) Local match requirements of s. $288.0655$ ss.
338	<del>288.0655, 288.0659, 288.1045, and 288.106</del> for projects in the
339	disproportionately affected counties;
340	(e) Economic development projects in the
341	disproportionately affected counties;
342	$\underline{\text{(c)}}$ $\underline{\text{(f)}}$ Public infrastructure projects that are shown to
343	enhance economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of
344	development in the disproportionately affected counties;
345	$\underline{\text{(d)}}_{\text{(g)}}$ Grants to local governments in the
346	disproportionately affected counties to establish and maintain
347	equipment and trained personnel for local action plans of
348	response to respond to disasters, such as plans created for the
349	Coastal Impacts Assistance Program; <u>and</u>
350	(e) (h) Grants to support programs of excellence that

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prepare students for future occupations and careers at K-20 institutions that have home campuses in the disproportionately affected counties. Eligible programs include those that increase students' technology skills and knowledge; encourage industry certifications; provide rigorous, alternative pathways for students to meet high school graduation requirements; strengthen career readiness initiatives; fund high-demand programs of emphasis at the bachelor's and master's level designated by the Board of Governors; and, similar to or the same as talent retention programs created by the Chancellor of the State University System and the Commission of Education, encourage students with interest or aptitude for science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medical disciplines to pursue postsecondary education at a state university within the disproportionately affected counties.; and

- (i) Grants to the tourism entity created under s. 288.1226 for the purpose of advertising and promoting tourism, Fresh From Florida, or related content on behalf of one or all of the disproportionately affected counties.
- (2) Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., shall establish an application procedure for awards and a scoring process for the selection of projects and programs that have the potential to generate increased economic activity in the disproportionately affected counties, giving priority to projects and programs that:

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(a) Generate maximum estimated economic benefits, based on
tools and models not generally employed by economic input-output
analyses, including cost-benefit, return-on-investment, or
dynamic scoring techniques to determine how the long-term
economic growth potential of the disproportionately affected
counties may be enhanced by the investment.

- (b) Increase household income in the disproportionately affected counties above national average household income.
- (c) Expand high growth industries or establish new high growth industries in the region.
- 1. Industries that are supported must have strong growth potential in the disproportionately affected counties.
- 2. An industry's growth potential is defined based on a detailed review of the current industry trends nationally and the necessary supporting asset base for that industry in the disproportionately affected counties region.
- (c) (d) Leverage or further enhance key regional assets, including educational institutions, research facilities, and military bases.
- (d) (e) Partner with local governments to provide funds, infrastructure, land, or other assistance for the project.
- (f) Have investment commitments from private equity or private venture capital funds.
- (g) Provide or encourage seed stage investments in startup companies.

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(h) Provide advice and technical assistance to companies on restructuring existing management, operations, or production to attract advantageous business opportunities.

- (e) (i) Benefit the environment in addition to the economy.
- (f)(j) Provide outcome measures for programs of excellence support, including terms of intent and metrics.
- $\underline{(g)}$  Partner with K-20 educational institutions or school districts located within the disproportionately affected counties.
- (1) Partner with convention and visitor bureaus, tourist development councils, or chambers of commerce located within the disproportionately affected counties.
- applications are received or may establish application periods for selection. Awards may not be used to finance 100 percent of any project or program. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., may require a one-to-one private-sector match or higher for an award, if applicable and deemed prudent by the board of directors. An awardee may not receive all of the funds earnings or available in the trust account principal in any given year. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., shall ensure that each of the eight disproportionately affected counties directly benefit from awards and ensure that at least 4 percent of funds appropriated for awards from the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund are expended in each county over the lifetime of the settlement agreement.

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(4) A contract executed by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., with
an awardee must include provisions requiring a performance
report on the contracted activities, must account for the proper
use of funds provided under the contract, and must include
provisions for recovery of awards in the event the award was
based upon fraudulent information or the awardee is not meeting
the performance requirements of the award. Awardees must
regularly report to Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., the expenditure of
funds and the status of the project or program on a schedule
determined by the corporation.
Section 7. Section 377.43, Florida Statutes, is repealed.
Section 8. Effective July 1, 2017, the sum of \$299,000,000
in nonrecurring funds from the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund is
appropriated under the qualified expenditure category to Triumph
Gulf Coast, Inc., for deposit into the trust account to fund
awards for programs and projects included in the proposed
spending plans submitted to the Governor, the President of the
Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
chair and vice chair of the Legislative Budget Commission.
Section 9. The sum of \$1,000,000 in nonrecurring funds
from the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund is appropriated to
Triumph Gulf Coast Inc., for deposit into the trust account to
pay administrative costs.
Section 10. Notwithstanding s. 216.301, and pursuant to s.

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216.351, funds appropriated pursuant to this act for the 2017-

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$\frac{151}{20}$	18 fiscal year may be expended through the 2018-2019 fiscal
152 <u>ye</u>	ear.
153	Section 11. The revision to s. 288.8014(4), made by this
154 <u>ac</u>	t applies only to persons who serve on the board of trustees
155 <u>of</u>	Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., on or after July 1, 2017.
156	Section 12. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
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