1

A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to clerks of court; transferring the 3 Clerks of the Court Trust Fund from the Justice 4 Administrative Commission to the Department of 5 Revenue; amending s. 11.90, F.S.; providing additional 6 duties of the Legislative Budget Commission relating 7 to clerks of court; amending s. 28.241, F.S.; revising 8 distribution of filing fees; revising references to 9 trust funds; repealing s. 28.2455, F.S., relating to transfer of trust funds in excess of amount needed for 10 clerk budgets; amending s. 28.246, F.S.; conforming 11 12 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 13 28.35, F.S.; deleting provisions providing for the housing of the Florida Clerks of Court Operations 14 15 Corporation; revising duties of the corporation; defining terms; providing requirements for annual 16 17 submission of a proposed budget and related 18 information; revising provisions concerning functions 19 that may and may not be funded from specified sources; revising distribution of the corporation's audit 20 report; amending s. 28.36, F.S.; specifying that only 21 22 certain functions may be funded from fees, service 23 charges, costs, and fines retained by the clerks of 24 the court; revising provisions relating to preparation 25 of budget requests by clerks; providing for reporting and certification of revenue deficits; providing 26 27 procedures for retention of additional revenues by 28 clerks in the event of a deficit; providing for the

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29 release of funds from a specified trust fund to 30 relieve such a deficit in certain circumstances; 31 providing for increases in previously authorized 32 budgets in certain circumstances; deleting provisions 33 relating to review of budgets and related information; 34 creating s. 28.365, F.S.; providing that clerks of 35 court and the Florida Clerks of Court Operations 36 Corporation are subject to specified procurement 37 requirements for expenditures made pursuant to 38 specified provisions; amending s. 28.37, F.S.; 39 providing that a portion of all fines, fees, service 40 charges, and costs collected by the clerks of the court that exceeds a specified portion of the clerk's 41 42 annual budget be remitted to a specified trust fund; 43 providing for remission of certain excess collections 44 to the department for deposit into the General Revenue 45 Fund on specified dates; providing for deposit of such 46 funds in a specified trust fund in certain 47 circumstances; providing for collection of certain funds due by the department; amending s. 34.041, F.S.; 48 conforming provisions to changes made by the act; 49 50 revising distribution of certain fees; amending ss. 51 43.16 and 110.205, F.S.; conforming provisions to 52 changes made by the act; amending s. 142.01, F.S.; 53 revising the funds deposited in each county's fine and 54 forfeiture fund; deleting provisions specifying that 55 certain moneys are considered state funds; amending s. 56 213.131, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made

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57 by the act; amending s. 215.22, F.S.; exempting 58 certain moneys deposited in the Clerks of the Court 59 Trust Fund from a specified deduction; amending s. 60 216.011, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made 61 by the act; specifying the authorized budget for the 62 clerks of the circuit court and the corporation for specified periods; requiring the corporation to 63 determine budget amounts for the individual clerks for 64 65 those periods; providing effective dates. 66 67 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 68 69 Section 1. The Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the 70 Justice Administrative Commission, FLAIR number 21-2-588, is 71 transferred together with all balances in the fund to the 72 Department of Revenue. 73 Section 2. Subsection (6) of section 11.90, Florida 74 Statutes, is amended to read: 75 11.90 Legislative Budget Commission.-76 (6) The commission shall have the power and duty to: 77 Review and approve or disapprove budget amendments (a) 78 recommended by the Governor or the Chief Justice of the Supreme 79 Court as provided in chapter 216. Develop the long-range financial outlook described in 80 (b) s. 19, Art. III of the State Constitution. 81 82 (c) Review and approve, disapprove, or amend and approve 83 the budget of the Florida Clerks of Court Operations 84 Corporation.

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85 (d) Review and approve, disapprove, or amend and approve
86 the total combined budgets of the clerks of the court or the
87 budget of any individual clerk of the court for court-related
88 functions.

