

By the Committee on Judiciary; and Senator Baxley

590-02663-19

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to background screening; amending ss.
3 25.386 and 44.106, F.S.; requiring that applicants for
4 certification as a foreign language court interpreter
5 or as a mediator, respectively, undergo certain
6 background security investigations; providing an
7 effective date.

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

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11 Section 1. Section 25.386, Florida Statutes, is amended to
12 read:

13 25.386 Foreign language court interpreters.—

14 (1) The Supreme Court shall establish minimum standards and
15 procedures for qualifications, certification, professional
16 conduct, discipline, and training of foreign language court
17 interpreters who are appointed by a court of competent
18 jurisdiction. The Supreme Court shall set fees to be charged to
19 applicants for certification and renewal of certification as a
20 foreign language court interpreter. The revenues generated from
21 such fees shall be used to offset the costs of administration of
22 the certification program and shall be deposited into the
23 Administrative Trust Fund within the state courts system. The
24 Supreme Court may appoint or employ such personnel as are
25 necessary to assist the court in administering this section.

26 (2) An applicant for certification as a foreign language
27 court interpreter shall undergo security background
28 investigations that include, but need not be limited to, the
29 submission of a full set of fingerprints to the Department of

590-02663-19

2019656c1

30 Law Enforcement or to a vendor, entity, or agency authorized
31 under s. 943.053(13). The vendor, entity, or agency shall
32 forward the applicant's fingerprints to the Department of Law
33 Enforcement for state processing, and the Department of Law
34 Enforcement shall forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau
35 of Investigation for national processing.

36 Section 2. Section 44.106, Florida Statutes, is amended to
37 read:

38 44.106 Standards and procedures for mediators and
39 arbitrators; fees.—

40 (1) The Supreme Court shall establish minimum standards and
41 procedures for qualifications, certification, professional
42 conduct, discipline, and training for mediators and arbitrators
43 who are appointed pursuant to this chapter. The Supreme Court is
44 authorized to set fees to be charged to applicants for
45 certification and renewal of certification. The revenues
46 generated from these fees shall be used to offset the costs of
47 administration of the certification process. The Supreme Court
48 may appoint or employ such personnel as are necessary to assist
49 the court in exercising its powers and performing its duties
50 under this chapter.

51 (2) An applicant for certification as a mediator shall
52 undergo security background investigations that include, but
53 need not be limited to, the submission of a full set of
54 fingerprints to the Department of Law Enforcement or to a
55 vendor, entity, or agency authorized under s. 943.053(13). The
56 vendor, entity, or agency shall forward the applicant's
57 fingerprints to the Department of Law Enforcement for state
58 processing, and the Department of Law Enforcement shall forward

590-02663-19

2019656c1

59 the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for
60 national processing.

61 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.