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1	
2	An act relating to clerks of court; transferring the
3	Clerks of the Court Trust Fund from the Justice
4	Administrative Commission to the Department of
5	Revenue; amending s. 11.90, F.S.; providing additional
6	duties of the Legislative Budget Commission relating
7	to clerks of court; amending s. 28.241, F.S.; revising
8	distribution of filing fees; revising references to
9	trust funds; repealing s. 28.2455, F.S., relating to
10	transfer of trust funds in excess of amount needed for
11	clerk budgets; amending s. 28.246, F.S.; conforming
12	provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
13	28.35, F.S.; deleting provisions providing for the
14	housing of the Florida Clerks of Court Operations
15	Corporation; revising duties of the corporation;
16	defining terms; providing requirements for annual
17	submission of a proposed budget and related
18	information; revising provisions concerning functions
19	that may and may not be funded from specified sources;
20	revising distribution of the corporation's audit
21	report; amending s. 28.36, F.S.; specifying that only
22	certain functions may be funded from fees, service
23	charges, costs, and fines retained by the clerks of
24	the court; revising provisions relating to preparation
25	of budget requests by clerks; providing for reporting
26	and certification of revenue deficits; providing
27	procedures for retention of additional revenues by
28	clerks in the event of a deficit; providing for the
29	release of funds from a specified trust fund to

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30	relieve such a deficit in certain circumstances;
31	providing for increases in previously authorized
32	budgets in certain circumstances; deleting provisions
33	relating to review of budgets and related information;
34	amending s. 28.37, F.S.; providing that a portion of
35	all fines, fees, service charges, and costs collected
36	by the clerks of the court which exceed a specified
37	portion of the clerk's annual budget be remitted to a
38	specified trust fund; providing for remission of
39	certain excess collections to the department for
40	deposit into the General Revenue Fund on specified
41	dates; providing for deposit of such funds in a
42	specified trust fund in certain circumstances;
43	providing for collection of certain funds due by the
44	department; amending s. 34.041, F.S.; conforming
45	provisions to changes made by the act; revising
46	distribution of certain fees; amending ss. 43.16 and
47	110.205, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made
48	by the act; amending s. 142.01, F.S.; revising the
49	funds deposited in each county's fine and forfeiture
50	fund; deleting provisions specifying that certain
51	moneys are considered state funds; amending s.
52	213.131, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made
53	by the act; amending s. 215.22, F.S.; exempting
54	certain moneys deposited in the Clerks of the Court
55	Trust Fund from a specified deduction; amending s.
56	216.011, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made
57	by the act; specifying the authorized budget for the
58	clerks of the circuit court and the corporation for

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20131512er 59 specified periods; requiring the corporation to determine budget amounts for the individual clerks for 60 61 those periods; providing an effective date. 62 63 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 64 65 Section 1. The Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the 66 Justice Administrative Commission, FLAIR number 21-2-588, is 67 transferred together with all balances in the fund to the 68 Department of Revenue. Section 2. Subsection (6) of section 11.90, Florida 69 70 Statutes, is amended to read: 11.90 Legislative Budget Commission.-71 72 (6) The commission shall have the power and duty to: (a) Review and approve or disapprove budget amendments 73 74 recommended by the Governor or the Chief Justice of the Supreme 75 Court as provided in chapter 216. (b) Develop the long-range financial outlook described in 76 77 s. 19, Art. III of the State Constitution. 78 (c) Review and approve, disapprove, or amend and approve 79 the budget of the Florida Clerks of Court Operations 80 Corporation. 81 (d) Review and approve, disapprove, or amend and approve 82 the total combined budgets of the clerks of the court or the budget of any individual clerk of the court for court-related 83 functions. As part of this review the commission shall consider 84 the workload and expense data submitted pursuant to s. 28.35. 85 86 (e) In addition to the powers and duties specified in this 87 subsection, the commission shall Exercise all other powers and

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88 perform any other duties prescribed by the Legislature. 89 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 90 28.241, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

91

28.241 Filing fees for trial and appellate proceedings.-

92 (1) Filing fees are due at the time a party files a pleading to initiate a proceeding or files a pleading for 93 94 relief. Reopen fees are due at the time a party files a pleading 95 to reopen a proceeding if at least 90 days have elapsed since 96 the filing of a final order or final judgment with the clerk. If 97 a fee is not paid upon the filing of the pleading as required 98 under this section, the clerk shall pursue collection of the fee 99 pursuant to s. 28.246.

(a)1.a. Except as provided in sub-subparagraph b. and 100 subparagraph 2., the party instituting any civil action, suit, 101 or proceeding in the circuit court shall pay to the clerk of 102 103 that court a filing fee of up to \$395 in all cases in which 104 there are not more than five defendants and an additional filing 105 fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant in excess of five. Of the 106 first \$200 \$280 in filing fees, \$80 must be remitted by the 107 clerk to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, \$195 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue 108 for deposit into the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund, \$4 \$3.50 109 110 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into 111 the Administrative Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the 112 Department of Financial Services Justice Administrative 113 Commission and used to fund the contract with the Florida Clerks 114 of Court Operations Corporation created in s. 28.35, and \$1 \$1.50 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit 115 116 into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of

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117 Financial Services to fund audits of individual clerks' court-118 related expenditures clerk budget reviews conducted by the 119 Department of Financial Services. By the 10th of each month, the 120 clerk shall submit that portion of the filing fees collected in the previous month which is in excess of one-twelfth of the 121 clerk's total budget One third of any filing fees collected by 122 the clerk of the circuit court in excess of \$100 must be 123 remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the 124 125 Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the Justice Administrative 126 Commission.

