CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Florida Senate - 2009 Bill No. CS for SB 1718



LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	•	House
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The Conference Committee on CS for SB 1718 recommended the following:

Senate Conference Committee Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Section 26.57, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

26.57 Temporary designation of county court judge to preside over circuit court cases.—<u>A</u> <del>In each county where there</del> <del>is no resident circuit judge and the county court judge has been</del> <del>a member of the bar for at least 5 years and is qualified to be</del>

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12 a circuit judge, the county court judge may be designated on a temporary basis to preside over circuit court cases by the Chief 13 14 Justice of the Supreme Court upon recommendation of the chief judge of the circuit. He or she may be assigned to exercise all 15 16 county and circuit court jurisdiction in the county, except 17 appeals from the county court. In addition, he or she may be 18 required to perform the duties of circuit judge in other 19 counties of the circuit as time may permit and as the need 20 arises, as determined by the chief judge of the circuit. A 21 county court judge designated to preside over circuit court 22 cases shall receive the same salary as a circuit court judge, to 23 the extent that funds are specifically appropriated by law for 24 such purposes. 25 Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 27.511, Florida 26 Statutes, is amended to read: 27 27.511 Offices of criminal conflict and civil regional 28 counsel; legislative intent; qualifications; appointment; 29 duties.-30 (4) (a) Each regional counsel shall serve on a full-time 31 basis and may not engage in the private practice of law while 32 holding office. Assistant regional counsel shall give priority 33 and preference to their duties as assistant regional counsel and may not otherwise engage in the practice of criminal law. 34 35 However, part-time assistant regional counsel may practice 36 criminal law for private payment so long as the representation 37 does not result in a legal or ethical conflict of interest with 38 a case for which the office of criminal conflict and civil 39 regional counsel is providing representation. Assistant regional 40 counsel may not accept criminal cases for reimbursement by the



41 <u>state under s. 27.5304.</u> Assistant regional counsel may not 42 engage in civil proceedings for which the state compensates 43 attorneys under s. 27.5304.

44 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), part-time assistant 45 regional counsel may practice criminal law for private payment so long as the representation does not result in a legal or 46 ethical conflict of interest with a case for which the office of 47 criminal conflict and civil regional counsel is providing 48 49 representation. Assistant regional counsel may not accept 50 criminal cases for reimbursement by the state under s. 27.5304. 51 This paragraph expires June 30, 2010.

52 Section 3. Section 27.562, Florida Statutes, is amended to 53 read:

54 27.562 Disposition of funds.-The first \$50 of All funds collected pursuant to s. 938.29 shall be remitted to the 55 56 Department of Revenue for deposit deposited into the Indigent 57 Criminal Defense Trust Fund administered by the Justice Administrative Commission pursuant to s. 27.525 in satisfaction 58 59 of the application fee for a determination of indigent status 60 under s. 27.52 if the fee was not paid. The remaining funds collected pursuant to s. 938.29 shall be distributed as follows: 61

62 (1) Twenty-five percent shall be remitted to the Department
 63 of Revenue for deposit into the Justice Administrative
 64 Commission's Indigent Criminal Defense Trust Fund.

65 (2) Seventy-five percent shall be remitted to the
 66 Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund.
 67

68 The Justice Administrative Commission shall account for funds69 deposited into the Indigent Criminal Defense Trust Fund by

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70	circuit. Appropriations from the fund shall be proportional to
71	each circuit's collections. All judgments entered pursuant to
72	this part shall be in the name of the state.
73	Section 4. Effective June 1, 2009, section 28.2401, Florida
74	Statutes, is amended to read:
75	28.2401 Service charges and filing fees in probate
76	matters
77	(1) Except when otherwise provided, the clerk may impose
78	service charges <u>or filing fees</u> for the following services <u>or</u>
79	filings, not to exceed the following amounts:
80	(a) <u>Fee</u> for the opening of any estate of one document or
81	more, including, but not limited to, petitions and orders to
82	approve settlement of minor's claims; to open a safe-deposit
83	box; to enter rooms and places; for the determination of heirs,
84	if not formal administration; and for a foreign guardian to
85	manage property of a nonresident; but not to include issuance of
86	letters or order of summary administration $\frac{$230}{115}$
87	(b) <u>Charge for</u> caveat\$40
88	(c) <u>Fee for</u> petition and order to admit foreign wills,
89	authenticated copies, exemplified copies, or transcript to
90	record
91	(d) <u>Fee</u> for disposition of personal property without
92	administration
93	(e) <u>Fee for</u> summary administration—estates valued at \$1,000
94	or more
95	(f) <u>Fee for</u> summary administration—estates valued at less
96	than \$1,000 <u>\$230</u> <del>\$115</del>
97	(g) <u>Fee for</u> formal administration, guardianship, ancillary,
98	curatorship, or conservatorship proceedings $\dots \dots \dots \frac{\$395}{\$280}$

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99	(h) <u>Fee for</u> guardianship proceedings of person
100	only
101	(i) <u>Fee for</u> veterans' guardianship pursuant to
102	chapter 744
103	(j) <u>Charge for</u> exemplified certificates\$7
104	(k) Fee for petition for determination of
105	incompetency
106	
107	The clerk shall remit \$115 of each filing fee collected under
108	paragraphs (a), (c)-(i), and (k) to the Department of Revenue
109	for deposit into the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund.
110	(2) Upon application by the clerk and a showing of
111	extraordinary circumstances, the service charges or filing fees
112	set forth in this section may be increased in an individual
113	matter by order of the circuit court before which the matter is
114	pending, to more adequately compensate for the services
115	performed <u>or filings made</u> .
116	(3) An additional service charge of \$4 on petitions seeking
117	summary administration, formal administration, ancillary
118	administration, guardianship, curatorship, and conservatorship
119	shall be paid to the clerk. The clerk shall transfer \$3.50 to
120	the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Court Education
121	Trust Fund and shall transfer 50 cents to the Department of
122	Revenue for deposit into the Department of Financial Services'
123	Administrative Trust Fund to fund clerk education. No additional
124	fees, charges, or costs shall be added to the service charges <u>or</u>
125	filing fees imposed under this section, except as authorized by
126	general law.
127	(4) Recording shall be required for all petitions opening

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128 and closing an estate; petitions regarding real estate; and 129 orders, letters, bonds, oaths, wills, proofs of wills, returns, 130 and such other papers as the judge shall deem advisable to 131 record or that shall be required to be recorded under the 132 Florida Probate Code.

