By the Committees on Appropriations; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; and Judiciary; and Senator Ring

A bill to be entitled

576-04653-13

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T	A DITL CO DE ENCICLED
2	An act relating to clerks of the court; amending s.
3	28.13, F.S.; providing requirements for the storage of
4	papers and electronic filings and requiring that they
5	be stamped with the date and time of submission;
6	requiring the clerk to retain control and custody of
7	filed documents; amending s. 28.222, F.S.; authorizing
8	the clerk to remove certain court records from the
9	Official Records; amending s. 28.24, F.S.; deleting
10	provisions exempting specified persons from service
11	fees; amending s. 28.244, F.S.; increasing the
12	threshold amount for automatic repayment of
13	overpayments; amending s. 28.345, F.S.; requiring that
14	the clerk provide access to public records without
15	charge to certain persons, subject to a limitation and
16	an exception; authorizing the clerk to provide public
17	records in an electronic format under certain
18	circumstances; amending s. 101.151, F.S.; clarifying
19	when the office title "Clerk of the Circuit Court and
20	Comptroller" may be used; amending s. 119.0714, F.S.;
21	requiring that certain requests for maintenance of a
22	public record exemption specify certain information;
23	amending s. 194.032, F.S.; requiring that the property
24	appraiser, rather than the clerk, provide the property
25	record card to a petitioner regardless of whether the
26	petitioner initiates evidence exchange, unless the
27	property record card is available online from the
28	property appraiser; amending s. 938.30, F.S.;
29	providing that the state is not required to pay fees

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30	to enforce judgment for costs and fines; amending s.
31	985.045, F.S.; providing that the office of the public
32	defender shall have access to certain juvenile records
33	before an appointment of representation; providing an
34	effective date.
35	
36	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
37	
38	Section 1. Section 28.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to
39	read:
40	28.13 To keep Papers <u>and electronic filings</u> .—The clerk of
41	the circuit court <u>must maintain</u> shall keep all papers <u>and</u>
42	electronic filings filed in the clerk's office with the utmost
43	care and security, storing them with related case arranged in
44	appropriate files and affixing a stamp, which may be electronic,
45	to each submission indicating (endorsing upon each the <u>date and</u>
46	time that when the submission same was filed. The clerk may),
47	and shall not permit any attorney or other person to <u>remove</u>
48	filed documents from the control or custody take papers once
49	filed out of the office of the clerk without leave of the court,
50	except as otherwise is hereinafter provided by law.
51	Section 2. Present subsections (4) through (6) of section
52	28.222, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5)
53	through (7), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to
54	that section to read:
55	28.222 Clerk to be county recorder
56	(4) The county recorder shall remove recorded court
57	documents from the Official Records pursuant to a sealing or
58	expunction order.

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59	Section 3. Section 28.24, Florida Statutes, is amended to
60	read:
61	28.24 Service charges by clerk of the circuit court The
62	clerk of the circuit court shall charge for services rendered
63	manually or electronically by the clerk's office in recording
64	documents and instruments and in performing other specified the
65	duties <u>. These charges may</u> enumerated in amounts not to exceed
66	those specified in this section, except as provided in s.
67	28.345. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the
68	clerk of the circuit court shall provide without charge to the
69	state attorney, public defender, guardian ad litem, public
70	guardian, attorney ad litem, criminal conflict and civil
71	regional counsel, and private court-appointed counsel paid by
72	the state, and to the authorized staff acting on behalf of each,
73	access to and a copy of any public record, if the requesting
74	party is entitled by law to view the exempt or confidential
75	record, as maintained by and in the custody of the clerk of the
76	circuit court as provided in general law and the Florida Rules
77	of Judicial Administration. The clerk of the circuit court may
78	provide the requested public record in an electronic format in
79	lieu of a paper format when capable of being accessed by the
80	requesting entity.
81	
82	Charges
83	
84	(1) For examining, comparing, correcting, verifying, and
85	certifying transcripts of record in appellate proceedings,
86	prepared by attorney for appellant or someone else other than
87	clerk, per page5.00