b. The party instituting any civil action, suit, or 127 proceeding in the circuit court under chapter 39, chapter 61, 128 129 chapter 741, chapter 742, chapter 747, chapter 752, or chapter 130 753 shall pay to the clerk of that court a filing fee of up to 131 \$295 in all cases in which there are not more than five 132 defendants and an additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each 133 defendant in excess of five. Of the first \$100 \$180 in filing 134 fees, \$80 must be remitted by the clerk to the Department of 135 Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, \$95 must be 136 remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the State 137 Courts Revenue Trust Fund, \$4 \$3.50 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Clerks 138 139 of the Court Trust Fund within the Department of Financial 140 Services Justice Administrative Commission and used to fund the 141 contract with the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation 142 created in s. 28.35, and \$1 $\frac{1}{50}$ must be remitted to the 143 Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services to fund audits 144 145 of individual clerks' court-related expenditures clerk budget

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20131512er 146 reviews conducted by the Department of Financial Services. 147 c. An additional filing fee of \$4 shall be paid to the 148 clerk. The clerk shall remit \$3.50 to the Department of Revenue 149 for deposit into the Court Education Trust Fund and shall remit 150 50 cents to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the 151 152 Department of Financial Services Justice Administrative 153 Commission to fund clerk education provided by the Florida 154 Clerks of Court Operations Corporation. An additional filing fee 155 of up to \$18 shall be paid by the party seeking each severance 156 that is granted. The clerk may impose an additional filing fee of up to \$85 for all proceedings of garnishment, attachment, 157 replevin, and distress. Postal charges incurred by the clerk of 158 159 the circuit court in making service by certified or registered mail on defendants or other parties shall be paid by the party 160 161 at whose instance service is made. Additional fees, charges, or 162 costs may not be added to the filing fees imposed under this section, except as authorized in this section or by general law. 163

164 2.a. Notwithstanding the fees prescribed in subparagraph 165 1., a party instituting a civil action in circuit court relating 166 to real property or mortgage foreclosure shall pay a graduated 167 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.

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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.

186

d. The party shall pay a filing fee of:

(I) Three hundred and ninety-five dollars in all cases in 187 which the value of the claim is \$50,000 or less and in which 188 there are not more than five defendants. The party shall pay an 189 190 additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant in 191 excess of five. Of the first \$200 \$280 in filing fees, \$195 \$275 must be remitted by the clerk to the Department of Revenue for 192 193 deposit into the General Revenue Fund, \$4 \$3.50 must be remitted 194 to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative 195 Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services Justice Administrative Commission and used to 196 197 fund the contract with the Florida Clerks of Court Operations 198 Corporation created in s. 28.35, and \$1 \$1.50 must be remitted 199 to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services to fund 200 201 audits of individual clerks' court-related expenditures clerk 202 budget reviews conducted by the Department of Financial 203 Services;

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204 (II) Nine hundred dollars in all cases in which the value 205 of the claim is more than \$50,000 but less than \$250,000 and in 206 which there are not more than five defendants. The party shall 207 pay an additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant in excess of five. Of the first \$705 \$785 in filing fees, \$700 208 \$780 must be remitted by the clerk to the Department of Revenue 209 210 for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, \$4 \$3.50 must be 211 remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the 212 Administrative Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the 213 Department of Financial Services Justice Administrative 214 Commission and used to fund the contract with the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation created described in s. 28.35, 215 and \$1 $\frac{1.50}{1.50}$ must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for 216 217 deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services to fund audits of individual clerks' 218 219 court-related expenditures clerk budget reviews conducted by the 220 Department of Financial Services; or

221 (III) One thousand nine hundred dollars in all cases in 222 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 223 additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant in 224 225 excess of five. Of the first \$1,705 \$1,785 in filing fees, \$930 226 \$1,010 must be remitted by the clerk to the Department of 227 Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, \$770 must be 228 remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund, \$4 \$3.50 must be remitted to the 229 230 Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Clerks 231 of the Court Trust Fund within the Department of Financial 232 Services Justice Administrative Commission to fund the contract

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20131512er 233 with the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation created 234 in s. 28.35, and \$1 \$1.50 must be remitted to the Department of 235 Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within 236 the Department of Financial Services to fund audits of 237 individual clerks' court-related expenditures clerk budget reviews conducted by the Department of Financial Services. 238 239 e. An additional filing fee of \$4 shall be paid to the clerk. The clerk shall remit \$3.50 to the Department of Revenue 240 241 for deposit into the Court Education Trust Fund and shall remit 242 50 cents to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the 243 Administrative Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services Justice Administrative 244 Commission to fund clerk education provided by the Florida 245 246 Clerks of Court Operations Corporation. An additional filing fee of up to \$18 shall be paid by the party seeking each severance 247 248 that is granted. The clerk may impose an additional filing fee 249 of up to \$85 for all proceedings of garnishment, attachment, 250 replevin, and distress. Postal charges incurred by the clerk of 251 the circuit court in making service by certified or registered 252 mail on defendants or other parties shall be paid by the party 253 at whose instance service is made. Additional fees, charges, or 254 costs may not be added to the filing fees imposed under this 255 section, except as authorized in this section or by general law. 256 Section 4. Effective upon this act becoming a law, s. 257 28.2455, Florida Statutes, is repealed. 258 Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 259 28.246, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 260 28.246 Payment of court-related fines or other monetary 261 penalties, fees, charges, and costs; partial payments;

