

Committee on Judiciary

CS/HB 397 — Court Fiscal Administration

by Justice Appropriations Subcommittee and Rep. Clemons and others (CS/SB 552 by Appropriations Committee and Senators Boyd, Ausley, and Wright)

The bill changes laws affecting the clerks of court by:

- Modifying the standard terms of a payment plan for an individual who owes money to a clerk to establish a \$25 minimum monthly payment and to limit the down payment to the lesser of 10 percent of the amount owed or \$100.
- Directing a clerk of court to ask the Legislature for increased funding related to increases in trial court judicial positions.
- Allowing the clerks to review property records to verify an application for civil indigent status.
- Allowing the clerks of court to ask for Legislative funding for filings related to mental health and substance abuse that the clerks must currently file at no charge.
- Requiring the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to coordinate with the clerks of court on a system for reinstatement of driver licenses upon payment of court-related obligations.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2022.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 115-0