

By Senator Diaz-Balart

37-1407A-99

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to fees for self-help services;  
3           creating s. 25.389, F.S.; authorizing the chief  
4           judge of each circuit to establish the amount  
5           of the fees; amending s. 25.388, F.S.;  
6           providing for funds to be deposited in the  
7           Family Courts Trust Fund; providing an  
8           effective date.

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

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

14           25.389 Fees for services to self-represented  
15 litigants.--

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

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

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

31           25.388 Family Courts Trust Fund.--