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20131512er 262 distribution of funds.-263 (5) When receiving partial payment of fees, service 264 charges, court costs, and fines, clerks shall distribute funds 265 according to the following order of priority: (b) That portion of fees, service charges, court costs, and 266 fines required to be retained by the clerk of the court or 267 268 deposited into the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the 269 Department of Revenue Justice Administrative Commission. 270 271 To offset processing costs, clerks may impose either a per-month service charge pursuant to s. 28.24(26)(b) or a one-time 272 273 administrative processing service charge at the inception of the 274 payment plan pursuant to s. 28.24(26)(c). 275 Section 6. Section 28.35, Florida Statutes, is amended to 276 read: 277 28.35 Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation.-278 (1) (a) The Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation 279 is created as a public corporation organized to perform the 280 functions specified in this section and s. 28.36 and shall be 281 administratively housed within the Justice Administrative Commission. The corporation shall be a budget entity within the 282 283 Justice Administrative Commission, and its employees shall be 284 considered state employees. The corporation is not subject to control, supervision, or direction by the Justice Administrative 285 286 Commission in the performance of its duties, but the employees 287 of the corporation shall be governed by the classification plan and salary and benefits plan of the Justice Administrative 288 289 Commission. The classification plan must have a separate chapter 290 for the corporation. All clerks of the circuit court shall be

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291 members of the corporation and hold their position and authority 292 in an ex officio capacity. The functions assigned to the 293 corporation shall be performed by an executive council pursuant 294 to the plan of operation approved by the members.

(b) The executive council shall be composed of eight clerks 295 296 of the court elected by the clerks of the courts for a term of 2 297 years, with two clerks from counties with a population of fewer than 100,000, two clerks from counties with a population of at 298 299 least 100,000 but fewer than 500,000, two clerks from counties 300 with a population of at least 500,000 but fewer than 1 million, and two clerks from counties with a population of more than 1 301 302 million. The executive council shall also include, as ex officio 303 members, a designee of the President of the Senate and a 304 designee of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The 305 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall designate one 306 additional member to represent the state courts system.

307 (c) The corporation shall be considered a political 308 subdivision of the state and shall be exempt from the corporate 309 income tax. The corporation is not subject to the provisions of 310 chapter 120.

(d) The functions assigned to the corporation under this 311 section and ss. 28.36 and 28.37 are considered to be for a valid 312 313 public purpose.

314 (2) The duties of the corporation shall include the 315 following:

316

(a) Adopting a plan of operation.

(b) Conducting the election of an executive council 317 318 directors as required in paragraph (1)(b) (1)(a). 319

(c) Recommending to the Legislature changes in the amounts

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320 <u>of the</u> various court-related fines, fees, service charges, and 321 court costs established by law <u>to ensure reasonable and adequate</u> 322 <u>funding of the clerks of the court in the performance of their</u> 323 court-related functions.

324 (d) Developing and certifying a uniform system of workload performance measures and applicable workload performance 325 standards for court-related functions as developed by the 326 327 corporation the functions specified in paragraph (3) (a) and the 328 service unit costs required in s. 28.36 and measures for clerk 329 workload performance in meeting the workload performance 330 standards. These workload measures and workload performance standards shall be designed to facilitate an objective 331 332 determination of the performance of each clerk in accordance 333 with minimum standards for fiscal management, operational efficiency, and effective collection of fines, fees, service 334 335 charges, and court costs. The corporation shall develop the 336 workload performance measures and workload performance standards 337 in consultation with the Legislature and the Supreme Court. The 338 Legislature may modify the clerk performance measures and 339 performance standards in legislation implementing the General 340 Appropriations Act or other law. When the corporation finds a clerk has not met the workload performance standards, the 341 corporation shall identify the nature of each deficiency and any 342 343 corrective action recommended and taken by the affected clerk of 344 the court. The corporation shall notify the Legislature and the 345 Supreme Court of any clerk not meeting workload performance 346 standards and provide a copy of any corrective action plans. As 347 used in this subsection, the term:

348

1. "Workload measures" means the measurement of the

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349	activities and frequency of the work required for the clerk to
350	adequately perform the court-related duties of the office as
351	defined by the membership of the Florida Clerks of Court
352	Operations Corporation.
353	2. "Workload performance standards" means the standards
354	developed to measure the timeliness and effectiveness of the
355	activities that are accomplished by the clerk in the performance
356	of the court-related duties of the office as defined by the
357	membership of the Florida Clerks of Court Operations
358	Corporation.
359	(e) Entering into a contract with the Department of
360	Financial Services for the department to audit the court-related
361	expenditures of individual clerks pursuant to s. 17.03.
362	(f) (e) Reviewing, certifying, and recommending proposed
363	budgets submitted by clerks of the court pursuant to s. 28.36.
364	As part of this process, the corporation shall:
365	1. Calculate the minimum amount of revenue necessary for
366	each clerk of the court to efficiently perform the list of
367	court-related functions specified in paragraph (3)(a). The
368	corporation shall apply the workload measures appropriate for
369	determining the individual level of review required to fund the
370	clerk's budget.
371	2. Prepare a cost comparison of similarly situated clerks
372	of the court, based on county population and numbers of filings,
373	using the standard list of court-related functions specified in
374	paragraph (3)(a).
375	3. Conduct an annual base budget review and an annual
376	budget exercise examining the total budget of each clerk of the
377	court. The review shall examine revenues from all sources,

