Florida Senate - 2025 Bill No. CS for SB 846



LEGISLATIVE ACTION .

Senate Comm: RCS 04/16/2025 House

The Committee on Rules (Polsky) recommended the following:

## Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Subsection (11) of section 117.05, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (10) of that section is republished, to read:

117.05 Use of notary commission; unlawful use; notary fee; 9 seal; duties; employer liability; name change; advertising; 10 photocopies; penalties.-

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(10) A notary public who is not an attorney who advertises

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12 the services of a notary public in a language other than 13 English, whether by radio, television, signs, pamphlets, 14 newspapers, or other written communication, with the exception 15 of a single desk plaque, shall post or otherwise include with the advertisement a notice in English and in the language used 16 17 for the advertisement. The notice shall be of a conspicuous size, if in writing, and shall state: "I AM NOT AN ATTORNEY 18 19 LICENSED TO PRACTICE LAW IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA, AND I MAY NOT 20 GIVE LEGAL ADVICE OR ACCEPT FEES FOR LEGAL ADVICE." If the 21 advertisement is by radio or television, the statement may be modified but must include substantially the same message. 22

(11) (a) Literal translation of the phrase "Notary Public" into a language other than English is prohibited in an advertisement for notarial services.

(b) A notary public who is not authorized to represent a person in an immigration matter may not, when advertising his or her notary public services, use the terms notario público, notario, immigration assistant, immigration consultant, or immigration specialist, or any other designation or title, in any language, which conveys or implies that he or she possesses professional legal skills in immigration law.

33 Section 2. Section 117.051, Florida Statutes, is created to 34 read:

<u>117.051</u> Civil cause of action.—A person aggrieved by a violation of s. 117.05(10) or (11) has a civil cause of action against the entity violating such provision for, where

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(1) Declaratory or injunctive relief.

(2) Actual damages.

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41	(3) Reasonable attorney fees and costs.
42	Section 3. Section 501.1391, Florida Statutes, is created
43	to read:
44	501.1391 Fraud prevention in the advertisement of
45	immigration services
46	(1) A business or person offering immigration services,
47	other than a person holding an active license to practice law in
48	this state or otherwise permitted to practice law or represent
49	others under federal law in an immigration matter, must post on
50	the business's or person's main website and at the business's or
51	person's place of business, in English and in every other
52	language in which the business or person provides or offers
53	immigration services, conspicuous notices with the following
54	statement:
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56	I AM NOT AN ATTORNEY LICENSED TO PRACTICE LAW AND MAY
57	NOT GIVE LEGAL ADVICE OR ACCEPT FEES FOR LEGAL ADVICE.
58	I AM NOT ACCREDITED TO REPRESENT YOU IN IMMIGRATION
59	MATTERS.
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61	(2) A person aggrieved by a violation of subsection (1) has
62	a civil cause of action against the person or business violating
63	such provision for, where appropriate:
64	(a) Declaratory or injunctive relief.
65	(b) Actual damages.
66	(c) Reasonable attorney fees and costs.
67	Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.
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70	And the title is amended as follows:
71	Delete everything before the enacting clause
72	and insert:
73	A bill to be entitled
74	An act relating to advertisements for representation
75	services; amending s. 117.05, F.S.; prohibiting
76	notaries public from using specified terms to describe
77	themselves under certain circumstances; creating s.
78	117.051, F.S.; creating a civil cause of action for
79	declaratory or injunctive relief and to recover
80	damages and attorney fees and costs; creating s.
81	501.1391, F.S.; requiring certain businesses or
82	persons offering immigration services to post a
83	conspicuous notice with a specified statement;
84	creating a civil cause of action for declaratory or
85	injunctive relief and to recover damages and attorney
86	fees and costs; providing an effective date.