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88	(2) For preparing, numbering, and indexing an original
89	record of appellate proceedings, per instrument
90	(3) For certifying copies of any instrument in the public
91	records2.00
92	(4) For verifying any instrument presented for
93	certification prepared by someone other than clerk, per page.3.50
94	(5)(a) For making copies by photographic process of any
95	instrument in the public records consisting of pages of not more
96	than 14 inches by 8 1/2 inches, per page
97	(b) For making copies by photographic process of any
98	instrument in the public records of more than 14 inches by 8 $1/2$
99	inches, per page5.00
100	(6) For making microfilm copies of any public records:
101	(a) 16 mm 100′ microfilm roll
102	(b) 35 mm 100' microfilm roll
103	(c) Microfiche, per fiche
104	(7) For copying any instrument in the public records by
105	other than photographic process, per page6.00
106	(8) For writing any paper other than herein specifically
107	mentioned, same as for copying, including signing and sealing7.00
108	(9) For indexing each entry not recorded
109	(10) For receiving money into the registry of court:
110	(a)1. First \$500, percent3
111	2. Each subsequent \$100, percent
112	(b) Eminent domain actions, per deposit
113	(11) For examining, certifying, and recording plats and for
114	recording condominium exhibits larger than 14 inches by 8 1/2
115	inches:
116	(a) First page

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117	(b) Each additional page15.00
118	(12) For recording, indexing, and filing any instrument not
119	more than 14 inches by 8 1/2 inches, including required notice
120	to property appraiser where applicable:
121	(a) First page or fraction thereof
122	(b) Each additional page or fraction thereof4.00
123	(c) For indexing instruments recorded in the official
124	records which contain more than four names, per additional name1.00
125	(d) An additional service charge must shall be paid to the
126	clerk of the circuit court to be deposited in the Public Records
127	Modernization Trust Fund for each instrument listed in s.
128	28.222, except judgments received from the courts and notices of
129	lis pendens, recorded in the official records:
130	1. First page1.00
131	2. Each additional page0.50
132	
133	Said fund must shall be held in trust by the clerk and used
134	exclusively for equipment and maintenance of equipment,
135	personnel training, and technical assistance in modernizing the
136	public records system of the office. In a county where the duty
137	of maintaining official records exists in an office other than
138	the office of the clerk of the circuit court, the clerk of the
139	circuit court is entitled to 25 percent of the moneys deposited
140	into the trust fund for equipment, maintenance of equipment,
141	training, and technical assistance in modernizing the system for
142	storing records in the office of the clerk of the circuit court.
143	The fund may not be used for the payment of travel expenses,
144	membership dues, bank charges, staff-recruitment costs, salaries
145	or benefits of employees, construction costs, general operating

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576-04653-13 2013556c3 146 expenses, or other costs not directly related to obtaining and 147 maintaining equipment for public records systems or for the 148 purchase of furniture or office supplies and equipment not 149 related to the storage of records. On or before December 1, 150 1995, and on or before December 1 of each year immediately 151 preceding each year during which the trust fund is scheduled for 152 legislative review under s. 19(f)(2), Art. III of the State 153 Constitution, each clerk of the circuit court shall file a 154 report on the Public Records Modernization Trust Fund with the 155 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of 156 Representatives. The report must itemize each expenditure made 157 from the trust fund since the last report was filed; each 158 obligation payable from the trust fund on that date; and the 159 percentage of funds expended for each of the following: 160 equipment, maintenance of equipment, personnel training, and 161 technical assistance. The report must indicate the nature of the 162 system each clerk uses to store, maintain, and retrieve public 163 records and the degree to which the system has been upgraded since the creation of the trust fund. 164

(e) An additional service charge of \$4 per page shall be
paid to the clerk of the circuit court for each instrument
listed in s. 28.222, except judgments received from the courts
and notices of lis pendens, recorded in the official records.
From the additional \$4 service charge collected:

