

By Representative Ritter

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to fees for services for
3 self-represented litigants; creating s. 25.389,
4 F.S.; providing for fees for services rendered
5 to self-represented litigants by the court;
6 providing for a handling fee; providing for
7 disposition of fees; amending s. 25.388, F.S.;
8 providing for the deposit of fees in the Family
9 Courts Trust Fund; providing an effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. Section 25.389, Florida Statutes, is
14 created to read:

15 25.389 Fees for services to self-represented
16 litigants.--

17 (1) A self-help fee not to exceed \$50 may be assessed
18 to self-represented litigants for the forms necessary for one
19 action and related services. The chief judge of each judicial
20 circuit shall establish the amount of the fee and may include
21 a waiver of the fee for indigency. The chief judge shall
22 determine the specific services available in a circuit;
23 however, the services provided shall be limited by rules of
24 the Supreme Court. The amount of the maximum fee shall be
25 adjusted annually by the Chief Justice on January 1, based
26 upon the most recent adjustment to the consumer price index.

27 (2) Fees shall be paid to the clerk of the court. The
28 clerk may retain a handling fee of 1 percent and shall deposit
29 the remainder of the fee in the Family Courts Trust Fund.

30 Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 25.388, Florida
31 Statutes, 1998 Supplement, is amended to read:

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25.388 Family Courts Trust Fund.--

(3) The trust fund shall be funded with moneys
generated from fees assessed pursuant to ss. 28.101, 25.389,
and 741.01(4).

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
law.

HOUSE SUMMARY

Provides for fees for services provided to
self-represented litigants. Provides for the deposit of
such fees, less a handling fee, in the Family Courts
Trust Fund. See bill for details.