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By the Committee on Judiciary; and Senators Hutson, Rouson, and Martin

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A bill to be entitled An act relating to clerks of the court; amending s. 27.52, F.S.; revising the fund into which moneys recovered by certain state attorneys must be deposited; amending s. 27.54, F.S.; revising the fund into which certain payments received must be deposited as related to public defenders or regional counsels; making technical changes; amending s. 27.703, F.S.; revising the entity that funds the capital collateral regional counsel; amending s. 28.241 F.S.; revising the allocation of filing fees for certain trial and appellate proceedings; amending s. 28.35, F.S.; providing additional duties of the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation related to budget requests; revising the functions that clerks of the court may fund using certain fees and fines; amending s. 28.37, F.S.; requiring the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation to calculate certain excesses collected from fines, fees, service charges, and costs annually by a date certain; amending s. 34.041, F.S.; revising the fund into which certain filing fees are to be deposited; amending s. 40.29, F.S.; authorizing the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation to submit requests for reimbursement at a specified rate for petitions related to certain sexual violence offenses; requiring clerks of the court who receive the reimbursement to pay the law enforcement agency serving injunctions a specified fee if requested; authorizing the corporation to submit reimbursement

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requests for approved applications for civil indigency in which the filing fee was waived; authorizing the corporation to submit to the Justice Administrative Commission a certain amount related to Florida Retirement System contribution rate increases for court-related employees; amending s. 57.082, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 110.112, F.S.; deleting a provision requiring each state attorney to publish an annual report addressing results of his or her affirmative action program; amending s. 186.003, F.S.; revising the definition of "state agency"; amending s. 318.18, F.S.; revising the distribution of certain civil penalty amounts and administrative fees; creating s. 322.76, F.S.; creating the Clerk of the Court Driver License Reinstatement Pilot Program in Miami-Dade County; defining the term "clerk"; authorizing the clerk of the circuit court for Miami-Dade County to reinstate or provide an affidavit to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to reinstate certain suspended driver licenses; establishing requirements for the clerk under the program to be performed by a date certain; providing for expiration of the program; amending s. 501.2101, F.S.; revising the funds into which certain moneys received by state attorneys must be deposited; amending s. 741.30, F.S.; deleting a provision authorizing certain clerks of circuit courts to request reimbursement for certain petitions related to domestic violence; amending s. 784.046, F.S.;

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deleting a provision authorizing the clerk of circuit court, under specific circumstances, to request reimbursement for certain petitions related to repeat, sexual, or dating violence; amending s. 784.0485, F.S.; deleting a provision authorizing clerks of the circuit court, under specific circumstances, to request reimbursement for certain petitions related to stalking; providing an effective date.

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

- Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of section 27.52, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 27.52 Determination of indigent status.-
 - (7) FINANCIAL DISCREPANCIES; FRAUD; FALSE INFORMATION.-
- (b) If the court has reason to believe that any applicant, through fraud or misrepresentation, was improperly determined to be indigent or indigent for costs, the matter shall be referred to the state attorney. Twenty-five percent of any amount recovered by the state attorney as reasonable value of the services rendered, including fees, charges, and costs paid by the state on the person's behalf, shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund of the applicable state attorney within the Justice Administrative Commission. Seventy-five percent of any amount recovered shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund.
- Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 27.54, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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27.54 Limitation on payment of expenditures other than by the state.—

(2) A county or municipality may contract with, or appropriate or contribute funds to, the operation of the offices of the various public defenders and regional counsels counsel as provided in this subsection. A public defender or regional counsel defending violations of special laws or county or municipal ordinances punishable by incarceration and not ancillary to a state charge shall contract with counties and municipalities to recover the full cost of services rendered on an hourly basis or reimburse the state for the full cost of assigning one or more full-time equivalent attorney positions to work on behalf of the county or municipality. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of a county with a population of less than 75,000, the public defender or regional counsel shall contract for full reimbursement, or for reimbursement as the parties otherwise agree. In local ordinance violation cases, the county or municipality shall pay for due process services that are approved by the court, including deposition costs, deposition transcript costs, investigative costs, witness fees, expert witness costs, and interpreter costs. The person charged with the violation shall be assessed a fee for the services of a public defender or regional counsel and other costs and fees paid by the county or municipality, which assessed fee may be reduced to a lien, in all instances in which the person enters a plea of guilty or no contest or is found to be in violation or quilty of any count or lesser included offense of the charge or companion case charges, regardless of adjudication. The court shall determine the amount

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of the obligation. The county or municipality may recover assessed fees through collections court or as otherwise permitted by law, and any fees recovered pursuant to this section shall be forwarded to the applicable county or municipality as reimbursement.