170 1. If the counties maintain legal responsibility for the 171 costs of the court-related technology needs as defined in s. 172 29.008(1)(f)2. and (h), 10 cents shall be distributed to the 173 Florida Association of Court Clerks and Comptrollers, Inc., for 174 the cost of development, implementation, operation, and

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576-04653-13 2013556c3 175 maintenance of the clerks' Comprehensive Case Information 176 System; \$1.90 shall be retained by the clerk to be deposited in 177 the Public Records Modernization Trust Fund and used exclusively 178 for funding court-related technology needs of the clerk as 179 defined in s. 29.008(1)(f)2. and (h); and \$2 shall be 180 distributed to the board of county commissioners to be used 181 exclusively to fund court-related technology, and court 182 technology needs as defined in s. 29.008(1)(f)2. and (h) for the state trial courts, state attorney, public defender, and 183 184 criminal conflict and civil regional counsel in that county. If 185 the counties maintain legal responsibility for the costs of the 186 court-related technology needs as defined in s. 29.008(1)(f)2. 187 and (h), notwithstanding any other provision of law, the county 188 is not required to provide additional funding beyond that 189 provided herein for the court-related technology needs of the 190 clerk as defined in s. 29.008(1)(f)2. and (h). All court records 191 and official records are the property of the State of Florida, 192 including any records generated as part of the Comprehensive 193 Case Information System funded pursuant to this paragraph and 194 the clerk of court is designated as the custodian of such 195 records, except in a county where the duty of maintaining 196 official records exists in a county office other than the clerk 197 of court or comptroller, such county office is designated the custodian of all official records, and the clerk of court is 198 designated the custodian of all court records. The clerk of 199 200 court or any entity acting on behalf of the clerk of court, 201 including an association, may shall not charge a fee to any 202 agency as defined in s. 119.011, the Legislature, or the State 203 Court System for copies of records generated by the

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204	Comprehensive Case Information System or held by the clerk of
205	court or any entity acting on behalf of the clerk of court,
206	including an association.
207	2. If the state becomes legally responsible for the costs
208	of court-related technology needs as defined in s.
209	29.008(1)(f)2. and (h), whether by operation of general law or
210	by court order, \$4 shall be remitted to the Department of
211	Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund.
212	(13) Oath, administering, attesting, and sealing, not
213	otherwise provided for herein
214	(14) For validating certificates, any authorized bonds,
215	each
216	(15) For preparing affidavit of domicile
217	(16) For exemplified certificates, including signing and
218	sealing7.00
219	(17) For authenticated certificates, including signing and
220	sealing7.00
221	(18)(a) For issuing and filing a subpoena for a witness,
222	not otherwise provided for herein (includes writing, preparing,
223	signing, and sealing)7.00
224	(b) For signing and sealing only
225	(19) For approving bond
226	(20) For searching of records, for each year's search2.00
227	(21) For processing an application for a tax deed sale
228	(includes application, sale, issuance, and preparation of tax
229	deed, and disbursement of proceeds of sale), other than excess
230	proceeds
231	(22) For disbursement of excess proceeds of tax deed sale,
232	first \$100 or fraction thereof10.00

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233	(23) Upon receipt of an application for a marriage license,
234	for preparing and administering of oath; issuing, sealing, and
235	recording of the marriage license; and providing a certified
236	copy
237	(24) For solemnizing matrimony
238	(25) For sealing any court file or expungement of any
239	record
240	(26)(a) For receiving and disbursing all restitution
241	payments, per payment3.50
242	(b) For receiving and disbursing all partial payments,
243	other than restitution payments, for which an administrative
244	processing service charge is not imposed pursuant to s. 28.246,
245	per month
246	(c) For setting up a payment plan, a one-time
247	administrative processing charge in lieu of a per month charge
248	under paragraph (b)25.00
249	(27) Postal charges incurred by the clerk of the circuit
250	court in any mailing by certified or registered mail <u>must</u> shall
251	be paid by the party at whose instance the mailing is made.
252	(28) For furnishing an electronic copy of information
253	contained in a computer database: a fee as provided for in
254	chapter 119.
255	Section 4. Section 28.244, Florida Statutes, is amended to
256	read:
257	28.244 Refunds.—A clerk of the circuit court or a filing
258	officer of another office where records are filed who receives
259	payment for services provided and thereafter determines that an
260	overpayment has occurred shall refund to the person who made the
261	payment the amount of any overpayment that exceeds $\frac{\$10}{\$5}$. If