133Section 5. Effective June 1, 2009, subsections (1) and (2)134of section 28.241, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

28.241 Filing fees for trial and appellate proceedings.-

136 (1) (a) 1.a. Except as provided in sub-subparagraph b. and subparagraph 2., the party instituting any civil action, suit, 137 138 or proceeding in the circuit court shall pay to the clerk of 139 that court a filing fee of up to  $$395 \frac{$295}{100}$  in all cases in which there are not more than five defendants and an additional filing 140 141 fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant in excess of five. Of the first \$265 <del>\$85</del> in filing fees, \$80 must be remitted by the clerk 142 to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General 143 Revenue Fund, \$180 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue 144 145 for deposit into the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund, and \$5 146 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Department of Financial Services' Administrative Trust Fund 147 148 to fund the contract with the Florida Clerks of Court Operations 149 Corporation created in s. 28.35. The next \$15 of the filing fee 150 collected shall be deposited in the state courts' Mediation and 151 Arbitration Trust Fund. One-third of any filing fees collected 152 by the clerk of the circuit court in excess of \$100 shall be 153 remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the 154 Department of Revenue Clerks of the Court Trust Fund.

155 <u>b. The party instituting any civil action, suit, or</u> 156 proceeding in the circuit court under chapter 39, chapter 61,



157 chapter 741, chapter 742, chapter 747, chapter 752, or chapter 158 753 shall pay to the clerk of that court a filing fee of up to 159 \$295 in all cases in which there are not more than five 160 defendants and an additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each 161 defendant in excess of five. Of the first \$165 in filing fees, 162 \$80 must be remitted by the clerk to the Department of Revenue 163 for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, \$80 must be remitted 164 to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the State Courts 165 Revenue Trust Fund, and \$5 must be remitted to the Department of 166 Revenue for deposit into the Department of Financial Services' 167 Administrative Trust Fund to fund the contract with the Florida 168 Clerks of Court Operations Corporation created in s. 28.35. The 169 next \$15 of the filing fee collected shall be deposited in the 170 state courts' Mediation and Arbitration Trust Fund.

171 c. An additional filing fee of \$4 shall be paid to the 172 clerk. The clerk shall remit \$3.50 to the Department of Revenue 173 for deposit into the Court Education Trust Fund and shall remit 50 cents to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the 174 175 Department of Financial Services Administrative Trust Fund to 176 fund clerk education. An additional filing fee of up to \$18 177 shall be paid by the party seeking each severance that is granted. The clerk may impose an additional filing fee of up to 178 179 \$85 for all proceedings of garnishment, attachment, replevin, 180 and distress. Postal charges incurred by the clerk of the 181 circuit court in making service by certified or registered mail 182 on defendants or other parties shall be paid by the party at 183 whose instance service is made. No additional fees, charges, or costs shall be added to the filing fees imposed under this 184 185 section, except as authorized in this section herein or by

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186 general law.

187 2.a. Notwithstanding the fees prescribed in subparagraph 188 1., a party instituting a civil action in circuit court relating 189 to real property or mortgage foreclosure shall pay a graduated 190 filing fee based on the value of the claim.

191 b. A party shall estimate in writing the amount in 192 controversy of the claim upon filing the action. For purposes of 193 this subparagraph, the value of a mortgage foreclosure action is 194 based upon the principal due on the note secured by the 195 mortgage, plus interest owed on the note and any moneys advanced 196 by the lender for property taxes, insurance, and other advances 197 secured by the mortgage, at the time of filing the foreclosure. 198 The value shall also include the value of any tax certificates 199 related to the property. In stating the value of a mortgage 200 foreclosure claim, a party shall declare in writing the total 201 value of the claim, as well as the individual elements of the 202 value as prescribed in this sub-subparagraph.

203 c. In its order providing for the final disposition of the 204 matter, the court shall identify the actual value of the claim. 205 The clerk shall adjust the filing fee if there is a difference 206 between the estimated amount in controversy and the actual value 207 of the claim and collect any additional filing fee owed or 208 provide a refund of excess filing fee paid.

209 210 211 d. The party shall pay a filing fee of:

(I) Three hundred and ninety-five dollars in all cases in which the value of the claim is \$50,000 or less and in which 212 there are not more than five defendants. The party shall pay an 213 additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant in excess of five. Of the first \$265 in filing fees, \$80 must be 214

