

**STORAGE NAME:** h4643.cj

**DATE:** April 4, 1998

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE APPROPRIATIONS  
TRUST FUND RE-CREATION BILL RESEARCH**

**BILL #:** HB 4643 (PCB CJ 98-37)

**RELATING TO:** Family Courts Trust Fund

**SPONSOR(S):** Criminal Justice Appropriations

**COMPANION BILL(S):**

**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:**

(1) Criminal Justice Appropriations YEAS 7 NAYS 0

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

---

I. SUMMARY:

This legislation re-creates the Family Courts Trust Fund without modification. The Family Courts Trust Fund is administered by the State Courts System.

II. SUBSTANTIVE RESEARCH:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

1. MAJOR STATUTES THAT CONTROL THE TRUST FUND:

This bill provides for the re-creation of the Family Courts Trust Fund to be administered by the Florida Supreme Court. Moneys in the fund are used to implement family court plans in all judicial circuits. The fund is terminated on July 1, 1998, 4 years after its creation, unless re-created.

2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FUND'S USES OR PURPOSES:

Section 25.388(1)(b), F.S., provides that the Office of the State Courts Administrator shall adopt a comprehensive plan for the operation of the fund. The plan shall provide for the general administration of the family courts divisions, including guardian ad litem programs, mediation programs, legal support, training, automation, and other related costs incurred in relation to family law cases.

3. MAJOR SOURCES OF REVENUE FOR THE FUND:

Section 741.01(4), F.S., provides that an additional fee of \$25 shall be paid to the clerk upon application for a marriage license. The money collected will be forwarded to the clerk of the Supreme Court, monthly, for deposit in the Family Courts Trust Fund.

**STORAGE NAME:** h4643.cj

**DATE:** April 4, 1998

**PAGE 2**

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

This bill re-creates the trust fund without modification.

C. STATUTE(S) AFFECTED:

N/A

III. FISCAL RESEARCH & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

This legislation has no fiscal impact on state agencies or state funds, on local governments as a whole or on the private sector. It simply re-creates, without modification, an existing state trust fund and continues the current use of the fund.

IV. COMMENTS:

N/A

V. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

N/A

VI. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON: CRIMINAL JUSTICE APPROPRIATIONS

Prepared by:

Legislative Research Director:

---

Vanessa NesSmith

---

James P. DeBeaugrine