- (c) Any payments received pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund of within the applicable public defender or criminal conflict and civil regional counsel Justice Administrative Commission for appropriation by the Legislature.
- Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 27.703, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 27.703 Conflict of interest and substitute counsel.-
- (2) Appointed counsel shall be paid from funds appropriated to the <u>Justice Administrative Commission</u> Chief Financial Officer. The hourly rate may not exceed \$100. However, all appointments of private counsel under this section shall be in accordance with ss. 27.710 and 27.711.
- Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 28.241, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 28.241 Filing fees for trial and appellate proceedings.-
- (1) Filing fees are due at the time a party files a pleading to initiate a proceeding or files a pleading for relief. Reopen fees are due at the time a party files a pleading to reopen a proceeding if at least 90 days have elapsed since the filing of a final order or final judgment with the clerk. If a fee is not paid upon the filing of the pleading as required under this section, the clerk shall pursue collection of the fee pursuant to s. 28.246.

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(a) 1.a. Except as provided in sub-subparagraph b. and subparagraph 2., the party instituting any civil action, suit, or proceeding in the circuit court shall pay to the clerk of that court a filing fee of up to \$395 in all cases in which there are not more than five defendants and an additional filing fee of up to \$2.50, from which the clerk shall remit \$0.50 to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, for each defendant in excess of five. Of the first \$200 in filing fees, \$195 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund, \$4 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services and used to fund the contract with the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation created in s. 28.35, and \$1 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services to fund audits of individual clerks' court-related expenditures conducted by the Department of Financial Services.

b. The party instituting any civil action, suit, or proceeding in the circuit court under chapter 39, chapter 61, chapter 741, chapter 742, chapter 747, chapter 752, or chapter 753 shall pay to the clerk of that court a filing fee of up to \$295 in all cases in which there are not more than five defendants and an additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant in excess of five. Of the first \$100 in filing fees, \$95 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund, \$4 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue Trust Fund \$2.50 for each to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services and used

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to fund the contract with the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation created in s. 28.35, and \$1 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services to fund audits of individual clerks' court-related expenditures conducted by the Department of Financial Services.

- c. An additional filing fee of \$4 shall be paid to the clerk. The clerk shall remit \$3.50 to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Court Education Trust Fund and shall remit 50 cents to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services to fund clerk education provided by the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation. An additional filing fee of up to \$18 shall be paid by the party seeking each severance that is granted, from which the clerk shall remit \$3 to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund. The clerk may impose an additional filing fee of up to \$85, from which the clerk shall remit \$10 to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, for all proceedings of garnishment, attachment, replevin, and distress. Postal charges incurred by the clerk of the circuit court in making service by certified or registered mail on defendants or other parties shall be paid by the party at whose instance service is made. Additional fees, charges, or costs may not be added to the filing fees imposed under this section, except as authorized in this section or by general law.
- 2.a. Notwithstanding the fees prescribed in subparagraph1., a party instituting a civil action in circuit court relating to real property or mortgage foreclosure shall pay a graduated

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filing fee based on the value of the claim.

