

**STORAGE NAME:** h4647.cj

**DATE:** April 4, 1998

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

**BILL #:** HB 4647 (PCB CJ 98-39)

**RELATING TO:** Mediation/Arbitration 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

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I. SUMMARY:

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

II. SUBSTANTIVE RESEARCH:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

1. MAJOR STATUTES THAT CONTROL THE TRUST FUND:

Section 44.106, F.S. provides the Supreme Court shall set standards for mediators and arbitrators, charge fees for certification, and appoint personnel as necessary to assist.

Section 44.108, F.S. creates the trust fund, provides for a service charge of no more than \$5 on circuit court proceedings, \$5 on county court proceedings, and \$45 on a petition for a modification of final judgment of dissolution, and provides that \$1 from each of the charges be transferred to the Supreme Court for deposit in the State Courts Mediation and Arbitration Trust Fund.

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

The receipts of the Mediation and Arbitration Trust Fund are expended for establishing minimum standards and procedures for qualifications, certification, professional conduct, discipline, and training for mediators and arbitrators. The 1998-1999 fiscal year appropriation is \$1,527,604.

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3. MAJOR SOURCES OF REVENUE FOR THE FUND:

The primary sources of revenue for the Mediation and Arbitration Trust Fund are service charges on court proceedings and from fees charged to applicants for certification and renewal of certification.

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

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