

By Representative Peadar

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Thirteenth Judicial
3 Circuit; providing a definition; requiring the
4 establishment of an elder justice center for
5 certain purposes; providing requirements;
6 providing an appropriation; providing an
7 effective date.

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9 WHEREAS, there is continuous rapid growth in this
10 state's elderly population, and

11 WHEREAS, there are many persons in this state who
12 suffer from the infirmities of aging, and

13 WHEREAS, infirmities of aging may be manifested by
14 physical, mental, or emotional dysfunction to the extent that
15 a person may be impaired in the ability to adequately provide
16 for or secure his or her own care, protection, rights, or
17 access to the courts, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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21 Section 1. (1) For the purposes of this act, the term
22 "elder" means a person who is 60 years of age or older and who
23 suffers from infirmities of aging, as manifested by physical,
24 mental, or emotional dysfunction to the extent that the
25 ability of the person to adequately provide for or secure his
26 or her own care, protection, rights, or access to the courts
27 is impaired.

28 (2) The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit shall establish an
29 elder justice center to assist elder persons in achieving full
30 access to the judicial system, process and handle cases in
31 which an elder is a party, and enhance judicial responsiveness

1 to the needs of elder persons. All matters under the
2 jurisdiction of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit which involve
3 or relate to elder persons shall be administered by such
4 center. The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit shall revise its
5 procedures, staffing, support services, and other resources to
6 implement this subsection; provide for the availability of
7 alternative dispute resolution relating to matters involving
8 elder persons; and provide for additional judicial and court
9 personnel training for matters involving elder persons.

10 Section 2. The sum of \$350,000 is appropriated from
11 the State Courts System Grants and Donations Trust Fund to the
12 Thirteenth Judicial Circuit to implement the provisions of
13 this act.

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

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18 HOUSE SUMMARY

19 Requires the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit to establish an
20 elder justice center dedicated to managing cases relating
21 to matters involving elder persons.
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