

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to fines and court costs;  
3           creating s. 938.35, F.S.; providing that a  
4           county may assign the collection of fines,  
5           court costs, and other costs imposed by the  
6           court arising from offenses committed in the  
7           county and remaining unpaid after a certain  
8           period to a private attorney or collection  
9           agency under specified circumstances; providing  
10          guide lines and procedures; providing  
11          attorney's fees to offset collection costs;  
12          providing a limitation; providing an effective  
13          date.

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

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17           Section 1. Section 938.35, Florida Statutes, is  
18          created to read:

19           938.35 Collection of court-related financial  
20          obligations.--Any provision of law notwithstanding, a county  
21          may pursue the collection of any fines, court costs, or other  
22          costs imposed by the court which remain unpaid for 90 days or  
23          more, or refer such collection to a private attorney who is a  
24          member in good standing of The Florida Bar or collection agent  
25          who is registered and in good standing pursuant to chapter  
26          559. In pursuing the collection of such unpaid financial  
27          obligations through a private attorney or collection agent,  
28          the governing body of the county must determine that such  
29          collection is cost-effective and the county must follow  
30          applicable procurement practices. The costs of collection,  
31          including a reasonable attorney's fee, may be recovered,

1 except that such fines and costs of collection may not exceed  
2 40 percent of the total fines and costs owed.

3 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998.  
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