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1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to translation services; amending ss.
3	28.35 and 28.215, F.S.; authorizing a clerk of the
4	circuit court to provide translation services;
5	creating s. 28.217, F.S.; authorizing a clerk of the
6	circuit court to contract with a third-party
7	translation service provider to provide translation
8	services; requiring that such service by a clerk of
9	the circuit court be ministerial assistance only;
10	prohibiting a clerk of the circuit court from
11	providing legal advice; providing construction;
12	providing that the clerk of the circuit court is not
13	required to provide translation services; providing an
14	effective date.
15	
16	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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18	Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
19	28.35, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
20	28.35 Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation
21	(3)(a) The list of court-related functions that clerks may
22	fund from filing fees, service charges, court costs, and fines
23	is limited to those functions expressly authorized by law or
24	court rule. Those functions include the following: case
25	maintenance; records management; court preparation and
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26 attendance; translation services; processing the assignment, 27 reopening, and reassignment of cases; processing of appeals; 28 collection and distribution of fines, fees, service charges, and 29 court costs; processing of bond forfeiture payments; data collection and reporting; determinations of indigent status; and 30 paying reasonable administrative support costs to enable the 31 32 clerk of the court to carry out these court-related functions. Section 2. Section 28.215, Florida Statutes, is amended to 33 34 read: 28.215 Pro se assistance.-The clerk of the circuit court 35 36 shall provide ministerial assistance to pro se litigants. 37 (1) Assistance may shall not include the provision of 38 legal advice. 39 (2) Assistance may include translation services to pro se litigants under s. 28.217. 40 41 Section 3. Section 28.217, Florida Statutes, is created to 42 read: 43 28.217 Translation services.-The clerk of the circuit court may contract with a 44 (1) 45 third-party translation service provider for translation services for civil cases. The provision of such services is 46 47 ministerial and constitutes a court-related function under s. 48 28.35(3)(a), and such services are an allowable expenditure by 49 the clerk of the circuit court under s. 28.36. 50 (2) Translation services may be made available to any Page 2 of 3

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51	party requesting such services, regardless of whether the party
52	is represented by counsel. The clerk of the circuit court shall
53	provide ministerial assistance only in making such services
54	available, and such assistance may not include the provision of
55	legal advice.
56	(3) Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit a
57	party from providing for his or own translation service or
58	third-party translation service provider.
59	(4) The provision of translation services under this
60	section is an optional court-related function and nothing in
61	this section requires the clerk of the circuit court to provide
62	such services.
63	Section 4. This act shall take effect October 1, 2023.
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