- b. A party shall estimate in writing the amount in controversy of the claim upon filing the action. For purposes of this subparagraph, the value of a mortgage foreclosure action is based upon the principal due on the note secured by the mortgage, plus interest owed on the note and any moneys advanced by the lender for property taxes, insurance, and other advances secured by the mortgage, at the time of filing the foreclosure. The value shall also include the value of any tax certificates related to the property. In stating the value of a mortgage foreclosure claim, a party shall declare in writing the total value of the claim, as well as the individual elements of the value as prescribed in this sub-subparagraph.
- c. In its order providing for the final disposition of the matter, the court shall identify the actual value of the claim. The clerk shall adjust the filing fee if there is a difference between the estimated amount in controversy and the actual value of the claim and collect any additional filing fee owed or provide a refund of excess filing fee paid.
 - d. The party shall pay a filing fee of:
- (I) Three hundred and ninety-five dollars in all cases in which the value of the claim is \$50,000 or less and in which there are not more than five defendants. The party shall pay an additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant in excess of five. Of the first \$200 in filing fees, \$195 must be remitted by the clerk to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, \$4 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services and used to

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fund the contract with the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation created in s. 28.35, and \$1 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services to fund audits of individual clerks' court-related expenditures conducted by the Department of Financial Services;

(II) Nine hundred dollars in all cases in which the value of the claim is more than \$50,000 but less than \$250,000 and in which there are not more than five defendants. The party shall pay an additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant in excess of five. Of the first \$355 in filing fees, \$350 must be remitted by the clerk to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, \$4 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services and used to fund the contract with the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation created in s. 28.35, and \$1 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services to fund audits of individual clerks' court-related expenditures conducted by the Department of Financial Services; or

(III) One thousand nine hundred dollars in all cases in which the value of the claim is \$250,000 or more and in which there are not more than five defendants. The party shall pay an additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant in excess of five. Of the first $\frac{$1,240}{$1,705}$ in filing fees, $\frac{$465}{$930}$ must be remitted by the clerk to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, \$770 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the State Courts

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Revenue Trust Fund, \$4 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services to fund the contract with the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation created in s. 28.35, and \$1 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services to fund audits of individual clerks' court-related expenditures conducted by the Department of Financial Services.

e. An additional filing fee of \$4 shall be paid to the clerk. The clerk shall remit \$3.50 to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Court Education Trust Fund and shall remit 50 cents to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services to fund clerk education provided by the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation. An additional filing fee of up to \$18 shall be paid by the party seeking each severance that is granted. The clerk may impose an additional filing fee of up to \$85 for all proceedings of garnishment, attachment, replevin, and distress. Postal charges incurred by the clerk of the circuit court in making service by certified or registered mail on defendants or other parties shall be paid by the party at whose instance service is made. Additional fees, charges, or costs may not be added to the filing fees imposed under this section, except as authorized in this section or by general law.

Section 5. Paragraph (i) of subsection (2) and paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 28.35, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (j) is added to subsection (2) of that section, to read:

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28.35 Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation.-

- (2) The duties of the corporation shall include the following:
- (i) Annually preparing a budget request which, notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 216 and in accordance with s. 216.351, provides the anticipated amount necessary for reimbursement pursuant to s. 40.29(6) and (7). The request for the anticipated reimbursement amount shall be submitted in the form and manner prescribed by the Justice Administrative Commission. Such request is not subject to change by the Justice Administrative Commission, except for technical changes necessary to conform to the legislative budget instructions, and shall be submitted to the Governor for transmittal to the Legislature.
- (j) Annually preparing a budget request that, notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 216 and in accordance with s. 216.351, provides the anticipated amount necessary to fund increases in employer contribution rates pursuant to ss. 121.71 and 121.72 for court-related employees participating in the Florida Retirement System. The request for the anticipated appropriation must be submitted in the form and manner prescribed by the Justice Administrative Commission. The budget request may not be changed by the Justice Administrative Commission, except for technical changes necessary to conform to the legislative budget instructions, and must be submitted to the Governor for transmittal to the Legislature.
- (3)(a) The list of court-related functions that clerks may fund from filing fees, service charges, court costs, and fines is limited to those functions expressly authorized by law or

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court rule. Those functions include the following: case maintenance; records management; court preparation and attendance; processing the assignment, reopening, and reassignment of cases; processing of appeals; collection and distribution of fines, fees, service charges, and court costs; processing of bond forfeiture payments; data collection and reporting; determinations of indigent status; improving court technology; and paying reasonable administrative support costs to enable the clerk of the court to carry out these court-related functions.

