

Bill No. CS for CS for SB 2542

Barcode 740360

	CHAMBER ACTION	
<u>Senate</u>		<u>House</u>

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11 Senator Smith moved the following amendment:

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13 **Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

14 On page 68, between lines 17 and 18,

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16 insert:

17 Section 33. Subsection (3) of section 44.103, Florida
18 Statutes, is amended to read:

19 44.103 Court-ordered, nonbinding arbitration.--

20 (3) Arbitrators shall be selected and compensated in
21 accordance with rules adopted by the Supreme Court.

22 Arbitrators shall be compensated by the parties, or, upon a
 23 finding by the court that a party is indigent, an arbitrator
 24 may be partially or fully compensated from state funds
 25 according to the party's present ability to pay. At no time
 26 may an arbitrator charge more than \$1,000 per diem. Prior to
 27 approving the use of state funds to reimburse an arbitrator,
 28 the court must ensure that the party reimburses the portion of
 29 the total cost that the party is immediately able to pay and
 30 that the party has agreed to a payment plan established by the
 31 clerk of the court that will fully reimburse the state for the

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1 balance of all state costs for both the arbitrator and any
 2 costs of administering the payment plan and any collection
 3 efforts that may be necessary in the future. Whenever
 4 possible, qualified individuals who have volunteered their
 5 time to serve as arbitrators shall be appointed. If an
 6 arbitration program is funded pursuant to s. 44.108, volunteer
 7 arbitrators shall be entitled to be reimbursed pursuant to s.
 8 112.061 for all actual expenses necessitated by service as an
 9 arbitrator.

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11 (Redesignate subsequent sections.)

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14 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

15 And the title is amended as follows:

16 On page 7, line 28, after the semicolon,

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18 insert:

19 amending s. 44.103, F.S.; limiting the amount
 20 of per diem expenses that an arbitrator may
 21 charge;

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