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378	expenses of court-related functions, and expenses of noncourt-
379	related functions as necessary to determine that court-related
380	revenues are not being used for noncourt-related purposes. The
381	review and exercise shall identify potential targeted budget
382	reductions in the percentage amount provided in Schedule VIII-B
383	of the state's previous year's legislative budget instructions,
384	as referenced in s. 216.023(3), or an equivalent schedule or
385	instruction as may be adopted by the Legislature.
386	4. Identify those proposed budgets containing funding for
387	items not included on the standard list of court-related
388	functions specified in paragraph (3)(a).
389	5. Identify those clerks projected to have court-related
390	revenues insufficient to fund their anticipated court-related
391	expenditures.
392	6. Use revenue estimates based on the official estimate for
393	funds accruing to the clerks of the court made by the Revenue
394	Estimating Conference.
395	7. Identify and report pay and benefit increases in any
396	proposed clerk budget, including, but not limited to, cost of
397	living increases, merit increases, and bonuses.
398	8. Provide detailed explanation for increases in
399	anticipated expenditures in any clerk budget that exceeds the
400	current year budget by more than 3 percent.
401	9. Identify and report the budget of any clerk which
402	exceeds the average budget of similarly situated clerks by more
403	than ten percent.
404	<u>(g)(f) Developing and conducting clerk education programs.</u>
405	(g) Publishing a uniform schedule of actual fees, service
406	charges, and costs charged by a clerk of the court pursuant to

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1	2013131261
407	general law.
408	(h) Beginning August 1, 2014, and each August 1 thereafter,
409	submitting to the Legislative Budget Commission, as provided in
410	s. 11.90, its proposed budget and the information described in
411	paragraph (f), as well as the proposed budgets for each clerk of
412	the court. Before October 1 of each year beginning in 2014, the
413	Legislative Budget Commission shall consider the submitted
414	budgets and shall approve, disapprove, or amend and approve the
415	corporation's budget and shall approve, disapprove, or amend and
416	approve the total of the clerks' combined budgets or any
417	individual clerk's budget. If the Legislative Budget Commission
418	fails to approve or amend and approve the corporation's budget
419	or the clerks' combined budgets before October 1, the clerk
420	shall continue to perform the court-related functions based upon
421	the clerk's budget for the previous county fiscal year.
422	(3)(a) The <u>list of</u> court-related functions that clerks may
423	fund from filing fees, service charges, costs, and fines is
424	perform are limited to those functions expressly authorized by
425	law or court rule. Those functions include the following: case
426	maintenance; records management; court preparation and
427	attendance; processing the assignment, reopening, and
428	reassignment of cases; processing of appeals; collection and
429	distribution of fines, fees, service charges, and court costs;
430	processing of bond forfeiture payments; payment of jurors and
431	witnesses; payment of expenses for meals or lodging provided to
432	jurors; data collection and reporting; processing of jurors;
433	determinations of indigent status; and paying reasonable
434	administrative support <u>costs</u> to enable the clerk of the court to
435	carry out these court-related functions.

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436	(b) The <u>list of court-related</u> functions that clerks may not
437	fund from filing fees, service charges, costs, and fines
438	includes state appropriations include:
439	1. Those functions not specified within paragraph (a).
440	2. Functions assigned by administrative orders which are
441	not required for the clerk to perform the functions in paragraph
442	(a).
443	3. Enhanced levels of service which are not required for
444	the clerk to perform the functions in paragraph (a).
445	4. Functions identified as local requirements in law or
446	local optional programs.
447	(4) The corporation shall prepare a legislative budget
448	request for the resources necessary to perform its duties,
449	submit the request pursuant to chapter 216, and be funded
450	pursuant to a contract with the Chief Financial Officer. Funds
451	shall be provided to the Chief Financial Officer for such
452	purpose as appropriated by general law. Such funds shall be
453	available to the corporation for the performance of the duties
454	and responsibilities set forth in this section as a budget
455	entity in the General Appropriations Act. The corporation shall
456	participate in the Florida Retirement System for its eligible
457	employees as provided in chapter 121. The corporation may hire
458	staff and pay other expenses from <u>such funds</u> state
459	appropriations as necessary to perform the official duties and
460	responsibilities of the corporation as described in this section
461	by law .
462	(5) Certified public accountants conducting audits of

462 (5) certified public accountants conducting addres of 463 counties pursuant to s. 218.39 shall report, as part of the 464 audit, whether or not the clerks of the courts have complied

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20131512er 465 with the requirements of this section and s. 28.36. In addition, 466 each clerk of court shall forward a copy of the portion of the 467 financial audit relating to the court-related duties of the 468 clerk of court to the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation Supreme Court. The Auditor General shall develop a 469 470 compliance supplement for the audit of compliance with the budgets and applicable workload performance standards certified 471 472 by the corporation. 473 Section 7. Section 28.36, Florida Statutes, is amended to 474 read: 475 28.36 Budget procedure.-There is established a budget 476 procedure for preparing budget requests for funding for the court-related functions of the clerks of the court. 477 478 (1) Only those functions listed in s. 28.35(3)(a) may be 479 funded from fees, service charges, costs, and fines retained by the clerks of the court Each clerk of court shall prepare a 480 481 budget request for the last quarter of the county fiscal year 482 and the first three quarters of the next county fiscal year. The 483 proposed budget shall be prepared, summarized, and submitted by the clerk in each county to the Florida Clerks of Court 484 485 Operations Corporation in the manner and form prescribed by the 486 corporation to meet the requirements of law. Each clerk shall 487 forward a copy of his or her budget request to the Supreme 488 Court. The budget requests must be provided to the corporation 489 by October 1 of each year. 490 (2) Each clerk shall include in his or her budget request a