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576-04653-13 2013556c3 262 the amount of the overpayment is \$10 \$5 or less, the clerk of 263 the circuit court or a filing officer of another office where 264 records are filed is not required to refund the amount of the 265 overpayment unless the person who made the overpayment makes a 266 written request. 267 Section 5. Section 28.345, Florida Statutes, is amended to 268 read: 269 28.345 State access to records; exemption from court-270 related fees and charges.-271 (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the clerk 272 of the circuit court shall, upon request, provide access to 273 public records without charge to the state attorney, public defender, guardian ad litem, public guardian, attorney ad litem, 274 275 criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, and private court-276 appointed counsel paid by the state, and to authorized staff 277 acting on their behalf. The clerk of court may provide the 278 requested public record in an electronic format in lieu of a 279 paper format if the requesting entity is capable of accessing 280 such public record electronically. 281 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter or 282 law to the contrary, judges and those court staff acting on 283 behalf of judges, state attorneys, guardians ad litem, public 284 guardians, attorneys ad litem, court-appointed private counsel, criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, and public 285 286 defenders, and state agencies, while acting in their official 287 capacity, and state agencies, are exempt from all court-related 288 fees and charges assessed by the clerks of the circuit courts. 289 (3) The exemptions from fees or charges provided in this 290 section apply only to state agencies and state entities and the

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576-04653-13 2013556c3 291 party represented by the agency or entity. 292 Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 293 101.151, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 294 101.151 Specifications for ballots.-(2) (a) The ballot must include shall have the following 295 296 office titles above under which shall appear the names of the candidates for the respective offices in the following order: 297 298 1. The office titles of President and Vice President above 299 and thereunder the names of the candidates for President and 300 Vice President of the United States nominated by the political 301 party that received the highest vote for Governor in the last 302 general election of the Governor in this state, followed by-303 Then shall appear the names of other candidates for President 304 and Vice President of the United States who have been properly 305 nominated. 306 2. The office titles of United States Senator and 307 Representative in Congress. 308 3. The office titles of Governor and Lieutenant Governor; 309 Attorney General; Chief Financial Officer; Commissioner of 310 Agriculture; State Attorney, with the applicable judicial 311 circuit; and Public Defender, with the applicable judicial 312 circuit. 313 4. The office titles of State Senator and State 314 Representative, with the applicable district for the office 315 printed beneath. 5. The office titles of Clerk of the Circuit Court $_{\overline{T}}$ or, 316 317 when the Clerk of the Circuit Court also serves as the County 318 Comptroller, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, 319 (whichever is applicable and when authorized by law;), Clerk of

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320	the County Court, (when authorized by $law;$), Sheriff;, Property
321	Appraiser; Tax Collector; District Superintendent of Schools; T
322	and Supervisor of Elections.
323	6. The office titles of Board of County Commissioners, with
324	the applicable district printed beneath each office, and such
325	other county and district offices as are involved in the
326	election, in the order fixed by the Department of State,
327	followed, in the year of their election, by "Party Offices," and
328	thereunder the offices of state and county party executive
329	committee members.
330	Section 7. Paragraph (f) is added to subsection (2) of
331	section 119.0714, Florida Statutes, and section (3) is amended,
332	to read:
333	119.0714 Court files; court records; official records
334	(2) COURT RECORDS
335	(f) A request for maintenance of a public records exemption
336	in s. 119.071(4)(d)2. made pursuant to s. 119.071(4)(d)3. must
337	specify the document type, name, identification number, and page
338	number of the court record that contains the exempt information.
339	(3) OFFICIAL RECORDS
340	(a) A Any person who prepares or files a record for
341	recording in the official records as provided in chapter 28 may
342	not include in that record a social security number or a bank
343	account, debit, charge, or credit card number unless otherwise
344	expressly required by law.
345	(a) (b) 1. If a social security number or a bank account,
346	debit, charge, or credit card number is included in an official
347	record, such number may be made available as part of the
348	official records available for public inspection and copying

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576-04653-13 2013556c3 349 unless redaction is requested by the holder of such number or by 350 the holder's attorney or legal guardian.