89 (e) In addition to the powers and duties specified in this
 90 subsection, the commission shall Exercise all other powers and
 91 perform any other duties prescribed by the Legislature.

92 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section93 28.241, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

94

28.241 Filing fees for trial and appellate proceedings.-

95 Filing fees are due at the time a party files a (1) 96 pleading to initiate a proceeding or files a pleading for 97 relief. Reopen fees are due at the time a party files a pleading 98 to reopen a proceeding if at least 90 days have elapsed since 99 the filing of a final order or final judgment with the clerk. If a fee is not paid upon the filing of the pleading as required 100 under this section, the clerk shall pursue collection of the fee 101 pursuant to s. 28.246. 102

(a)1.a. Except as provided in sub-subparagraph b. and 103 104 subparagraph 2., the party instituting any civil action, suit, 105 or proceeding in the circuit court shall pay to the clerk of 106 that court a filing fee of up to \$395 in all cases in which 107 there are not more than five defendants and an additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant in excess of five. Of the 108 109 first \$200 \$280 in filing fees, \$80 must be remitted by the 110 clerk to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, \$195 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue 111 112 for deposit into the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund, \$4 \$3.50

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113 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into 114 the Administrative Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the 115 Department of Financial Services Justice Administrative 116 Commission and used to fund the contract with the Florida Clerks 117 of Court Operations Corporation created in s. 28.35, and \$1 118 \$1.50 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of 119 Financial Services to fund audits of individual clerks' court-120 121 related expenditures clerk budget reviews conducted by the Department of Financial Services. By the 10th of each month, the 122 123 clerk shall submit that portion of the filing fees collected in 124 the previous month that is in excess of one-twelfth of the 125 clerk's total budget One third of any filing fees collected by the clerk of the circuit court in excess of \$100 must be 126 127 remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the Justice Administrative 128 129 Commission.

130 The party instituting any civil action, suit, or b. proceeding in the circuit court under chapter 39, chapter 61, 131 132 chapter 741, chapter 742, chapter 747, chapter 752, or chapter 133 753 shall pay to the clerk of that court a filing fee of up to 134 \$295 in all cases in which there are not more than five 135 defendants and an additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each 136 defendant in excess of five. Of the first \$100 \$180 in filing 137 fees, \$80 must be remitted by the clerk to the Department of 138 Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, \$95 must be 139 remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund, \$4 \$3.50 must be remitted to the 140

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141 Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Clerks 142 of the Court Trust Fund within the Department of Financial 143 Services Justice Administrative Commission and used to fund the 144 contract with the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation 145 created in s. 28.35, and \$1 $\frac{1}{50}$ must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust 146 147 Fund within the Department of Financial Services to fund audits of individual clerks' court-related expenditures clerk budget 148 149 reviews conducted by the Department of Financial Services.

150 c. An additional filing fee of \$4 shall be paid to the 151 clerk. The clerk shall remit \$3.50 to the Department of Revenue 152 for deposit into the Court Education Trust Fund and shall remit 153 50 cents to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the 154 Administrative Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the 155 Department of Financial Services Justice Administrative 156 Commission to fund clerk education provided by the Florida 157 Clerks of Court Operations Corporation. An additional filing fee 158 of up to \$18 shall be paid by the party seeking each severance 159 that is granted. The clerk may impose an additional filing fee 160 of up to \$85 for all proceedings of garnishment, attachment, 161 replevin, and distress. Postal charges incurred by the clerk of 162 the circuit court in making service by certified or registered 163 mail on defendants or other parties shall be paid by the party 164 at whose instance service is made. Additional fees, charges, or 165 costs may not be added to the filing fees imposed under this 166 section, except as authorized in this section or by general law. 167 2.a. Notwithstanding the fees prescribed in subparagraph

168 1., a party instituting a civil action in circuit court relating

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169 to real property or mortgage foreclosure shall pay a graduated 170 filing fee based on the value of the claim.