491 projection of the amount of court-related fees, service charges,
492 and any other court-related clerk fees which will be collected
493 during the proposed budget period. If the corporation determines

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494	that the proposed budget is limited to the standard list of
495	court-related functions in s. 28.35(3)(a) and the projected
496	court-related revenues are less than the proposed budget, the
497	clerk shall increase all fees, service charges, and any other
498	court-related clerk fees and charges to the maximum amounts
499	specified by law or the amount necessary to resolve the deficit,
500	whichever is less.
501	(2) (3) Each proposed budget shall further conform to the
502	following requirements clerk shall include in his or her budget
503	request the number of personnel and the proposed budget for each
504	of the following core services:
505	(a) On or before June 1 of each year beginning in 2014, the
506	proposed budget shall be prepared, summarized, and submitted by
507	the clerk in each county to the Florida Clerks of Court
508	Operations Corporation in the manner and form prescribed by the
509	corporation. The proposed budget must provide detailed
510	information on the anticipated revenues available and
511	expenditures necessary for the performance of the court-related
512	functions listed in s. 28.35(3)(a) of the clerk's office for the
513	county fiscal year beginning October 1.
514	(b) The proposed budget must be balanced such that the
515	total of the estimated revenues available equals or exceeds the
516	total of the anticipated expenditures. Such revenues include
517	revenue projected to be received from fees, service charges,
518	costs, and fines for court-related functions during the fiscal
519	period covered by the budget. The anticipated expenditures must
520	be itemized as required by the corporation.
521	(a) Circuit criminal.
522	(b) County criminal.

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523	(c) Juvenile delinquency.
524	(d) Criminal traffic.
525	(c) Circuit civil.
526	(f) County civil.
527	(g) Civil traffic.
528	(h) Probate.
529	(i) Family.
530	(j) Juvenile dependency.
531	
532	Central administrative costs shall be allocated among the core-
533	services categories.
534	(3) If a clerk of the court estimates that available funds
535	plus projected revenues from fines, fees, service charges, and
536	costs for court-related services are insufficient to meet the
537	anticipated expenditures for the standard list of court-related
538	functions in s. 28.35(3)(a) performed by his or her office, the
539	clerk must report the revenue deficit to the corporation in the
540	manner and form prescribed by the corporation. The corporation
541	shall verify that the proposed budget is limited to the standard
542	list of court-related functions in s. 28.35(3)(a). If the
543	corporation verifies that a revenue deficit is projected, the
544	corporation shall certify a revenue deficit and notify the
545	Department of Revenue that the clerk is authorized to retain
546	revenues, in an amount necessary to fully fund the projected
547	revenue deficit, which he or she would otherwise be required to
548	remit to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the
549	department's Clerks of the Court Trust Fund pursuant to s.
550	28.37. If a revenue deficit is projected for that clerk after
551	retaining all of the projected collections from the court-

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552	related fines, fees, service charges, and costs, the corporation
553	shall certify the amount of the revenue deficit to the Executive
554	Office of the Governor and request release authority for funds
555	from the department's Clerks of the Court Trust Fund.
556	Notwithstanding s. 216.192 relating to the release of funds, the
557	Executive Office of the Governor may approve the release of
558	funds in accordance with the notice, review, and objection
559	procedures set forth in s. 216.177 and shall provide notice to
560	the Department of Revenue and the Chief Financial Officer. The
561	Department of Revenue shall request monthly distributions from
562	the Chief Financial Officer in equal amounts to each clerk
563	certified to have a revenue deficit, in accordance with the
564	releases approved by the Governor.
565	(4) The Legislative Budget Commission may approve increases
566	or decreases to the previously authorized budgets approved for
567	individual clerks of the court pursuant to s. 28.35 for court-
568	related functions, if:
569	(a) The additional budget authority is necessary to pay the
570	cost of performing new or additional functions required by
571	changes in law or court rule; or
572	(b) The additional budget authority is necessary to pay the
573	cost of supporting increases in the number of judges or
574	magistrates authorized by the Legislature.
575	(4) The budget request must identify the service units to
576	be provided within each core service. The service units shall be
577	developed by the corporation, in consultation with the Supreme
578	Court, the Chief Financial Officer, and the appropriations
579	committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
580	(5) The budget request must propose a unit cost for each

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581 service unit. The corporation shall provide a copy of each 582 clerk's budget request to the Supreme Court. 583 (6) The corporation shall review each individual clerk's 584 prior-year expenditures, projected revenue, proposed unit costs, and the proposed budget for each of the core-services 585 586 categories. The corporation shall compare each clerk's prior-587 year expenditures and unit costs for core services with a peer 588 group of clerks' offices having a population of a similar size 589 and a similar number of case filings. If the corporation finds 590 that the expenditures, unit costs, or proposed budget of a clerk 591 is significantly higher than those of clerks in that clerk's 592 peer group, the corporation shall require the clerk to submit documentation justifying the difference in each core-services 593 594 category. Justification for higher expenditures may include, but is not limited to, collective bargaining agreements, county 595 596 civil service agreements, and the number and distribution of 597 courthouses served by the clerk. If the expenditures and unit 598 costs are not justified, the corporation shall recommend a 599 reduction in the funding for that core-services category in the budget request to an amount similar to the peer group of clerks 600 601 or to an amount that the corporation determines is justified. 602 (7) The corporation shall complete its review and

adjustments to the clerks' budget requests and make its
recommendations to the Legislature and the Supreme Court by
December 1 each year.

