1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

1112

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

2021

22

23

24

25

A bill to be entitled An act relating to clerks of court; amending s. 28.101, F.S.; revising the collections requirements of a clerk of court when a party petitions for a dissolution of marriage; amending s. 28.2401, F.S.; revising the collections requirements of a clerk of court in probate matters; amending s. 28.241, F.S.; revising the collections requirements of a clerk of court in trial and appellate proceedings; revising the allocation of filing fees in trial and appellate proceedings in certain instances; amending s. 28.35, F.S.; revising the duties of the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation; amending s. 28.37, F.S.; revising the collections requirements of a clerk of court as it relates to fines, fees, service charges, and costs remitted to the state; amending s. 34.041, F.S.; revising the collections requirements of a clerk of court as it relates to filing fees in county court; amending s. 40.29, F.S.; authorizing a clerk of court to submit a request for reimbursement of certain due process costs in criminal proceedings; providing reimbursement to a clerk of court for an application for civil indigency when certain requirements are met; establishing submission and form requirements for requests for reimbursement for an application for

Page 1 of 19

civil indigency; requiring the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation to certify the amount of certain court-related employee costs; amending s.

318.18, F.S.; revising the collections requirements of a clerk of court as it relates to an additional civil penalty; removing a provision that excludes an additional civil penalty from the budget of the clerk of court; removing a provision that excludes an Article V assessment from the budget of the clerk of court; amending ss. 741.30, 784.046, 784.0485, F.S.; removing provisions allowing a clerk of court to request reimbursement; providing an effective date.

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

- Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 28.101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 28.101 Petitions and records of dissolution of marriage;
 44 additional charges.—
 - (1) When a party petitions for a dissolution of marriage, in addition to the filing charges in s. 28.241, the clerk shall collect and receive:
 - (c) A charge of \$37.50. On a monthly basis, The clerk shall deposit the moneys collected pursuant to this paragraph in the fine and forfeiture fund established pursuant to s. 142.01

Page 2 of 19

)	transfer the moneys collected pursuant to this paragraph to the
52	Department of Revenue for deposit in the General Revenue Fund.
53	Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 28.2401, Florida
54	Statutes, is amended to read:
55	28.2401 Service charges and filing fees in probate
6	matters.—
57	(1) Except when otherwise provided, the clerk may impose
8 6	service charges or filing fees for the following services or
59	filings, not to exceed the following amounts:
50	(a) Fee for the opening of any estate of one document or
51	more, including, but not limited to, petitions and orders to
52	approve settlement of minor's claims; to open a safe-deposit
53	box; to enter rooms and places; for the determination of heirs,
54	if not formal administration; and for a foreign guardian to
55	manage property of a nonresident; but not to include issuance of
56	letters or order of summary administration\$230
57	(b) Charge for caveat\$40
8 6	(c) Fee for petition and order to admit foreign wills,
59	authenticated copies, exemplified copies, or transcript to
70	record\$230
71	(d) Fee for disposition of personal property without
72	administration\$230
73	(e) Fee for summary administration—estates valued at
7 4	\$1,000 or more\$340
7 5	(f) Fee for summary administration—estates valued at less

Page 3 of 19

76	than \$1,000\$230
77	(g) Fee for formal administration, guardianship,
78	ancillary, curatorship, or conservatorship proceedings\$395
79	(h) Fee for guardianship proceedings of person only \$230
80	(i) Fee for veterans' guardianship pursuant to chapter 744\$230
81	(j) Charge for exemplified certificates\$7
82	(k) Fee for petition for determination of incompetency \$230
83	
84	The clerk shall remit \$115 of each filing fee collected under
85	paragraphs (a), (c)-(i), and (k) to the Department of Revenue
86	for deposit into the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund and shall
87	remit \$15 of each filing fee collected under paragraphs (a),
88	(c), (d), (f), (h), (i), and (k), \$1 of each filing fee
89	collected under paragraph (j), \$5 of each filing fee collected
90	under paragraph (b), \$25 of each filing fee collected under
91	paragraph (e), and \$30 of each filing fee collected under
92	paragraph (g) to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the
93	General Revenue Fund.
94	Section 3. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (1) of
95	section 28.241, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
96	28.241 Filing fees for trial and appellate proceedings.—
97	(1) Filing fees are due at the time a party files a
98	pleading to initiate a proceeding or files a pleading for
99	relief. Reopen fees are due at the time a party files a pleading
100	to reopen a proceeding if at least 90 days have elapsed since

Page 4 of 19

CODING: Words $\frac{\text{stricken}}{\text{stricken}}$ are deletions; words $\frac{\text{underlined}}{\text{ore additions}}$.

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.

101

102

103

104

105

106

107

108

109

110

111

112

113

114

115

116

117

118

119

120

121

122

123

124

125

(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. By the 10th of each month, the clerk shall submit that portion of the filing fees collected in the previous month which is in excess of one-twelfth of the clerk's total budget to the

Page 5 of 19

Department of Revenue for deposit into the Clerks of the Court

Trust Fund.

126

127

128

129

130

131

132

133

134

135

136

137

138

139

140

141

142

143

144

145

146

147

148

149

150

- The party instituting any civil action, suit, or b. 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 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.
- 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

Page 6 of 19

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 subparagraph
 1., a party instituting a civil action in circuit court relating
 to real property or mortgage foreclosure shall pay a graduated
 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 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

Page 8 of 19

of individual clerks' court-related expenditures conducted by the Department of Financial Services;

201

202

203

204

205

206

207

208

209

210

211

212

213

214

215

216

217

218

219

220

221

222

223224

225

- 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 \$705 in filing fees, \$350\$700 must be remitted by the clerk to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, except that the first \$1.5 million in such filing fees remitted to the Department of Revenue and deposited into the General Revenue Fund in fiscal year 2018-2019 shall be distributed to the Miami-Dade County Clerk of Court; \$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, \div 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

Page 9 of 19

excess of five. Of the first \$1,240 \$1,705 in filing fees, \$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 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 filling 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 filling fee of up to \$18 shall be paid by the party seeking each severance that is granted. The clerk may impose an additional filling 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.

