

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to county-funded court employees; amending
 3 s. 29.0081, F.S.; requiring the county to provide certain
 4 benefits to county-funded court employees; requiring that
 5 the county be considered the employer; providing that
 6 county-funded court employees and other county employees
 7 may be aggregated for purposes of a flexible benefits
 8 plan; providing an 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 29.0081, Florida Statutes, is amended
 13 to read:

14 29.0081 County funding of additional court personnel.--

15 (1) A county and the chief judge of a judicial circuit
 16 that includes that county may enter into an agreement under
 17 which the county funds personnel positions to assist in the
 18 operation of the circuit.

19 (2) The agreement shall, at a minimum, provide that:

20 (a) Funding for the positions is provided on at least a
 21 court fiscal-year basis.

22 (b) The personnel whose employment is funded under the
 23 agreement are employees of the judicial circuit and are hired,
 24 supervised, managed, and fired by personnel of the judicial
 25 circuit. The county shall provide benefits to county-funded
 26 court employees in the same manner that benefits are provided to
 27 other county employees, including, but not limited to, those
 28 specified in ss. 112.08(2)(a), 112.0801, and 112.215 and chapter

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29 121. The county shall be considered the employer for purposes of
30 ss. 440.10 and 443.036(19). County-funded court employees and
31 other county employees may be aggregated for purposes of a
32 flexible benefits plan pursuant to s. 125 of the Internal
33 Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

34 (c) The positions terminate upon the expiration of, or
35 substantial breach of, the agreement or upon the expiration of
36 county funding for the positions.

37 (3) Positions funded under this section shall be full-time
38 equivalent positions of the judicial circuit but shall not count
39 against any formula or similar process used by the Office of the
40 State Courts Administrator to determine personnel needs or
41 levels of a judicial circuit.

42 (4) Nothing in this section obligates the state to fund
43 any personnel positions.

44 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.