606 (8) The Chief Financial Officer shall review the proposed 607 unit costs associated with each clerk of court's budget request 608 and make recommendations to the Legislature. The Chief Financial 609 Officer may conduct any audit of the corporation or a clerk of

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610	court as authorized by law. The Chief Justice of the Supreme
611	Court may request an audit of the corporation or any clerk of
612	court by the Chief Financial Officer.

(9) The Legislature shall appropriate the total amount for the budgets of the clerks in the General Appropriations Act. The Legislature may reject or modify any or all of the unit costs recommended by the corporation. If the Legislature does not specify the unit costs in the General Appropriations Act or other law, the unit costs recommended by the corporation shall be the official unit costs for that budget period.

(10) (a) Beginning in the 2010-2011 fiscal year, the 620 621 corporation shall release appropriations to each clerk quarterly. If funds in the Clerks of Court Trust Fund are 622 623 insufficient to provide a release in a quarter in a single 624 release, the corporation may release partial amounts for that 625 quarter so long as the total of those partial amounts does not 626 exceed that quarter's release. If funds in the Clerks of Court Trust Fund are insufficient for the first quarter release, the 627 628 corporation may make a request to the Governor for a trust fund loan pursuant to chapter 215. The amount of the first three 629 630 releases shall be based on one quarter of the estimated budget for each clerk as identified in the General Appropriations Act. 631

(b) The corporation shall estimate the fourth quarter's
number of units to be performed by each clerk. The amount of the
fourth-quarter release shall be based on the approved unit cost
times the estimated number of units of the fourth quarter with
the following adjustment: the fourth-quarter release shall be
adjusted based on the first three quarter's actual number of
service units provided as reported to the corporation by each

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639 clerk. If the clerk has performed fewer service units in the 640 first three quarters of the year compared to three quarters of 641 the estimated number of service units in the General 642 Appropriations Act, the corporation shall decrease the fourth-643 quarter release. The amount of the decrease shall equal the 644 amount of the difference between the estimated number of service units for the first three quarters and the actual number of 645 service units provided in the first three quarters times the 646 approved unit cost. 647

648 (c) No adjustment for the fourth-quarter release shall be
 649 made if the clerk has performed more units than the estimate for
 650 the first three quarters.

(d) If the clerk performs fewer units in the fourth quarter
than estimated by the corporation, the corporation shall
decrease the first-quarter release for the clerk in the next
fiscal year by the amount of the difference between the
estimated number of service units for the fourth quarter and the
actual number of service units performed in that quarter times
the approved unit cost.

(e) The total of all releases to the clerks of court may 658 659 not exceed the amount appropriated in the General Appropriations 660 Act. If, during the year, the corporation determines that the 661 projected releases of appropriations for service units will 662 exceed the estimate used in the General Appropriations Act and 663 result in statewide expenditures greater than the amount appropriated by law, the corporation shall reduce all service 664 unit costs of all clerks by the amount necessary to ensure that 665 666 service units are funded within the total amount appropriated to 667 the clerks of court. If such action is necessary, the

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20131512er corporation shall notify the Legislative Budget Commission. If the Legislative Budget Commission objects to the adjustments, the Legislative Budget Commission shall adjust all service unit costs by the amount necessary to ensure that projected units of service are funded within the total amount appropriated to the clerks of court at its next scheduled meeting. (11) The corporation may submit proposed legislation to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives relating to the preparation of budget requests of the clerks of court. Section 8. Section 28.37, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 28.37 Fines, fees, service charges, and costs remitted to the state.-(1) Pursuant to s. 14(b), Art. V of the State Constitution, selected salaries, costs, and expenses of the state courts system and court-related functions shall be funded from a portion of the revenues derived from statutory fines, fees, service charges, and costs collected by the clerks of the court. (2) Beginning November 1, 2013, that portion of all fines, fees, service charges, and costs collected by the clerks of the court for the previous month which is in excess of one-twelfth

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

of the clerks' total budget for the performance of court-related

collections do not include funding received for the operation of

functions shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue for

deposit into the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund. Such

the Title IV-D child support collections and disbursement

program. The clerk of the court shall remit the revenues

collected during the previous month due to the state on or

697 before the 10th day of each month. 698 (3) No later than January 25, 2015, and each January 25 699 thereafter for the previous county fiscal year, the clerks of 700 court, in consultation with the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation, shall remit to the Department of Revenue 701 702 for deposit in the General Revenue Fund the cumulative excess of 703 all fines, fees, service charges, and costs retained by the 704 clerks of the court, plus any funds received by the clerks of 705 the court from the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund under s. 28.36(3), which exceed the amount needed to meet their 706 707 authorized budget amounts established under s. 28.35. The 708 Department of Revenue shall transfer from the Clerks of Court Trust Fund to the General Revenue Fund the cumulative excess of 709 710 all fines, fees, service charges, and costs submitted by the 711 clerks of court pursuant to subsection (2). However, if the 712 official estimate for funds accruing to the clerks of court made 713 by the Revenue Estimating Conference for the current fiscal year 714 or the next fiscal year is less than the cumulative amount of 715 authorized budgets for the clerks of court for the current fiscal year, the Department of Revenue shall retain in the 716 717 Clerks of the Court Trust Fund the estimated amount needed to 718 fully fund the clerks of court for the current and next fiscal 719 year based upon the current budget established under s. 28.35. 720 (4) The Department of Revenue shall collect any funds that 721 the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation determines 722 upon investigation were due but not remitted to the Department 723 of Revenue. The corporation shall notify the clerk of the court 724 and the Department of Revenue of the amount due to the 725 Department of Revenue. The clerk of the court shall remit the