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215	remitted by the clerk to the Department of Revenue for deposit
216	into the General Revenue Fund, \$180 must be remitted to the
217	Department of Revenue for deposit into the State Courts Revenue
218	Trust Fund, and \$5 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue
219	for deposit into the Department of Financial Services'
220	Administrative Trust Fund to fund the contract with the Florida
221	Clerks of Court Operations Corporation created in s. 28.35. The
222	next \$15 of the filing fee collected shall be deposited in the
223	state courts' Mediation and Arbitration Trust Fund;
224	(II) Nine hundred dollars in all cases in which the value
225	of the claim is more than \$50,000 but less than \$250,000 and in
226	which there are not more than five defendants. The party shall
227	pay an additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant
228	in excess of five. Of the first \$770 in filing fees, \$80 must be
229	remitted by the clerk to the Department of Revenue for deposit
230	into the General Revenue Fund, \$685 must be remitted to the
231	Department of Revenue for deposit into the State Courts Revenue
232	Trust Fund, and \$5 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue
233	for deposit into the Department of Financial Services'
234	Administrative Trust Fund to fund the contract with the Florida
235	Clerks of Court Operations Corporation described in s. 28.35.
236	The next \$15 of the filing fee collected shall be deposited in
237	the state courts' Mediation and Arbitration Trust Fund; or
238	(III) One thousand nine hundred dollars in all cases in
239	which the value of the claim is \$250,000 or more and in which
240	there are not more than five defendants. The party shall pay an
241	additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant in
242	excess of five. Of the first \$1,770 in filing fees, \$80 must be
243	remitted by the clerk to the Department of Revenue for deposit
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244 into the General Revenue Fund, \$1,685 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the State Courts Revenue 245 246 Trust Fund, and \$5 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue 247 for deposit into the Department of Financial Services' 248 Administrative Trust Fund to fund the contract with the Florida 249 Clerks of Court Operations Corporation created in s. 28.35. The 250 next \$15 of the filing fee collected shall be deposited in the 251 state courts' Mediation and Arbitration Trust Fund. 252 e. An additional filing fee of \$4 shall be paid to the 253 clerk. The clerk shall remit \$3.50 to the Department of Revenue 254 for deposit into the Court Education Trust Fund and shall remit 255 50 cents to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the 256 Department of Financial Services' Administrative Trust Fund to 257 fund clerk education. An additional filing fee of up to \$18 258 shall be paid by the party seeking each severance that is 259 granted. The clerk may impose an additional filing fee of up to 260 \$85 for all proceedings of garnishment, attachment, replevin, 261 and distress. Postal charges incurred by the clerk of the 262 circuit court in making service by certified or registered mail 263 on defendants or other parties shall be paid by the party at 264 whose instance service is made. No additional fees, charges, or 265 costs shall be added to the filing fees imposed under this 266 section, except as authorized in this section or by general law.

(b) A party reopening any civil action, suit, or proceeding in the circuit court shall pay to the clerk of court a filing fee set by the clerk in an amount not to exceed \$50. For purposes of this section, a case is reopened when a case previously reported as disposed of is resubmitted to a court and includes petitions for modification of a final judgment of

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273	dissolution. A party is exempt from paying the fee for any of
274	the following:
275	1. A writ of garnishment;
276	2. A writ of replevin;
277	3. A distress writ;
278	4. A writ of attachment;
279	5. A motion for rehearing filed within 10 days;
280	6. A motion for attorney's fees filed within 30 days after
281	entry of a judgment or final order;
282	7. A motion for dismissal filed after a mediation agreement
283	has been filed;
284	8. A disposition of personal property without
285	administration;
286	9. Any probate case prior to the discharge of a personal
287	representative;
288	10. Any guardianship pleading prior to discharge;
289	11. Any mental health pleading;
290	12. Motions to withdraw by attorneys;
291	13. Motions exclusively for the enforcement of child
292	support orders;
293	14. A petition for credit of child support;
294	15. A Notice of Intent to Relocate and any order issuing as
295	a result of an uncontested relocation;
296	16. Stipulations;
297	17. Responsive pleadings; or
298	18. Cases in which there is no initial filing fee.
299	(c) <u>1. A</u> <del>Any</del> party <u>in addition to</u> <del>other than</del> a party
300	described in <u>sub-subparagraph (a)1.a.</u> <del>paragraph (a)</del> who files a
301	pleading in an original civil action in circuit court for

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302	affirmative relief by cross-claim, counterclaim,
303	counterpetition, or third-party complaint shall pay the clerk of
304	court a fee of <u>\$395</u> <del>\$295</del> . <u>A party in addition to a party</u>
305	described in sub-subparagraph (a)1.b. who files a pleading in an
306	original civil action in circuit court for affirmative relief by
307	cross-claim, counterclaim, counterpetition, or third-party
308	complaint shall pay the clerk of court a fee of \$295. The clerk
309	shall remit the fee to the Department of Revenue for deposit
310	into the General Revenue Fund.
311	2. A party in addition to a party described in subparagraph
312	(a)2. who files a pleading in an original civil action in
313	circuit court for affirmative relief by cross-claim,
314	counterclaim, counterpetition, or third-party complaint shall
315	pay the clerk of court a graduated fee of:
316	a. Three hundred and ninety-five dollars in all cases in
317	which the value of the pleading is \$50,000 or less;
318	b. Nine hundred dollars in all cases in which the value of
319	the pleading is more than \$50,000 but less than \$250,000; or
320	c. One thousand nine hundred dollars in all cases in which
321	the value of the pleading is \$250,000 or more.
322	
323	The clerk shall remit the fees collected under this subparagraph
324	to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General
325	Revenue Fund, except that the clerk shall remit \$100 of the fee
326	collected under sub-subparagraph a., \$605 of the fee collected
327	under sub-subparagraph b., and \$1,605 of the fee collected under
328	sub-subparagraph c. to the Department of Revenue for deposit
329	into the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund.
330	(d) The clerk of court shall collect a service charge of



331 \$10 for issuing a summons. The clerk shall assess the fee 332 against the party seeking to have the summons issued.

333 (2) Upon the institution of any appellate proceeding from 334 any lower court to the circuit court of any such county, 335 including appeals filed by a county or municipality as provided 336 in s. 34.041(5), or from the circuit court to an appellate court 337 of the state, the clerk shall charge and collect from the party 338 or parties instituting such appellate proceedings a filing fee 339 not to exceed \$280 for filing a notice of appeal from the county 340 court to the circuit court and, in addition to the filing fee required under s. 25.241 or s. 35.22, \$100 for filing a notice 341 342 of appeal from the circuit court to the district court of appeal 343 or to the Supreme Court. If the party is determined to be 344 indigent, the clerk shall defer payment of the fee. The clerk shall remit the first \$80 to the Department of Revenue for 345 346 deposit into the General Revenue Fund. One-third of the fee 347 collected by the clerk in excess of \$80 also shall be remitted 348 to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Clerks of the 349 Court Trust Fund.