Section 6. Paragraph (b) subsection (4) of section 28.37, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

28.37 Fines, fees, service charges, and costs remitted to the state.—

(4)

(b) No later than February 1 <u>annually</u>, 2022, and each February 1 thereafter, the Florida Clerks of Court Operations

Corporation must calculate Department of Revenue shall transfer 50 percent of the cumulative excess, which of the original revenue projection from the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund to the General Revenue Fund. The remaining 50 percent in the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund may be used in the development of the total combined budgets of the clerks of the court as provided in s. 28.35(2)(f) 6. However, A minimum of 10 percent of the clerk-retained portion of the cumulative excess amount must be held in reserve until such funds reach an amount equal to at least 16 percent of the total budget authority from the current county fiscal year, as provided in s. 28.36(3)(a).

Section 7. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (1) of

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section 34.041, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

34.041 Filing fees.—

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- (c) A party in addition to a party described in paragraph (a) who files a pleading in an original civil action in the county court for affirmative relief by cross-claim, counterclaim, counterpetition, or third-party complaint, or who files a notice of cross-appeal or notice of joinder or motion to intervene as an appellant, cross-appellant, or petitioner, shall pay the clerk of court a fee of \$295 if the relief sought by the party under this paragraph exceeds \$2,500 but is not more than \$15,000 and \$395 if the relief sought by the party under this paragraph exceeds \$15,000. The clerk shall deposit remit the fee if the relief sought by the party under this paragraph exceeds \$2,500 but is not more than \$15,000 to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the fine and forfeiture fund established pursuant to s. 142.01 General Revenue Fund. This fee does not apply if the cross-claim, counterclaim, counterpetition, or third-party complaint requires transfer of the case from county to circuit court. However, the party shall pay to the clerk the standard filing fee for the court to which the case is to be transferred.
- (d) The clerk of court shall collect a service charge of \$10 for issuing a summons or an electronic certified copy of a summons, which the clerk shall deposit into the fine and forfeiture fund established pursuant to s. 142.01 remit to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund. The clerk shall assess the fee against the party seeking to have the summons issued.

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Section 8. Subsection (6) of section 40.29, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsections (7) and (8) are added to that section, to read:

- 40.29 Payment of due-process costs; reimbursement for petitions, and orders, and waived civil filing fees for indigency; payment of Florida Retirement System costs for court-related employees.—
- (6) Subject to legislative appropriation, the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation clerk of the circuit court may, on behalf of the clerks of the circuit court, on a quarterly basis, submit to the Justice Administrative Commission a certified request for reimbursement for petitions and orders filed under ss. 394.459, 394.463, 394.467, 394.917, and 397.6814, at the rate of \$40 per petition or order and for orders filed under ss. 741.30, 784.046, and 784.0485, the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation may, on a quarterly basis, submit a request for reimbursement at the rate of \$195 per petition. From this reimbursement, the clerk of the court receiving reimbursement must pay any law enforcement agency serving injunctions a fee not to exceed \$40 per injunction, if so requested by the law enforcement agency. Such request for reimbursement shall be submitted in the form and manner prescribed by the Justice Administrative Commission pursuant to s. 28.35(2)(i).
- (7) Subject to legislative appropriation, the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation may, on a quarterly basis, submit to the Justice Administrative Commission a certified request for reimbursement for approved applications for civil indigency under s. 57.082, in which the civil filing

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fee has been waived, at the rate of \$195 per approved application. The request for reimbursement shall be submitted in the form and manner prescribed by the Justice Administrative Commission pursuant to s. 28.35(2)(i).

(8) Subject to legislative appropriation, the Florida

Clerks of Court Operations Corporation must submit to the

Justice Administrative Commission a certified amount by county

of the employer contribution rate increases for the Florida

Retirement System for court-related employees.

Section 9. Paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of section 57.082, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 57.082 Determination of civil indigent status.-
- (7) FINANCIAL DISCREPANCIES; FRAUD; FALSE INFORMATION.-
- (b) If the court has reason to believe that any applicant, through fraud or misrepresentation, was improperly determined to be indigent, the matter shall be referred to the state attorney. Twenty-five percent of any amount recovered by the state attorney as reasonable value of the services rendered, including fees, charges, and costs paid by the state on the person's behalf, shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund of within the applicable state attorney Justice Administrative Commission.

