

By Senator Richter

37-00532-11

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to regulation of the paralegal
3 profession; requiring the Florida Supreme Court to
4 establish a program to require the licensure of
5 paralegals practicing in this state; requiring that
6 the Supreme Court establish minimum standards and
7 qualifications and provide for continuing education,
8 certification, and professional conduct; requiring the
9 Supreme Court to create an independent board to assist
10 in the regulation of paralegals; providing penalties
11 for unlicensed practice; providing an effective date.

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

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15 Section 1. (1) The Florida Supreme Court shall establish a
16 program to require the licensure of paralegals practicing in
17 this state.

18 (2) The program shall define the scope of paralegal
19 practice; provide mandatory minimum standards and procedures for
20 initial qualifications; and provide requirements for continuing
21 education, certification, and professional conduct.

22 (3) The Supreme Court shall establish fees for application
23 for licensure and license renewal, which may not exceed \$100
24 each. The revenues generated from such fees shall be used solely
25 to administer the program and shall be set at a level that does
26 not exceed the amount necessary to ensure the continued
27 operation of the program.

28 (4) The Supreme Court shall create an independent board to
29 adopt rules, establish procedures, and assist the Supreme Court

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30 in administering this section.

31 (5) Upon implementation of the program, any person who
32 practices as a paralegal in this state without first obtaining a
33 license, holds himself or herself out as a paralegal, or uses
34 the title "paralegal" without being licensed as a paralegal in
35 this state commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as
36 provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, Florida
37 Statutes.

38 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.