By the Committee on Criminal Justice Appropriations and Representative Seiler $\,$

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the collection of court-ordered payments in criminal cases; amending s. 938.30, F.S.; authorizing the referral by the clerk of the court of court-imposed financial obligations payable to the county arising out of criminal cases which are past due to a collection agent or to a private attorney; authorizing the referral by the prosecutor of such financial obligations payable to the state; providing a limitation on the cost of collection; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (13) of section 938.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

938.30 Court-imposed financial obligations in criminal cases; supplementary proceedings.--

the county arising from criminal cases which are past due, and which have been reduced to judgment by the court, may be referred by the county commission or by the clerk of the court to a collection agent who is registered and in good standing pursuant to chapter 559 or a private attorney. Such referrals must be made in accordance with established bid practices.

(b) Any other provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, court-imposed financial obligations payable to the state arising from criminal cases which are past due, and which have been reduced to judgment by the court, may be

referred by the prosecutor to a collection agent who is registered and in good standing pursuant to chapter 559 or to a private attorney. In pursuing the collection of such unpaid financial obligations through a private attorney or collection agent, the prosecutor must determine that such collection is cost-effective and must follow applicable procurement practices. The costs of collection, including a reasonable attorney's fee, may be recovered, except that such fees and costs of collection may not exceed 40 percent of the total fines and costs owed. Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law. HOUSE SUMMARY Authorizes the referral by the clerk of the court of court-imposed financial obligations payable to the county arising from criminal cases which are past due and which have been reduced to judgment by the court to a collection agent or private attorney. Authorizes the referral by the prosecutor of such obligations owed to the state. See bill for details.