- (d) The clerk of court shall collect a service charge of \$10 for issuing an original, a certified copy, 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.
- Section 4. Paragraph (i) of subsection (2) of section 28.35, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (j) is added to that subsection, to read:
 - 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 $\underline{s.\ 40.29(6)}$ and $\underline{(7)}\ \underline{s.\ 40.29(6)}$. 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

Page 11 of 19

changes necessary to conform to the legislative budget instructions, and shall be submitted to the Governor for transmittal to the Legislature.

2.76

- (j) Annually preparing a budget request which,
 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 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.
- Section 5. Subsection (3) of section 28.37, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 28.37 Fines, fees, service charges, and costs remitted to the state.—
- (3) The portion of all fines, fees, service charges, and costs collected by the clerks of the court for the previous quarter month which is in excess of one-fourth one-twelfth of the clerks' total budget for the performance of court-related functions must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund. Such

Page 12 of 19

collections do not include funding received for the operation of the Title IV-D child support collections and disbursement program. The clerk of the court shall remit the revenues collected during the previous <u>quarter</u> month due to the state on or before the 10th day of <u>the next preceding month immediately following the quarterly calculation</u> each month.

Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 34.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

34.041 Filing fees.—

310 (1)

(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

Page 13 of 19

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.

- Section 7. 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; reimbursement for applications for civil indigency; Florida Retirement System costs.—
- (6) Subject to legislative appropriation, the clerk of the circuit court may, 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. For orders filed under ss. 741.30, 784.046, and 784.0485, the clerk may, on a quarterly basis, submit a request for reimbursement at the rate of \$60 per petition. From this reimbursement, the clerk shall pay a law enforcement agency serving the injunction a fee of no more than \$20, 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 clerk of the

Page 14 of 19

Administrative Commission a certified request for reimbursement for approved applications for civil indigency under s. 57.082, in which the civil filing fee has been waived, at the rate of \$195 per approved application. Such request for reimbursement shall be submitted in the form and manner prescribed by the Justice Administrative Commission under 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 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (8) and subsection (19) 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, $\frac{$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 must be retained by

Page 15 of 19

376

377

378

379

380

381

382

383

384

385

386

387

388

389

390

391

392

393

394

395

396

397

398

399

400

the clerk to be deposited in the Public Records Modernization Trust Fund and used exclusively for funding court-related technology needs of the clerk as described in s. 29.008(1)(f)2. and (h), respectively. 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.

- (19) In addition to any penalties imposed, an Article V assessment of \$10 must be paid for all noncriminal moving and nonmoving violations under chapters 316, 320, and 322. The assessment 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. Of the funds collected under this subsection:
 - (a) The sum of \$5 shall be deposited in the State Courts

Page 16 of 19

401	Revenue Trust Fund for use by the state courts system;
402	(b) The sum of \$3.33 shall be deposited in the State
403	Attorneys Revenue Trust Fund for use by the state attorneys; and
404	(c) The sum of \$1.67 shall be deposited in the Indigent
405	Criminal Defense Trust Fund for use by the public defenders.
406	Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
407	741.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
408	741.30 Domestic violence; injunction; powers and duties of
409	court and clerk; petition; notice and hearing; temporary
410	injunction; issuance of injunction; statewide verification
411	system; enforcement; public records exemption
412	(2)(a) Notwithstanding any other law, the assessment of a
413	filing fee for a petition for protection against domestic
414	violence is prohibited. However, subject to legislative
415	appropriation, the clerk of the circuit court may, on a
416	quarterly basis, submit to the Office of the State Courts
417	Administrator a certified request for reimbursement for
418	petitions for protection against domestic violence issued by the
419	court, at the rate of \$40 per petition. The request for
420	reimbursement must be submitted in the form and manner
421	prescribed by the Office of the State Courts Administrator. From
422	this reimbursement, the clerk shall pay any law enforcement
423	agency serving the injunction the fee requested by the law
424	enforcement agency; however, this fee may not exceed \$20.
425	Section 10. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section

Page 17 of 19

426 784.046, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 427 784.046 Action by victim of repeat violence, sexual 428 violence, or dating violence for protective injunction; dating 429 violence investigations, notice to victims, and reporting; 430 pretrial release violations; public records exemption.-431 (3) 432 (b) Notwithstanding any other law, the clerk of the court may not assess a fee for filing a petition for protection 433 434 against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence. 435 However, subject to legislative appropriation, the clerk of the 436 court may, each quarter, submit to the Office of the State 437 Courts Administrator a certified request for reimbursement for 438 petitions for protection issued by the court under this section 439 at the rate of \$40 per petition. The request for reimbursement 440 shall be submitted in the form and manner prescribed by the 441 Office of the State Courts Administrator. From this 442 reimbursement, the clerk shall pay the law enforcement agency 443 serving the injunction the fee requested by the law enforcement 444 agency; however, this fee may not exceed \$20. 445 Section 11. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 784.0485, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 446 447 784.0485 Stalking; injunction; powers and duties of court 448 and clerk; petition; notice and hearing; temporary injunction;

Page 18 of 19

issuance of injunction; statewide verification system;

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

449

450

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. 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 12. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.