



179576

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
03/17/2010	.	
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The Committee on Community Affairs (Thrasher) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Section 215.125, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

215.125 Collection of noncourt-related financial obligations.—The board of county commissioners or the governing body of a municipality may pursue the collection of any fees, service charges, fines, or costs to which it is entitled and which remain unpaid for 90 days or more, or refer the account to a private attorney who is a member in good standing with The



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13 Florida Bar or a collection agent who is registered and in good
14 standing pursuant to chapter 559, if the governing body of the
15 county or municipality determines that it would be cost-
16 effective to enter into such a contract. In pursuing the
17 collection of unpaid financial obligations through a private
18 attorney or collection agent, the board of county commissioners
19 or the governing body of a municipality may prescribe the
20 applicable procurement practices that must be followed by the
21 collection agent or private attorney. The collection fee,
22 including any reasonable attorney's fee, paid to an attorney or
23 collection agent retained by the board of county commissioners
24 or the governing body of a municipality may be added to the
25 balance owed, but may not exceed 40 percent of the amount owed
26 at the time that the account is referred to the attorney or
27 agent for collection.

28 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.

29
30 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

31 And the title is amended as follows:

32 Delete everything before the enacting clause
33 and insert:

34 A bill to be entitled
35 An act relating to the collection of noncourt-related
36 financial obligations; creating s. 215.125, F.S.;
37 authorizing a board of county commissioners or the
38 governing body of a municipality to pursue or refer
39 the collection of any fees, service charges, fines, or
40 costs to which it is owed to a private attorney or
41 collection agent, if such referral is determined to be



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42 cost-effective; authorizing the board of county
43 commissioners or the governing body of a municipality
44 to prescribe the applicable practices for collection;
45 providing that the collection fee paid to any attorney
46 or collection agent may be added to the balance owed,
47 which may not exceed a specified percentage of the
48 amount owed; providing an effective date.