 Seventy-five percent of any amount recovered shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund.

Section 10. Paragraph (d) of subsection (4) of section 110.112, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 110.112 Affirmative action; equal employment opportunity.-
- (4) Each state attorney and public defender shall:

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(d) Report annually to the Justice Administrative Commission on the implementation, continuance, updating, and results of his or her affirmative action program for the previous fiscal year.

Section 11. Subsection (6) of section 186.003, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

186.003 Definitions; ss. 186.001-186.031, 186.801-186.901.—
As used in ss. 186.001-186.031 and 186.801-186.901, the term:

(6) "State agency" or "agency" means any official, officer, commission, board, authority, council, committee, or department of the executive branch of state government. For purposes of this chapter, "state agency" or "agency" includes state attorneys, public defenders, the capital collateral regional counsel, the Justice Administrative Commission, and the Public Service Commission.

Section 12. Paragraph (a) of subsection (8) and subsection (18) of section 318.18, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

318.18 Amount of penalties.—The penalties required for a noncriminal disposition pursuant to s. 318.14 or a criminal offense listed in s. 318.17 are as follows:

(8) (a) Any person who fails to comply with the court's requirements or who fails to pay the civil penalties specified in this section within the 30-day period provided for in s. 318.14 must pay an additional civil penalty of \$16, \$1.50 \$6.50 of which must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit in the General Revenue Fund, and \$9.50 of which must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit in the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund, and \$5 of which shall be retained by the clerk of the court to be deposited in the Public Records

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Modernization Trust Fund and used exclusively for funding courtrelated technology needs of the clerk, as defined in s. 29.008(1)(f)2. and (h). Of this additional civil penalty of \$16, \$4 is not revenue for purposes of s. 28.36 and may not be used in establishing the budget of the clerk of the court under that section or s. 28.35. The department shall contract with the Florida Association of Court Clerks, Inc., to design, establish, operate, upgrade, and maintain an automated statewide Uniform Traffic Citation Accounting System to be operated by the clerks of the court which shall include, but not be limited to, the accounting for traffic infractions by type, a record of the disposition of the citations, and an accounting system for the fines assessed and the subsequent fine amounts paid to the clerks of the court. The clerks of the court must provide the information required by this chapter to be transmitted to the department by electronic transmission pursuant to the contract.

(18) In addition to any penalties imposed, an administrative fee of \$12.50 must be paid for all noncriminal moving and nonmoving violations under chapters 316, 320, and 322. Of this administrative fee, \$6.25 must be deposited into the Public Records Modernization Trust Fund and used exclusively for funding court-related technology needs of the clerk, as defined in s. 29.008(1)(f)2. and (h), and \$6.25 must be deposited into the fine and forfeiture fund established pursuant to s. 142.01 The clerk shall remit the administrative fee to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund.

Section 13. Section 322.76, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

322.76 Miami-Dade County Clerk of the Court Driver License

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494 Reinstatement Pilot Program.—There is created in Miami-Dade

495 County the Clerk of the Court Driver License Reinstatement Pilot

496 Program.

- (1) As used in this section, the term "clerk" means the clerk of the circuit court for Miami-Dade County.
- (2) Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary in this chapter, the clerk may reinstate or provide an affidavit to the department to reinstate a suspended driver license:
- (a) For a person who failed to fulfill a court-ordered child support obligation.
- (b) As a result of the end of suspension because of points, under s. 322.27, notwithstanding the person receiving a hardship waiver.
- (c) For a person who failed to comply with any provision of chapter 318 or this chapter.
- (3) Notwithstanding s. 322.29(1), an examination is not required for the reinstatement of a driver license suspended under s. 318.15 or s. 322.245 unless an examination is otherwise required by this chapter. A person applying for the reinstatement of a driver license suspended under s. 318.15 or s. 322.245 must present to the clerk certification from the court that he or she has either complied with all obligations and penalties imposed pursuant to s. 318.15 or with all directives of the court and the requirements of s. 322.245.
- $\underline{\mbox{(4)}}$ A nonrefundable service fee must be paid pursuant to s. 322.29(2).
- (5) Before July 1, 2024, the department shall work with the clerk, through the clerk's association, to ensure the ability within its technology system for the clerk to reinstate

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523 <u>suspended driver licenses under the pilot program, to begin on</u> 524 July 1, 2024.