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726 amount due no later than the 10th day of the month following the 727 month in which notice is provided by the corporation to the 728 <u>clerk of the court.</u>

729 (5) (2) Ten Except as otherwise provided in ss. 28.241 and 730 34.041, all court-related fines, fees, service charges, and 731 costs are considered state funds and shall be remitted by the 732 clerk to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Clerks 733 of the Court Trust Fund within the Justice Administrative Commission. However, 10 percent of all court-related fines 734 735 collected by the clerk, except for penalties or fines distributed to counties or municipalities under s. 736 737 316.0083(1)(b)3. or s. 318.18(15)(a), shall be deposited into 738 the clerk's Public Records Modernization Trust Fund to be used 739 exclusively for additional clerk court-related operational needs 740 and program enhancements.

Section 9. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
34.041, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (a) of that
subsection is republished, to read:

34.041 Filing fees.-

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(1) (a) Filing fees are due at the time a party files a 745 pleading to initiate a proceeding or files a pleading for 746 747 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 748 749 the filing of a final order or final judgment with the clerk. If 750 a fee is not paid upon the filing of the pleading as required under this section, the clerk shall pursue collection of the fee 751 752 pursuant to s. 28.246. Upon the institution of any civil action, 753 suit, or proceeding in county court, the party shall pay the 754 following filing fee, not to exceed:

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755	1. For all claims less than \$100
756	2. For all claims of \$100 or more but not more than \$500\$75.
757	3. For all claims of more than \$500 but not more than
758	\$2,500\$170.
759	4. For all claims of more than \$2,500\$295.
760	5. In addition, for all proceedings of garnishment,
761	attachment, replevin, and distress\$85.
762	6. Notwithstanding subparagraphs 3. and 5., for all claims
763	of not more than \$1,000 filed simultaneously with an action for
764	replevin of property that is the subject of the claim\$125.
765	7. For removal of tenant action
766	
767	The filing fee in subparagraph 6. is the total fee due under
768	this paragraph for that type of filing, and no other filing fee
769	under this paragraph may be assessed against such a filing.
770	(b) The first \$80 of the filing fee collected under
771	subparagraph (a)4. shall be remitted to the Department of
772	Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund. The next \$15
773	of the filing fee collected under subparagraph (a)4. $_{ au}$ and the
774	first \$10 of the filing fee collected under subparagraph (a)7. $_{m au}$
775	shall be deposited in the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund. <u>By</u>
776	the 10th day of each month, the clerk shall submit that portion
777	of the fees collected in the previous month which is in excess
778	of one-twelfth of the clerk's total budget for the performance
779	of court-related functions to the Department of Revenue for
780	deposit into the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund. An additional
781	filing fee of \$4 shall be paid to the clerk. The clerk shall
782	transfer \$3.50 to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the
783	Court Education Trust Fund and shall transfer 50 cents to the

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20131512er 784 Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Clerks 785 of the Court Trust Fund within the Department of Financial 786 Services Justice Administrative Commission to fund clerk 787 education provided by the Florida Clerks of Court Operations 788 Corporation. Postal charges incurred by the clerk of the county 789 court in making service by mail on defendants or other parties 790 shall be paid by the party at whose instance service is made. 791 Except as provided in this section herein, filing fees and 792 service charges for performing duties of the clerk relating to 793 the county court shall be as provided in ss. 28.24 and 28.241. 794 Except as otherwise provided in this section herein, all filing 795 fees shall be retained as fee income of the office of the clerk 796 of the circuit court remitted to the Department of Revenue for 797 deposit into the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the 798 Justice Administrative Commission. Filing fees imposed by this 799 section may not be added to any penalty imposed by chapter 316 800 or chapter 318. 801 Section 10. Subsection (5) of section 43.16, Florida 802 Statutes, is amended to read: 43.16 Justice Administrative Commission; membership, powers 803 804 and duties.-805 (5) The duties of the commission shall include, but not be 806 limited to, the following:

(a) The maintenance of a central state office for
administrative services and assistance when possible to and on
behalf of the state attorneys and public defenders of Florida,
the capital collateral regional counsel of Florida, the criminal
conflict and civil regional counsel, <u>and</u> the Guardian Ad Litem
Program, and the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation.