350 Section 6. Section 28.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to 351 read:

352 28.33 Investment of county funds by the clerk of the 353 circuit court.-The clerk of the circuit court in each county 354 shall invest county funds in excess of those required to meet 355 expenses as provided in s. 218.415. No clerk investing such 356 funds shall be liable for the loss of any interest when 357 circumstances require the withdrawal of funds placed in a time 358 deposit and needed for immediate payment of county obligations. Except for interest earned on moneys deposited in the registry 359

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360	of the court, all interest accruing from moneys deposited shall
361	be deemed income of the county and may be expended as receipts
362	of the county as approved by the board of county commissioners
363	pursuant to chapter 129 office of the clerk of the circuit court
364	investing such moneys and shall be deposited in the same account
365	as are other fees and commissions of the clerk's office. The
366	clerk may invest moneys deposited in the registry of the court
367	and shall retain as income of the office of the clerk and as a
368	reasonable investment management fee 10 percent of the interest
369	accruing on those funds with the balance of such interest being
370	allocated in accordance with the interest of the depositors.
371	Section 7. Subsection (1) of section 34.041, Florida
372	Statutes, is amended to read:
373	34.041 Filing fees
374	(1)(a) Upon the institution of any civil action, suit, or
375	proceeding in county court, the party shall pay the following
376	filing fee, not to exceed:
377	1. For all claims less than \$100
378	2. For all claims of \$100 or more but not more
379	than \$500\$75.
380	3. For all claims of more than \$500 but not more than
381	\$2,500\$170.
382	4. For all claims of more than \$2,500\$295.
383	5. In addition, for all proceedings of garnishment,
384	attachment, replevin, and distress\$85.
385	6. Notwithstanding subparagraphs 3. and 5., for all claims
386	of not more than \$1,000 filed simultaneously with an action for
387	replevin of property that is the subject of the claim\$125.
388	<u>7.6.</u> For removal of tenant action

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389 (b) The first \$80 of the filing fee collected under 390 subparagraph (a)4. shall be remitted to the Department of 391 Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund. The next \$15 392 of the filing fee collected under subparagraph (a)4., and the 393 first \$10 <del>\$15</del> of the each filing fee collected under 394 subparagraph (a)7. subparagraph (a)6., shall be deposited in the state courts' Mediation and Arbitration Trust Fund. One-third of 395 396 any filing fees collected by the clerk under this section in 397 excess of the first \$95 collected under subparagraph (a)4. shall 398 be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the 399 Department of Revenue Clerks of the Court Trust Fund. An 400 additional filing fee of \$4 shall be paid to the clerk. The 401 clerk shall transfer \$3.50 to the Department of Revenue for 402 deposit into the Court Education Trust Fund and shall transfer 403 50 cents to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Department of Financial Services' Administrative Trust Fund to 404 405 fund clerk education. Postal charges incurred by the clerk of 406 the county court in making service by mail on defendants or 407 other parties shall be paid by the party at whose instance 408 service is made. Except as provided herein, filing fees and 409 service charges for performing duties of the clerk relating to 410 the county court shall be as provided in ss. 28.24 and 28.241. 411 Except as otherwise provided herein, all filing fees shall be retained as fee income of the office of the clerk of circuit 412 413 court. Filing fees imposed by this section may not be added to 414 any penalty imposed by chapter 316 or chapter 318.

(c) <u>A</u> Any party <u>in addition to</u> other than a party described
in paragraph (a) who files a pleading in an original civil
action in the county court for affirmative relief by cross-



418 claim, counterclaim, counterpetition, or third-party complaint, 419 or who files a notice of cross-appeal or notice of joinder or 420 motion to intervene as an appellant, cross-appellant, or 421 petitioner, shall pay the clerk of court a fee of \$295 if the 422 relief sought by the party under this paragraph exceeds \$2,500. The clerk shall remit the fee to the Department of Revenue for 423 424 deposit into the General Revenue Fund. This fee does shall not 425 apply if where the cross-claim, counterclaim, counterpetition, 426 or third-party complaint requires transfer of the case from 427 county to circuit court. However, the party shall pay to the 428 clerk the standard filing fee for the court to which the case is 429 to be transferred. The clerk shall remit the fee to the 430 Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund.

(d) The clerk of court shall collect a service charge of
\$10 for issuing a summons. The clerk shall assess the fee
against the party seeking to have the summons issued.

434 Section 8. Section 57.081, Florida Statutes, is amended to 435 read:

436 57.081 Costs; right to proceed where prepayment of costs 437 and payment of filing fees waived.-

438 (1) Any indigent person, except a prisoner as defined in s. 439 57.085, who is a party or intervenor in any judicial or 440 administrative agency proceeding or who initiates such 441 proceeding shall receive the services of the courts, sheriffs, 442 and clerks, with respect to such proceedings, despite his or her 443 present inability to pay for these services. Such services are 444 limited to filing fees; service of process; certified copies of orders or final judgments; a single photocopy of any court 445 446 pleading, record, or instrument filed with the clerk; examining



447 fees; mediation services and fees; private court-appointed 448 counsel fees; subpoena fees and services; service charges for 449 collecting and disbursing funds; and any other cost or service 450 arising out of pending litigation. In any appeal from an 451 administrative agency decision, for which the clerk is 452 responsible for preparing the transcript, the clerk shall record 453 the cost of preparing the transcripts and the cost for copies of 454 any exhibits in the record. Prepayment of costs to any court, 455 clerk, or sheriff is not required and payment of filing fees is 456 not required in any action if the party has obtained in each 457 proceeding a certification of indigence in accordance with s. 458 27.52 or s. 57.082.

459 (2) Any sheriff who, in complying with the terms of this 460 section, expends personal funds for automotive fuel or ordinary 461 carfare in serving the process of those qualifying under this 462 section may requisition the board of county commissioners of the 463 county for the actual expense, and on the submission to the 464 board of county commissioners of appropriate proof of any such 465 expenditure, the board of county commissioners shall pay the 466 amount of the actual expense from the general fund of the county 467 to the requisitioning officer.

(3) If an applicant prevails in an action, costs shall be
taxed in his or her favor as provided by law and, when
collected, shall be applied to pay <u>filing fees or</u> costs <u>that</u>
which otherwise would have been required and which have not been
paid.

