

By Representative Brown

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to county court assessments;
3 amending s. 34.191, F.S.; providing that the
4 county commission may assign the collection of
5 fines, court costs, and other costs imposed by
6 the county court and remaining unpaid after a
7 certain period to a private attorney or
8 collection agency under specified
9 circumstances; providing for authorization by
10 the county commission of any additional fee to
11 offset collection costs; providing an effective
12 date.

13
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15
16 Section 1. Section 34.191, Florida Statutes, is
17 amended to read:

18 34.191 Fines, forfeitures, and costs.--

19 (1) All fines and forfeitures arising from offenses
20 tried in the county court shall be collected and accounted for
21 by the clerk of the court and deposited in a special trust
22 account. All fines and forfeitures received from violations of
23 ordinances or misdemeanors committed within a county, or of
24 municipal ordinances committed within a municipality within
25 the territorial jurisdiction of the county court, shall be
26 paid monthly to the county or municipality respectively except
27 as provided in s. 318.21 or s. 943.25.

28 (2) The county commission may assign the collection of
29 fines, court costs, and other costs imposed by the court which
30 remain unpaid for 90 days or more to a private attorney or
31 collection agency that is licensed or registered in this

1 state, if the county commission determines the assignment to
2 be cost-effective and has followed established bid practices.
3 The county commission may authorize a fee to be added to the
4 outstanding balance to offset any collection costs that would
5 be incurred.

6 ~~(3)(2)~~ All court costs assessed in county court must
7 be paid to and retained by the county, except as provided in
8 s. 943.25 and subsection~~(4)(3)~~ of this section.

9 ~~(4)(3)~~ If a municipality incurs any cost of operation
10 of the county court, including any cost of prosecution, it may
11 apply to the chief judge of the circuit for an order directing
12 the county to distribute reasonable court costs to the
13 municipality. If not satisfied with the order of the chief
14 judge, the municipality may apply to the Supreme Court for an
15 order apportioning the costs.

16 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1 of the
17 year in which enacted.

18 *****
19 *****

20 HOUSE SUMMARY

21 Provides that the county commission may assign the
22 collection of fines, court costs, and other costs imposed
23 by the county court and remaining unpaid after a certain
24 period to a private attorney or collection agency under
25 specified circumstances. Provides for authorization by
26 the county commission of any additional fee to offset
27 collection costs.
28
29
30
31