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A bill to be entitled  
 An act relating to regulation of the paralegal profession;  
 requiring the Florida Supreme Court to establish a program  
 to require the licensure of paralegals practicing in this  
 state; requiring that the Supreme Court establish minimum  
 standards and qualifications and provide for continuing  
 education, certification, and professional conduct;  
 requiring the Supreme Court to create an independent board  
 to assist in the regulation of paralegals; providing  
 penalties for unlicensed practice; providing an effective  
 date.

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

Section 1. (1) The Florida Supreme Court shall establish a program to require the licensure of paralegals practicing in this state.

(2) The program shall define the scope of paralegal practice; provide mandatory minimum standards and procedures for initial qualifications; and provide requirements for continuing education, certification, and professional conduct.

(3) The Supreme Court shall establish license application fees and license renewal fees, which may not exceed \$100 each. The revenues generated from such fees shall be used solely to administer the program and shall be set at a level that does not exceed the amount necessary to ensure the continued operation of the program.

(4) The Supreme Court shall create an independent board to

HB 1149

2011

29 adopt rules, establish procedures, and assist the Supreme Court  
30 in administering this section.

31 (5) Upon implementation of the program, any person who  
32 practices as a paralegal in this state without first obtaining a  
33 license, holds himself or herself out as a paralegal, or uses  
34 the title "paralegal" without being licensed as a paralegal in  
35 this state commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as  
36 provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, Florida  
37 Statutes.

38 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.