473 Section 9. Subsections (1) and (6) of section 57.082,
474 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

57.082 Determination of civil indigent status.-

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476 (1) APPLICATION TO THE CLERK.-A person seeking appointment of an attorney in a civil case eligible for court-appointed 477 478 counsel, or seeking relief from payment prepayment of filing 479 fees and prepayment of costs under s. 57.081, based upon an 480 inability to pay must apply to the clerk of the court for a 481 determination of civil indigent status using an application form 482 developed by the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation 483 with final approval by the Supreme Court.

(a) The application must include, at a minimum, thefollowing financial information:

486 1. Net income, consisting of total salary and wages, minus 487 deductions required by law, including court-ordered support 488 payments.

2. Other income, including, but not limited to, social
security benefits, union funds, veterans' benefits, workers'
compensation, other regular support from absent family members,
public or private employee pensions, unemployment compensation,
dividends, interest, rent, trusts, and gifts.

Assets, including, but not limited to, cash, savings
accounts, bank accounts, stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit,
equity in real estate, and equity in a boat or a motor vehicle
or in other tangible property.

498 499 4. All liabilities and debts.

500 The application must include a signature by the applicant which 501 attests to the truthfulness of the information provided. The 502 application form developed by the corporation must include 503 notice that the applicant may seek court review of a clerk's 504 determination that the applicant is not indigent, as provided in



505 this section.

(b) The clerk shall assist a person who appears before the clerk and requests assistance in completing the application, and the clerk shall notify the court if a person is unable to complete the application after the clerk has provided assistance.

(c) The clerk shall accept an application that is signed by the applicant and submitted on his or her behalf by a private attorney who is representing the applicant in the applicable matter.

515 (d) A person who seeks appointment of an attorney in a case 516 under chapter 39, at the trial or appellate level, for which an 517 indigent person is eligible for court-appointed representation, 518 shall pay a \$50 application fee to the clerk for each application filed. The applicant shall pay the fee within 7 days 519 520 after submitting the application. The clerk shall transfer 521 monthly all application fees collected under this paragraph to 522 the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Indigent Civil 523 Defense Trust Fund, to be used as appropriated by the 524 Legislature. The clerk may retain 10 percent of application fees 525 collected monthly for administrative costs prior to remitting 526 the remainder to the Department of Revenue. A person found to be 527 indigent may not be refused counsel. If the person cannot pay 52.8 the application fee, the clerk shall enroll the person in a 529 payment plan pursuant to s. 28.246.

(6) PROCESSING CHARGE; PAYMENT PLANS.—A person who the
clerk or the court determines is indigent for civil proceedings
under this section shall be enrolled in a payment plan under s.
28.246 and shall be charged a one-time administrative processing



534	charge under s. 28.24(26)(c). A monthly payment amount,
535	calculated based upon all fees and all anticipated costs, is
536	presumed to correspond to the person's ability to pay if it does
537	not exceed 2 percent of the person's annual net income, as
538	defined in subsection (1), divided by 12. The person may seek
539	review of the clerk's decisions regarding a payment plan
540	established under s. 28.246 in the court having jurisdiction
541	over the matter. A case may not be impeded in any way, delayed
542	in filing, or delayed in its progress, including the final
543	hearing and order, due to nonpayment of any fees <u>or costs</u> by an
544	indigent person. Filing fees waived from payment under s. 57.081
545	may not be included in the calculation related to a payment plan
546	established under this section.
547	Section 10. Section 318.121, Florida Statutes, is amended
548	to read:
549	318.121 Preemption of additional fees, fines, surcharges,
550	and costsNotwithstanding any general or special law, or
551	municipal or county ordinance, additional fees, fines,
552	surcharges, or costs other than the court costs and surcharges
553	assessed under s. 318.18(11), (13), <del>and</del> (18) <u>, and (19)</u> may not
554	be added to the civil traffic penalties assessed in this
555	chapter.
556	Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 318.15, Florida
557	Statutes, as amended by section 2 of chapter 2009-6, Laws of
558	Florida, is amended to read:
550	219 15 Esilves to comply with sivil populty or to appear.

559 318.15 Failure to comply with civil penalty or to appear; 560 penalty.-

(1) (a) If a person fails to comply with the civil penaltiesprovided in s. 318.18 within the time period specified in s.



563 318.14(4), fails to attend driver improvement school, or fails 564 to appear at a scheduled hearing, the clerk of the court shall 565 notify the Division of Driver Licenses of the Department of 566 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles of such failure within 10 days 567 after such failure. Upon receipt of such notice, the department 568 shall immediately issue an order suspending the driver's license 569 and privilege to drive of such person effective 20 days after 570 the date the order of suspension is mailed in accordance with s. 571 322.251(1), (2), and (6). Any such suspension of the driving 572 privilege which has not been reinstated, including a similar 573 suspension imposed outside Florida, shall remain on the records 574 of the department for a period of 7 years from the date imposed 575 and shall be removed from the records after the expiration of 7 576 years from the date it is imposed.

577 (b) However, a person who elects to attend driver 578 improvement school and has paid the civil penalty as provided in 579 s. 318.14(9), but who subsequently fails to attend the driver 580 improvement school within the time specified by the court shall 581 be deemed to have admitted the infraction and shall be 582 adjudicated quilty. In such a case in which there was an 18 583 percent reduction pursuant to s. 318.14(9) as it existed before 584 February 1, 2009 prior to the effective date of this act, the 585 person must pay the clerk of the court that amount and a 586 processing fee of up to \$18, after which no additional 587 penalties, court costs, or surcharges shall be imposed for the 588 violation. In all other such cases, the person must pay the 589 clerk a processing fee of up to \$18, after which no additional 590 penalties, court costs, or surcharges shall be imposed for the 591 violation. The clerk of the court shall notify the department of

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592 the person's failure to attend driver improvement school and 593 points shall be assessed pursuant to s. 322.27.

594 Section 12. Subsections (18) and (19) of section 318.18, 595 Florida Statutes, as amended by section 3 of chapter 2009-6, 596 Laws of Florida, are amended to read:

597 318.18 Amount of penalties.—The penalties required for a 598 noncriminal disposition pursuant to s. 318.14 or a criminal 599 offense listed in s. 318.17 are as follows:

(18) In addition to any penalties imposed, an administrative fee of \$12.50 must be paid for all noncriminal moving and nonmoving traffic violations under chapters chapter 316, 320, and 322. Revenue from the administrative fee shall be deposited by the clerk of court into the fine and forfeiture fund established pursuant to s. 142.01.