171 b. A party shall estimate in writing the amount in 172 controversy of the claim upon filing the action. For purposes of 173 this subparagraph, the value of a mortgage foreclosure action is 174 based upon the principal due on the note secured by the 175 mortgage, plus interest owed on the note and any moneys advanced by the lender for property taxes, insurance, and other advances 176 177 secured by the mortgage, at the time of filing the foreclosure. 178 The value shall also include the value of any tax certificates 179 related to the property. In stating the value of a mortgage 180 foreclosure claim, a party shall declare in writing the total 181 value of the claim, as well as the individual elements of the 182 value as prescribed in this sub-subparagraph.

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

189

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 there are not more than five defendants. The party shall pay an additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant in excess of five. Of the first \$200 \$280 in filing fees, \$195 \$275must be remitted by the clerk to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, \$4 \$3.50 must be remitted

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197 to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative 198 Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the Department of 199 Financial Services Justice Administrative Commission and used to 200 fund the contract with the Florida Clerks of Court Operations 201 Corporation created in s. 28.35, and \$1 $\frac{1}{50}$ must be remitted 202 to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative 203 Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services to fund 204 audits of individual clerks' court-related expenditures clerk 205 budget reviews conducted by the Department of Financial 206 Services;

207 Nine hundred dollars in all cases in which the value (II)208 of the claim is more than \$50,000 but less than \$250,000 and in 209 which there are not more than five defendants. The party shall 210 pay an additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant 211 in excess of five. Of the first \$705 \$785 in filing fees, \$700 212 \$780 must be remitted by the clerk to the Department of Revenue 213 for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, \$4 \$3.50 must be 214 remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the 215 Administrative Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the 216 Department of Financial Services Justice Administrative 217 Commission and used to fund the contract with the Florida Clerks 218 of Court Operations Corporation created described in s. 28.35, 219 and \$1 \$1.50 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for 220 deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department 221 of Financial Services to fund audits of individual clerks' 222 court-related expenditures clerk budget reviews conducted by the 223 Department of Financial Services; or 224 (III) One thousand nine hundred dollars in all cases in

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225 which the value of the claim is \$250,000 or more and in which 226 there are not more than five defendants. The party shall pay an 227 additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant in 228 excess of five. Of the first \$1,705 \$1,785 in filing fees, \$930 229 $\frac{1}{100}$ must be remitted by the clerk to the Department of 230 Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, \$770 must be 231 remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund, \$4 \$3.50 must be remitted to the 232 233 Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the Department of Financial 234 235 Services Justice Administrative Commission to fund the contract 236 with the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation created 237 in s. 28.35, and \$1 \$1.50 must be remitted to the Department of 238 Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within 239 the Department of Financial Services to fund audits of 240 individual clerks' court-related expenditures clerk budget 241 reviews conducted by the Department of Financial Services.

An additional filing fee of \$4 shall be paid to the 242 e. clerk. The clerk shall remit \$3.50 to the Department of Revenue 243 244 for deposit into the Court Education Trust Fund and shall remit 245 50 cents to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the 246 Administrative Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the 247 Department of Financial Services Justice Administrative 248 Commission to fund clerk education provided by the Florida 249 Clerks of Court Operations Corporation. An additional filing fee 250 of up to \$18 shall be paid by the party seeking each severance 251 that is granted. The clerk may impose an additional filing fee 252 of up to \$85 for all proceedings of garnishment, attachment,

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HB 5301 2013 253 replevin, and distress. Postal charges incurred by the clerk of 254 the circuit court in making service by certified or registered 255 mail on defendants or other parties shall be paid by the party 256 at whose instance service is made. Additional fees, charges, or 257 costs may not be added to the filing fees imposed under this 258 section, except as authorized in this section or by general law. 259 Effective upon this act becoming a law, section Section 4. 28.2455, Florida Statutes, is repealed. 260 261 Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 262 28.246, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 263 28.246 Payment of court-related fines or other monetary 264 penalties, fees, charges, and costs; partial payments; 265 distribution of funds.-266 (5) When receiving partial payment of fees, service 267 charges, court costs, and fines, clerks shall distribute funds 268 according to the following order of priority: 269 That portion of fees, service charges, court costs, (b) and fines required to be retained by the clerk of the court or 270 deposited into the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the 271 272 Department of Revenue Justice Administrative Commission. 273 274 To offset processing costs, clerks may impose either a per-month 275 service charge pursuant to s. 28.24(26)(b) or a one-time 276 administrative processing service charge at the inception of the 277 payment plan pursuant to s. 28.24(26)(c). 278 Section 6. Section 28.35, Florida Statutes, is amended to 279 read: 280 28.35 Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation.-