- (6) By December 31, 2025, the clerk must submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the executive director of the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation a report containing the following information:
 - (a) Number of driver license reinstatements.
- (b) Amount of fees and costs collected, including the aggregate funds received by the clerk, local governmental entities, and state entities, including the General Revenue Fund.
- (c) The personnel, operating, and other expenditures incurred by the clerk.
- (d) Feedback received from the community, if any, in response to the clerk's participation in the pilot program.
- (e) Whether the pilot program led to improved timeliness for the reinstatement of driver licenses.
- (f) The clerk's recommendation as to whether the pilot program should be extended in Miami-Dade County or expanded to other clerks' offices.
 - (g) Any other information the clerk deems necessary.
 - (7) This section expires on July 1, 2026.
- Section 14. Subsection (1) of section 501.2101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 501.2101 Enforcing authorities; moneys received in certain proceedings.—
- (1) Any moneys received by an enforcing authority for attorney attorney's fees and costs of investigation or

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litigation in proceedings brought under the provisions of s. 501.207, s. 501.208, or s. 501.211 shall be deposited as received in the Legal Affairs Revolving Trust Fund if the action is brought by the Department of Legal Affairs, and in the <u>Grants and Donations Consumer Frauds</u> Trust Fund of <u>a state attorney the Justice Administrative Commission</u> if the action is brought by the <u>a</u> state attorney.

Section 15. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 741.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

741.30 Domestic violence; injunction; powers and duties of court and clerk; petition; notice and hearing; temporary injunction; issuance of injunction; statewide verification system; enforcement; public records exemption.—

(2) (a) Notwithstanding any other law, the assessment of a filing fee for a petition for protection against domestic violence is prohibited. However, subject to legislative appropriation, the clerk of the circuit court may, on a quarterly basis, submit to the Office of the State Courts Administrator a certified request for reimbursement for petitions for protection against domestic violence issued by the court, at the rate of \$40 per petition. The request for reimbursement must be submitted in the form and manner prescribed by the Office of the State Courts Administrator. From this reimbursement, the clerk shall pay any law enforcement agency serving the injunction the fee requested by the law enforcement agency; however, this fee may not exceed \$20.

784.046, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

Section 16. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section

784.046 Action by victim of repeat violence, sexual

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violence, or dating violence for protective injunction; dating violence investigations, notice to victims, and reporting; pretrial release violations; public records exemption.—

(3) (b) Notwithstanding any other law, the clerk of the court may not assess a fee for filing a petition for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence. However, subject to legislative appropriation, the clerk of the court may, each quarter, submit to the Office of the State Courts Administrator a certified request for reimbursement for petitions for protection issued by the court under this section at the rate of \$40 per petition. The request for reimbursement shall be submitted in the form and manner prescribed by the Office of the State Courts Administrator. From this reimbursement, the clerk shall pay the law enforcement agency serving the injunction the fee requested by the law enforcement agency; however, this fee may not exceed \$20.

Section 17. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 784.0485, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

784.0485 Stalking; injunction; powers and duties of court and clerk; petition; notice and hearing; temporary injunction; issuance of injunction; statewide verification system; enforcement.—

(2) (a) Notwithstanding any other law, the clerk of court may not assess a filing fee to file a petition for protection against stalking. However, subject to legislative appropriation, the clerk of the circuit court may, on a quarterly basis, submit to the Office of the State Courts Administrator a certified request for reimbursement for petitions for protection against stalking issued by the court, at the rate of \$40 per petition.

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The request for reimbursement shall be submitted in the form and manner prescribed by the Office of the State Courts

Administrator. From this reimbursement, the clerk shall pay any law enforcement agency serving the injunction the fee requested by the law enforcement agency; however, this fee may not exceed \$20.

Section 18. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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