(19) In addition to any penalties imposed, an Article V assessment of \$10 must be paid for all noncriminal moving and nonmoving traffic violations under <u>chapters</u> chapter 316, 320, and 322. The assessment is not revenue for purposes of s. 28.36 and may not be used in establishing the budget of the clerk of the court under that section or s. 28.35. Of the funds collected under this subsection:

(a) The sum of \$5 shall be deposited in the State CourtsRevenue Trust Fund for use by the state courts system;

(b) The sum of \$3.33 shall be deposited in the StateAttorneys Revenue Trust Fund for use by the state attorneys; and

617 (c) The sum of \$1.67 shall be deposited in the Public618 Defenders Revenue Trust Fund for use by the public defenders.

619 Section 13. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments 620 made by this act to section 318.18, Florida Statutes, in



references thereto, subsections (18) and (19) of section 318.21,
Florida Statutes, as amended by section 4 of chapter 2009-6,
Laws of Florida, are reenacted to read:

624 318.21 Disposition of civil penalties by county courts.—All 625 civil penalties received by a county court pursuant to the 626 provisions of this chapter shall be distributed and paid monthly 627 as follows:

(18) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2), the proceeds
from the administrative fee imposed under s. 318.18(18) shall be
distributed as provided in that subsection.

(19) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2), the proceeds
from the Article V assessment imposed under s. 318.18(19) shall
be distributed as provided in that subsection.

Section 14. If CS for SB 412, as enacted during the 2009 Regular Session, becomes law, paragraph (d) is added to subsection (1) of section 939.185, Florida Statutes, to read, and shall supersede and prevail over amendments made to that subsection by CS for SB 412:

639 939.185 Assessment of additional court costs and640 surcharges.-

641

(1)

642 (d) The clerk of court shall cause a certified copy of the 643 court order imposing such costs to be recorded in the public 644 records. Such record constitutes a lien against the person upon 645 whom the costs are imposed and shall attach as a lien on any 646 real property owned by such person located in the county in 647 which such order is recorded in the same manner and to the same 648 extent as a judgment recorded as provided in s. 55.10. Such 649 order shall attach as a lien on any personal property owned by

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650	such person located in the state upon the filing with the
651	Department of State of a judgment lien certificate regarding
652	such order as provided in ss. 55.202-55.209. A lien created
653	under this paragraph does not attach to, or make subject to
654	execution of levy or foreclosure, any real or personal property
655	otherwise exempt under s. 4, Art. X of the State Constitution. A
656	lien created under this paragraph is enforceable in the same
657	manner as provided by law.
658	Section 15. <u>Transfer of trust funds in excess of amount</u>
659	needed for clerk budgetsBy June 20th of each year, the Florida
660	Clerks of Court Operations Corporation shall identify the amount
661	of funds in the Clerks of Court Trust Fund in excess of the
662	amount needed to fund the approved clerk of court budgets for
663	the current state fiscal year. The Justice Administrative
664	Commission shall transfer the amount identified by the
665	corporation from the Clerks of Court Trust Fund to the General
666	Revenue Fund by June 25th of each year.
667	Section 16. Each clerk of court shall implement an
668	electronic filing process. The purpose of the electronic filing
669	process is to reduce judicial costs in the office of the clerk
670	and the judiciary, increase timeliness in the processing of
671	cases, and provide the judiciary with case-related information
672	to allow for improved judicial case management. The Legislature
673	requests that, no later than July 1, 2009, the Supreme Court set
674	statewide standards for electronic filing to be used by the
675	clerks of court to implement electronic filing. The standards
676	should specify the required information for the duties of the
677	clerks of court and the judiciary for case management. The
678	clerks of court shall begin implementation no later than October
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679 1, 2009. The Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation 680 shall report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of 681 the House of Representatives by March 1, 2010, on the status of 682 implementing electronic filing. The report shall include the 683 detailed status of each clerk office's implementation of an 684 electronic filing process, and for those clerks who have not 685 fully implemented electronic filing by March 1, 2010, a 686 description of the additional steps needed and a projected 687 timeline for full implementation. Revenues provided to counties 688 and the clerk of court under s. 28.24(12)(e), Florida Statutes, 689 for information technology may also be used to implement 690 electronic filing processes. 691 Section 17. It is the intent of the Legislature that the 692 First District Court of Appeal, through a pilot project 693 conducted in cooperation with the Office of Judges of 694 Compensation Claims, implement an electronic filing system for 695 appeals of workers' compensation cases, in part to reduce costs 696 to the Workers' Compensation Administrative Trust Fund. To the 697 extent feasible, the system the First District Court of Appeal 698 adopts shall use, or be compatible with, the current electronic 699 filing system used by the Office of Judges of Compensation 700 Claims and shall be capable of being used to receive and 701 maintain electronic filings in other cases as may be authorized 702 in the future. The chief judge of the First District Court of 703 Appeal and the deputy chief judge of compensation claims are 704 responsible for determining when the system is capable of 705 reliably receiving electronic filings. It is further the intent of the Legislature that, in cases in which a judge of 706 707 compensation claims enters an order finding a claimant indigent,