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813 (b) Each state attorney, public defender, and criminal 814 conflict and civil regional counsel and $_{ au}$ the Guardian Ad Litem 815 Program, and the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation 816 shall continue to prepare necessary budgets, vouchers that represent valid claims for reimbursement by the state for 817 authorized expenses, and other things incidental to the proper 818 819 administrative operation of the office, such as revenue 820 transmittals to the Chief Financial Officer and automated 821 systems plans, but will forward such items same to the 822 commission for recording and submission to the proper state 823 officer. However, when requested by a state attorney, a public 824 defender, a criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, or the 825 Guardian Ad Litem Program, the commission will either assist in 826 the preparation of budget requests, voucher schedules, and other forms and reports or accomplish the entire project involved. 827 828 Section 11. Paragraph (x) of subsection (2) of section 829 110.205, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 830 110.205 Career service; exemptions.-831 (2) EXEMPT POSITIONS.-The exempt positions that are not 832 covered by this part include the following: 833 (x) All officers and employees of the Justice 834 Administrative Commission, Office of the State Attorney, Office 835 of the Public Defender, regional offices of capital collateral 836 counsel, offices of criminal conflict and civil regional 837 counsel, and Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office, including the 838 circuit guardian ad litem programs and the Florida Clerks of 839 Court Operations Corporation. 840

840 Section 12. Section 142.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to 841 read:

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	142.01 Fine and forfeiture fund; disposition of revenue;
843	clerk of the circuit court
844	(1) There shall be established by the clerk of the circuit
845	court in each county of this state a separate fund to be known
846	as the fine and forfeiture fund for use by the clerk of the
847	circuit court in performing court-related functions. The fund
848	shall consist of the following:
849	(a) Fines and penalties pursuant to ss. 28.2402(2),
850	34.045(2), 316.193, 327.35, 327.72, 379.2203(1), and 775.083(1).
851	(b) That portion of civil penalties directed to this fund
852	pursuant to s. 318.21.
853	(c) Court costs pursuant to ss. 28.2402(1)(b),
854	34.045(1)(b), 318.14(10)(b), 318.18(11)(a), 327.73(9)(a) and
855	(11)(a), and 938.05(3).
856	(d) Proceeds from forfeited bail bonds, unclaimed bonds,
857	unclaimed moneys, or recognizances pursuant to ss. 321.05(4)(a),
858	379.2203(1), and 903.26(3)(a).
859	(e) Fines and forfeitures pursuant to s. 34.191.
860	(f) Filing fees received pursuant to ss. 28.241 and 34.041,
861	unless the disposition of such fees is otherwise required by
862	law.
863	(g) (f) All other revenues received by the clerk as revenue
864	authorized by law to be retained by the clerk.
865	(2) All revenues received by the clerk in the fine and
866	forfeiture fund from court-related fees, fines, costs, and
867	service charges are considered state funds and shall be remitted
868	monthly to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Clerks
869	of the Court Trust Fund within the Justice Administrative
870	Commission.

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871	(2)-(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, all
872	fines and forfeitures arising from operation of the provisions
873	of s. 318.1215 shall be disbursed in accordance with that
874	section.
875	Section 13. Section 213.131, Florida Statutes, is amended
876	to read:
877	213.131 Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the
878	Department of Revenue Justice Administrative CommissionThe
879	Clerks of the Court Trust Fund is created within the Department
880	of Revenue Justice Administrative Commission.
881	Section 14. Subsection (2) of section 215.22, Florida
882	Statutes, is amended to read:
883	215.22 Certain income and certain trust funds exempt
884	(2) Moneys and income of a revenue nature shared with
885	political subdivisions or received from taxes or fees authorized
886	to be levied by any political subdivision, including moneys from
887	service charges, fees, costs, and fines deposited into the
888	Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the Department of Revenue,
889	shall be exempt from the deduction required by s. 215.20(1).
890	Section 15. Paragraph (qq) of subsection (1) of section
891	216.011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
892	216.011 Definitions
893	(1) For the purpose of fiscal affairs of the state,
894	appropriations acts, legislative budgets, and approved budgets,
895	each of the following terms has the meaning indicated:
896	(qq) "State agency" or "agency" means any official,
897	officer, commission, board, authority, council, committee, or
898	department of the executive branch of state government. For
899	purposes of this chapter and chapter 215, "state agency" or

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900 "agency" includes, but is not limited to, state attorneys, 901 public defenders, criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, 902 capital collateral regional counsel, the Florida Clerks of Court 903 Operations Corporation, the Justice Administrative Commission, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, and the Florida Public 904 905 Service Commission. Solely for the purposes of implementing s. 906 19(h), Art. III of the State Constitution, the terms "state 907 agency" or "agency" include the judicial branch. 908 Section 16. For the period of July 1, 2013, through 909 September 30, 2013, the clerks of the court are permitted to 910 spend \$110,845,078 of their total collected revenues and the 911 Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation is permitted to 912 spend \$405,412 of the revenues collected to fund the 913 corporation's contract with the Department of Financial Services 914 pursuant to s. 27.35(4), Florida Statutes. The Florida Clerks of 915 Court Operations Corporation shall determine budget amounts for 916 the individual clerks for that period. For the county fiscal 917 year beginning October 1, 2013, and ending September 30, 2014, 918 the clerks of the court are permitted to spend \$443,380,312 of their total collected revenues and the Florida Clerks of Court 919 920 Operations Corporation is permitted to spend \$1,621,648 of the 921 revenues collected to fund the corporation's contract with the 922 Department of Financial Services pursuant to s. 27.35(4), 923 Florida Statutes. The Florida Clerks of Court Operations 924 Corporation shall determine budget amounts for the individual 925 clerks for that period. 926 Section 17. Notwithstanding the requirement in s. 28.245, 927 Florida Statutes, that all moneys collected by the clerks of 928 court be distributed pursuant to the law in effect at the time

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929	of collection, the modifications in the distribution of moneys
930	made in sections 3, 9, and 12 of this act shall be applied to
931	moneys collected during June 2013. This section shall take
932	effect upon becoming law.
933	Section 18. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
934	act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon
935	this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,
936	2013.

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