351 <u>1.2.</u> If such record is in electronic format, on January 1, 352 2011, and thereafter, the county recorder must use his or her 353 best effort, as provided in paragraph <u>(d) (h)</u>, to keep social 354 security numbers confidential and exempt as provided for in s. 355 119.071(5)(a), and to keep complete bank account, debit, charge, 356 and credit card numbers exempt as provided for in s. 357 119.071(5)(b), without any person having to request redaction.

358 2.3. Section 119.071(5)(a)7. and 8. does not apply to the 359 county recorder with respect to official records.

360 (b) (c) The holder of a social security number or a bank account, debit, charge, or credit card number, or the holder's 361 362 attorney or legal guardian, may request that a county recorder 363 redact from an image or copy of an official record placed on a 364 county recorder's publicly available Internet website or on a 365 publicly available Internet website used by a county recorder to 366 display public records, or otherwise made electronically 367 available to the public, his or her social security number or 368 bank account, debit, charge, or credit card number contained in that official record. 369

370 <u>1.(d)</u> A request for redaction must be a signed, legibly 371 written request and must be delivered by mail, facsimile, 372 electronic transmission, or in person to the county recorder. 373 The request must specify the identification page number of the 374 record that contains the number to be redacted.

375 <u>2.(e)</u> The county recorder does not have a duty to inquire 376 beyond the written request to verify the identity of a person 377 requesting redaction.

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378 <u>3.(f)</u> A fee may not be charged for redacting a social 379 security number or a bank account, debit, charge, or credit card 380 number.

381 <u>(c) (g)</u> A county recorder shall immediately and 382 conspicuously post signs throughout his or her offices for 383 public viewing, and shall immediately and conspicuously post on 384 any Internet website or remote electronic site made available by 385 the county recorder and used for the ordering or display of 386 official records or images or copies of official records, a 387 notice stating, in substantially similar form, the following:

388 1. On or after October 1, 2002, any person preparing or 389 filing a record for recordation in the official records may not 390 include a social security number or a bank account, debit, 391 charge, or credit card number in such document unless required 392 by law.

393 2. Any person has a right to request a county recorder to 394 remove from an image or copy of an official record placed on a 395 county recorder's publicly available Internet website or on a 396 publicly available Internet website used by a county recorder to 397 display public records, or otherwise made electronically available to the general public, any social security number 398 399 contained in an official record. Such request must be made in writing and delivered by mail, facsimile, or electronic 400 401 transmission, or delivered in person, to the county recorder. 402 The request must specify the identification page number that 403 contains the social security number to be redacted. A fee may 404 not be charged for the redaction of a social security number 405 pursuant to such a request.

406

(d) (h) If the county recorder accepts or stores official

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576-04653-13 2013556c3 407 records in an electronic format, the county recorder must use 408 his or her best efforts to redact all social security numbers 409 and bank account, debit, charge, or credit card numbers from 410 electronic copies of the official record. The use of an 411 automated program for redaction is shall be deemed to be the 412 best effort in performing the redaction and is shall be deemed in compliance with the requirements of this subsection. 413 414 (e) (i) The county recorder is not liable for the 415 inadvertent release of social security numbers, or bank account, 416 debit, charge, or credit card numbers, filed with the county 417 recorder. 418 (f) A request for maintenance of a public records exemption in s. 119.071(4)(d)2. made pursuant to s. 119.071(4)(d)3. must 419 420 specify the document type, name, identification number, and page 421 number of the official record that contains the exempt 422 information. 423 Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 424 194.032, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 425 194.032 Hearing purposes; timetable.-426 (2) (a) The clerk of the governing body of the county shall 427 prepare a schedule of appearances before the board based on 428 petitions timely filed with him or her. The clerk shall notify 429 each petitioner of the scheduled time of his or her appearance 430 at least 25 calendar days before the day of the scheduled 431 appearance. The notice must shall indicate whether the petition 432 has been scheduled to be heard at a particular time or during a 433 block of time. If the petition has been scheduled to be heard 434 within a block of time, the beginning and ending of that block 435 of time must shall be indicated on the notice; however, as

