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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

DONIVON CRAIG TINGLE,

Plaintiff,

Case No. 2021 CA 2155

v.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,

ORDER AND FINAL JUDGMENT

THIS CAUSE came before the Court on the parties' cross-motions for summary judgment and *Plaintiff's Motion for Sanctions*. After reviewing the motions, responses to the motions, and having heard argument of counsel at a hearing on March 30, 2022, and being otherwise fully advised in the premises, the Court finds as follows:

- 1. Based on everything presented by the parties, the Court concludes that section 381.986(8)(a)2.b., Florida Statutes, (the Pigford Provision) is not unconstitutional as alleged by Plaintiff.
- 2. Accordingly, and based on all the arguments made in the Department's Motion for Summary Judgment and Supporting Memorandum of Law and the Department's Response Opposing Plaintiff's Motion for Summary Judgment, the Court concludes that the Department's motion should be granted. The Court notes, without limiting its ruling, that its finds Jana-Rock Constr., Inc. v. N.Y. State Dep't of Econ. Dev., 438 F.3d 195 (2d Cir. 2006) to be persuasive as to Plaintiff's equal protection claims and that the Pigford Provision survives

constitutional scrutiny under the rational basis test. Additionally, and alternatively, even applying a strict scrutiny analysis to the Pigford Provision, the Court finds that it survives strict scrutiny as well.

3. Having concluded that the Department is entitled to summary final judgment based on the arguments presented in its papers, the Court finds that the *Plaintiff's Motion for Sanctions* must be denied.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED AND ADJUDGED THAT:

- 1. Plaintiff's Motion for Summary Judgment is DENIED.
- 2. Plaintiff's Motion for Sanctions is DENIED.
- 3. Department's Motion for Summary Judgment and Supporting Memorandum of Law is GRANTED.
- 4. Final Judgment is hereby entered on all claims in favor of the Florida Department of Health, who shall go hence without day.

DONE AND ORDERED in Leon County, Florida on April 11, 2022.

ANGELA C. DEMPSEY

Circuit Judge

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