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708	all further processing shall use the electronic system to the
709	fullest extent possible. In nonindigent cases in which an
710	electronic filer uses a credit card to pay the court's filing
711	fee, the First District Court of Appeal may impose a reasonable
712	surcharge to recover any costs that financial institutions
713	impose for the filer's use of the credit card, if necessary to
714	ensure that the required filing fee to the state is satisfied
715	fully. The chief judge of the First District Court of Appeal
716	shall submit a report to the President of the Senate and the
717	Speaker of the House of Representatives 9 months after the
718	system is operational, addressing use of the system and
719	identifying any statutory or fiscal factors affecting
720	implementation of the system.
721	Section 18. Notwithstanding s. 28.36, Florida Statutes, the
722	statewide budget cap for the clerks of court is \$451,380,312 for
723	the 2009-2010 state fiscal year. The Florida Clerks of Court
724	Operations Corporation shall reduce the individual approved
725	budgets of the clerks of court to ensure that the sum of the
726	approved budgets does not exceed this statewide budget cap. This
727	section shall take effect only if CS for CS for Senate Bill
728	2108, as enacted during the 2009 Regular Session, does not
729	become a law.
730	Section 19. Effective on the same date as CS for CS for SB
731	2108, as enacted during the 2009 Regular Session, if that act
732	becomes law:
733	(1) By January 15, 2010, the Office of Program Policy
734	Analysis and Government Accountability, in consultation with the
735	Chief Financial Officer and the Auditor General, shall provide a
736	report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
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737 House of Representatives regarding the operation and functions of the clerks of court and the courts. The Office of Program 738 739 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall examine who 740 is performing each court-related function, how each function is 741 funded, and how efficiently these functions are performed. The 742 clerks of court, the Florida Clerks of Court Operations 743 Corporation, and the state courts system shall cooperate fully 744 with the office and, upon request, provide any and all 745 information necessary to the review without cost or delay. The 746 report shall describe in detail the base budget for each of the 747 clerks and for the state courts system and report on the overall 748 efficiency of the current process. Administrative overhead shall 749 be calculated separately, and any apparent means to reduce such 750 overhead shall be explored and included in the report. The study 751 shall list each court-related function, a recommendation on who 752 should perform the function, and a recommendation for how to pay 753 for such function. 754 (2) The Technology Review Workgroup shall develop a 755 proposed plan for identifying and recommending options for 756 implementing the integrated computer system established in s. 757 29.008(1)(f)2., Florida Statutes. The plan shall describe the 758 approaches and processes for evaluating the existing computer 759 systems and data-sharing networks of the state courts system and 760 the clerks of the court; identifying the required business and

761 <u>technical requirements; reliably estimating the cost, work, and</u> 762 <u>change requirements; and examining the use of the funds</u>

763 <u>collected under s. 28.24(12)(e)</u>, Florida Statutes. The plan may

764 also address any necessary policy, operational, fiscal, or

765 technical changes, including, but not limited to, potential

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766 changes to the distribution and use of funds collected under s. 767 28.24(12)(e), Florida Statutes, which may be needed in order to 768 manage, implement, and operate an integrated computer system. 769 The plan shall be submitted to the President of the Senate and 770 the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than 771 February 1, 2010. The clerks of court, the Florida Clerks of 772 Court Operations Corporation, and the state courts system shall 773 cooperate fully with the workgroup and provide any and all 774 information necessary for the completion of the project without 775 cost or delay upon request. The workgroup shall work in 776 conjunction with the Auditor General and consider the results of 777 the plans, studies, and reports of the Office of Program Policy 778 Analysis and Government Accountability under subsection (1). 779 Until July 1, 2011, each clerk shall submit a summary of all new 780 hardware and software purchases in excess of \$25,000 to the 781 Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation on a monthly 782 basis, and the corporation shall a submit a report of all such 783 purchases to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the 784 House of Representatives on a quarterly basis. The clerk shall 785 include a statement with the summary that the purchases were 786 made in good faith and were reasonable and necessary for the continuing efficient operations of the clerk's office. 787 788 (3) This section supersedes and prevails over section 18 of 789 CS for CS for Senate Bill 2108, as enacted during the 2009 790 Regular Session. However, this section shall not take effect if 791 CS for CS for Senate Bill 2108 does not become law. 792 Section 20. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that, 793 if this act and CS for CS for Senate Bill 2108, as enacted 794 during the 2009 Regular Session or an extension thereof, both

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795 become law, the Division of Statutory Revision shall read the 796 acts together and, to the extent feasible, give full effect to 797 the amendments made by this act to ss. 28.241(1)(a) and 798 34.041(1)(b), Florida Statutes, and the amendments made to those 799 paragraphs by CS for CS for Senate Bill 2108. However, it is 800 further the intent of the Legislature that, if both acts become 801 law, the amendments made by CS for CS for Senate Bill 2108 with 802 respect to the distribution of filing fees to the Clerks of the 803 Court Trust Fund, rather than the Department of Financial 804 Services' Administrative Trust Fund, and the use of those funds 805 to fund the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation, 806 shall prevail. To that end, where this act refers in its 807 amendments to ss. 28.241(1)(a) and 34.041(1)(b), Florida 808 Statutes, to the distribution of filing fees to the Department 809 of Financial Services' Administrative Trust Fund, it is the 810 intent of the Legislature that the Division of Statutory 811 Revision change those references to the Clerks of the Court 812 Trust Fund and conform the use of those funds, including within 813 both the existing and new language of those paragraphs contained 814 in this act, consistent with CS for CS for Senate Bill 2108. It 815 is further the intent of the Legislature that, if both acts become law, the division change references to the distribution 816 817 of \$5 of filing fees under s. 28.241(1)(a), Florida Statutes, 818 including within both the existing and new language of that 819 paragraph contained in this act, to reflect the distribution 820 instead of \$3.50 and \$1.50, respectively, to the Clerks of Court 821 Trust Fund and the Administrative Trust Fund within the 822 Department of Financial Services, consistent with CS for CS for 823 Senate Bill 2108.