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576-04653-13 2013556c3 436 provided in paragraph (b), a petitioner may not be required to 437 wait for more than a reasonable time, not to exceed 2 hours, after the beginning of the block of time. If the petitioner 438 439 checked the appropriate box on the petition form to request a 440 copy of the property record card containing relevant information 441 used in computing the current assessment, the property appraiser 442 must provide the copy to the petitioner upon receipt of the 443 petition from the clerk regardless of whether the petitioner 444 initiates evidence exchange, unless the property record card is 445 available online from the property appraiser clerk shall provide 446 the copy of the card along with the notice. Upon receipt of the 447 notice, the petitioner may reschedule the hearing a single time 448 by submitting to the clerk a written request to reschedule, at 449 least 5 calendar days before the day of the originally scheduled 450 hearing. 451 Section 9. Subsections (2) and (6) of section 938.30, 452 Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 453 938.30 Financial obligations in criminal cases;

454 supplementary proceedings.-

455 (2) The court may require a person liable for payment of an 456 obligation to appear and be examined under oath concerning the 457 person's financial ability to pay the obligation. The judge may 458 convert the statutory financial obligation into a court-ordered 459 obligation to perform community service, subject to the 460 provisions of s. 318.18(8), after examining a person under oath 461 and determining the a person's inability to pay. Any person who 462 fails failing to attend a hearing may be arrested on warrant or 463 capias which may be issued by the clerk upon order of the court. 464 (6) If judgment has not been previously entered on any

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465	court-imposed financial obligation, the court may enter judgment
466	thereon and issue any writ necessary to enforce the judgment in
467	the manner allowed in civil cases. Any judgment issued under
468	this section constitutes a civil lien against the judgment
469	debtor's presently owned or after-acquired property, when
470	recorded pursuant to s. 55.10. Supplementary proceedings
471	undertaken by any governmental entity to satisfy a judgment
472	imposed pursuant to this section may proceed without bond and
473	without the payment of statutory fees associated with judgment
474	enforcement.
475	Section 10. Subsection (2) of section 985.045, Florida
476	Statutes, is amended to read:
477	985.045 Court records
478	(2) The clerk shall keep all official records required by
479	this section separate from other records of the circuit court,
480	except those records pertaining to motor vehicle violations,
481	which shall be forwarded to the Department of Highway Safety and

482 Motor Vehicles. Except as provided in ss. 943.053 and 483 985.04(6)(b) and (7), official records required by this chapter 484 are not open to inspection by the public, but may be inspected only upon order of the court by persons deemed by the court to 485 486 have a proper interest therein, except that a child and the 487 parents, guardians, or legal custodians of the child and their 488 attorneys, law enforcement agencies, the Department of Juvenile 489 Justice and its designees, the Parole Commission, the Department 490 of Corrections, and the Justice Administrative Commission shall 491 always have the right to inspect and copy any official record 492 pertaining to the child. Public defender offices shall have 493 access to official records of juveniles on whose behalf they are

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494	expected to appear in detention or other hearings before an
495	appointment of representation. The court may permit authorized
496	representatives of recognized organizations compiling statistics
497	for proper purposes to inspect, and make abstracts from,
498	official records under whatever conditions upon the use and
499	disposition of such records the court may deem proper and may
500	punish by contempt proceedings any violation of those
501	conditions.
502	Section 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.

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