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824	(2) This section shall take effect June 1, 2009.
825	Section 21. (1) CS for CS for Senate Bill 2108, as enacted
826	during the 2009 Regular Session, shall not take effect upon
827	becoming a law as specified in section 22 of that act, but shall
828	take effect July 1, 2009.
829	(2) This section shall take effect June 1, 2009.
830	Section 22. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
831	act and except for this section, which shall take effect June 1,
832	2009, this act shall take effect July 1, 2009.
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834	======================================
835	And the title is amended as follows:
836	Delete everything before the enacting clause
837	and insert:
838	A bill to be entitled
839	An act relating to the state judicial system; amending
840	s. 26.57, F.S.; authorizing any county court judge to
841	be designated by the Chief Justice of the Supreme
842	Court to preside over circuit court cases; providing
843	that such county court judge will receive the same
844	salary as a circuit court judge, to the extent that
845	funds are specifically appropriated by law for such
846	purposes; amending s. 27.511, F.S.; eliminating future
847	repeal of authority for part-time assistant criminal
848	conflict and civil regional counsel to practice
849	private criminal law under specified conditions;
850	conforming changes; amending s. 27.562, F.S.; revising
851	the distribution of fees and costs collected from
852	persons who receive certain assistance from a public



853 defender's office; amending s. 28.2401, F.S.; 854 increasing the maximum amount the clerk of court may 855 impose for certain actions in probate matters; 856 providing for the deposit of revenues generated from 857 the increased amount into the State Courts Revenue 858 Trust Fund; delineating specified amounts as filing 859 fees or service charges; amending s. 28.241, F.S.; 860 increasing the maximum filing fee for certain civil 861 actions; providing for a portion of circuit court 862 filing fees to be deposited in the State Courts 863 Revenue Trust Fund; eliminating a requirement for the 864 clerk of court to remit a portion of excess filing 865 fees to the Department of Revenue; prescribing a 866 maximum filing fee for certain family law actions; 867 providing for the distribution of such fee; providing 868 for the payment of graduated filing fees in certain 869 real property or mortgage foreclosure actions; 870 providing a manner for valuing mortgage foreclosure 871 claims; prescribing graduated filing fees based on the 872 value of the claim; requiring a fee for filing a 873 pleading for relief by counterpetition; providing for 874 the payment of graduated filing fees for certain real 875 property or mortgage foreclosure pleadings for relief 876 by cross-claim, counterclaim, counterpetition, or 877 third-party complaint; prescribing graduated filing 878 fees based on the value of the pleading; providing for 879 remittance of fees by the clerk of court and for 880 deposit into specified funds; eliminating a 881 requirement for the clerk of court to remit a portion



882 of fees collected to the Department of Revenue for 883 deposit into a specified trust fund; amending s. 884 28.33, F.S.; providing that interest on county funds 885 invested by the clerk of court constitutes county 886 funds; amending s. 34.041, F.S.; prescribing a maximum 887 county court filing fee for claims of a specified 888 value filed with an action for replevin; reducing the 889 county court filing fee for an action to remove a 890 tenant; providing for deposit of a portion of fees 891 collected into the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund; 892 eliminating a requirement for the clerk of court to 893 remit a portion of excess filing fees to the 894 Department of Revenue; requiring a fee for filing a 895 pleading for relief by counterpetition in county 896 court; specifying the applicable filing fee required 897 when a case is transferred from county to circuit 898 court; amending s. 57.081, F.S.; providing for the 899 waiver of payment of civil filing fees by persons 900 deemed indigent; revising a requirement for taxed 901 costs in favor of an indigent person to be applied to 902 unpaid costs, to conform; amending s. 57.082, F.S.; 903 conforming changes to the waiver of payment of filing 904 fees by persons deemed indigent; revising provisions 905 related to payment plans, to conform; excluding waived 906 filing fees from payment plans; amending s. 318.121, 907 F.S.; specifying that an Article V assessment is among 908 the fees, fines, surcharges, and costs that may be 909 added to civil traffic infractions; amending s. 910 318.15, F.S.; imposing a processing fee by the clerk



911 of court on persons who elect to attend a driver 912 improvement school following certain traffic 913 violations but fail to attend; amending s. 318.18, 914 F.S.; imposing an administrative fee and an assessment 915 on motor vehicle license violations and driver's 916 license violations; reenacting s. 318.21(18) and (19), 917 F.S., relating to distribution of traffic-infraction 918 penalties, to incorporate the amendments to s. 318.18, 919 F.S., in references thereto; amending s. 939.185, 920 F.S.; providing for the order assessing additional 921 court costs and surcharges in certain criminal 922 offenses and criminal traffic offenses to be recorded 923 with the clerk of court; providing that such record 924 constitutes a lien on certain real and personal 925 property under specified conditions; providing for an 926 exception and enforcement; providing that such 927 amendments to s. 939.185(1), F.S., are contingent upon 928 a specified act enacted during the 2009 Regular 929 Session becoming law and supersede amendments made by 930 that act; requiring the Florida Clerks of Court 931 Operations Corporation to report annually on certain 932 trust funds in excess of the amount needed to fund the 933 clerk budgets; directing the Justice Administrative Commission to transfer the excess funds to the General 934 935 Revenue Fund; requiring the clerk of court to 936 implement a process for the electronic filing of 937 court-related information; requiring the Florida 938 Clerks of Court Operations Corporation to report on 939 implementation of the electronic filing process;



940 expressing legislative intent for the First District 941 Court of Appeal to conduct a pilot project for 942 electronic filing of workers' compensation cases; 943 providing for a report on the pilot project; 944 prescribing the statewide budget cap for the clerks of 945 court for the 2009-2010 state fiscal year; directing 946 the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation to 947 reduce the individual approved budgets of the clerks 948 of court; requiring the Office of Program Policy 949 Analysis and Government Accountability, in 950 consultation with the Chief Financial Officer and the 951 Auditor General, to provide a report regarding the 952 operation and relationship of the clerks of court and 953 the courts to the Legislature by a specified date; 954 providing report requirements; requiring the 955 Technology Review Workgroup to develop a proposed plan 956 for identifying and recommending options for 957 implementing the integrated computer system and submit 958 the plan to the Legislature by a specified date; 959 providing plan requirements; requiring reports on 960 certain purchases of computer hardware and software by 961 clerks of court; superseding provisions relating to 962 functions of the clerks of court and relating to 963 computer hardware and software purchases by the clerks 964 contained in a specified act enacted during the 2009 965 Regular Session; providing that such provisions do not 966 take effect if the specified act does not become law; 967 expressing legislative intent related to amendatory 968 acts passed during the same legislative session;



969 revising the effective date of a specified act enacted 970 during the 2009 Regular Session; providing effective 971 dates.