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281 (1) (a) The Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation 282 is created as a public corporation organized to perform the 283 functions specified in this section and s. 28.36 and shall be 284 administratively housed within the Justice Administrative 285 Commission. The corporation shall be a budget entity within the 286 Justice Administrative Commission, and its employees shall be 287 considered state employees. The corporation is not subject to 288 control, supervision, or direction by the Justice Administrative 289 Commission in the performance of its duties, but the employees 290 of the corporation shall be governed by the classification plan 291 and salary and benefits plan of the Justice Administrative 292 Commission. The classification plan must have a separate chapter 293 for the corporation. All clerks of the circuit court shall be 294 members of the corporation and hold their position and authority 295 in an ex officio capacity. The functions assigned to the 296 corporation shall be performed by an executive council pursuant 297 to the plan of operation approved by the members.

298 The executive council shall be composed of eight (b) 299 clerks of the court elected by the clerks of the courts for a 300 term of 2 years, with two clerks from counties with a population 301 of fewer than 100,000, two clerks from counties with a 302 population of at least 100,000 but fewer than 500,000, two 303 clerks from counties with a population of at least 500,000 but 304 fewer than 1 million, and two clerks from counties with a population of more than 1 million. The executive council shall 305 306 also include, as ex officio members, a designee of the President 307 of the Senate and a designee of the Speaker of the House of 308 Representatives. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall

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309 designate one additional member to represent the state courts 310 system.

311 (c) The corporation shall be considered a political 312 subdivision of the state and shall be exempt from the corporate 313 income tax. The corporation is not subject to the provisions of 314 chapter 120.

(d) The functions assigned to the corporation under this section and ss. 28.36 and 28.37 are considered to be for a valid public purpose.

318 (2) The duties of the corporation shall include the 319 following:

320

(a) Adopting a plan of operation.

321 (b) Conducting the election of <u>an executive council</u>
 322 directors as required in paragraph (1) (b) (1) (a).

323 (c) Recommending to the Legislature changes in the <u>amounts</u> 324 <u>of the</u> various court-related fines, fees, service charges, and 325 court costs established by law <u>to ensure reasonable and adequate</u> 326 <u>funding of the clerks of the court in the performance of their</u> 327 court-related functions.

328 (d) Developing and certifying a uniform system of workload 329 performance measures and applicable workload performance 330 standards for the functions specified in paragraph (3)(a) and 331 the service unit costs required in s. 28.36 and measures for 332 clerk workload performance in meeting the workload performance 333 standards. These workload measures and workload performance 334 standards shall be designed to facilitate an objective 335 determination of the performance of each clerk in accordance 336 with minimum standards for fiscal management, operational

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337 efficiency, and effective collection of fines, fees, service 338 charges, and court costs. The corporation shall develop the 339 workload performance measures and workload performance standards 340 in consultation with the Legislature and the Supreme Court. The 341 Legislature may modify the clerk performance measures and 342 performance standards in legislation implementing the General 343 Appropriations Act or other law. When the corporation finds a 344 clerk has not met the workload performance standards, the 345 corporation shall identify the nature of each deficiency and any 346 corrective action recommended and taken by the affected clerk of 347 the court. The corporation shall notify the Legislature and the 348 Supreme Court of any clerk not meeting workload performance 349 standards and provide a copy of any corrective action plans. As 350 used in this subsection, the term:

351 <u>1. "Workload measures" means the measurement of the</u>
 352 <u>activities and frequency of the work required for the clerk to</u>
 353 <u>adequately perform the court-related duties of the office as</u>
 354 <u>defined by the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation.</u>
 355 <u>2. "Workload performance standards" means the standards</u>
 356 developed to measure the timeliness and effectiveness of the

357 <u>activities that are accomplished by the clerk in the performance</u> 358 <u>of the court-related duties of the office as defined by the</u> 359 <u>Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation.</u>

360 (e) Entering into a contract with the Department of 361 Financial Services for the department to audit the court-related 362 expenditures of individual clerks.

363 <u>(f) (c)</u> Reviewing, certifying, and recommending proposed 364 budgets submitted by clerks of the court pursuant to s. 28.36.

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365 As part of this process, the corporation shall: 366 1. Calculate the minimum amount of revenue necessary for 367 each clerk of the court to efficiently perform the list of 368 court-related functions specified in paragraph (3)(a). The 369 corporation shall apply the workload measures appropriate for 370 determining the individual level of review required to fund the 371 clerk's budget. 372 2. Prepare a cost comparison of similarly situated clerks 373 of the court, based on county population and numbers of filings, 374 using the standard list of court-related functions specified in 375 paragraph (3)(a). 376 3. Conduct an annual base budget review and an annual 377 budget exercise examining the total budget of each clerk of the 378 court. The review shall examine revenues from all sources, 379 expenses of court-related functions, and expenses of noncourt-380 related functions as necessary to determine that court-related 381 revenues are not being used for noncourt-related purposes. The 382 review and exercise shall identify potential targeted budget 383 reductions in the percentage amount provided in Schedule VIII-B 384 of the state's previous year's legislative budget instructions, 385 as referenced in s. 216.023(3), or an equivalent schedule or 386 instruction as may be adopted by the Legislature. 387 4. Identify those proposed budgets containing funding for 388 items not included on the standard list of court-related 389 functions specified in paragraph (3)(a). 390 5. Identify those clerks projected to have court-related 391 revenues insufficient to fund their anticipated court-related 392 expenditures

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393 6. Use revenue estimates based on the official estimate 394 for funds accruing to the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund made by 395 the Revenue Estimating Conference. 396 (g) (f) Developing and conducting clerk education programs. 397 Publishing a uniform schedule of actual fees, service 398 charges, and costs charged by a clerk of the court pursuant to 399 general law. 400 Beginning August 1, 2014, and each August 1 (h) 401 thereafter, submitting to the Legislative Budget Commission, as 402 provided in s. 11.90, its proposed budget and the information 403 described in paragraph (f), as well as the authorized budgets 404 for each clerk of the court and the corporation. Before October 405 1 of each year beginning in 2014, the Legislative Budget 406 Commission shall consider the submitted budgets and shall 407 approve, disapprove, or amend and approve the corporation's 408 budget and shall approve, disapprove, or amend and approve the 409 total of the clerks' combined budgets or any individual clerk's 410 budget. If the Legislative Budget Commission fails to approve or 411 amend and approve the corporation's budget or the clerks' 412 combined budgets before October 1, the clerk shall continue to 413 perform the court-related functions based upon the clerk's 414 authorized budget for the previous county fiscal year. 415 The list of court-related functions that clerks may (3)(a) 416 fund from filing fees, service charges, costs, and fines is 417 perform are limited to those functions expressly authorized by 418 law or court rule. Those functions include the following: case 419 maintenance; records management; court preparation and 420 attendance; processing the assignment, reopening, and

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421 reassignment of cases; processing of appeals; collection and 422 distribution of fines, fees, service charges, and court costs; 423 processing of bond forfeiture payments; payment of jurors and 424 witnesses; payment of expenses for meals or lodging provided to 425 jurors; data collection and reporting; processing of jurors; 426 determinations of indigent status; and paying reasonable 427 administrative support costs to enable the clerk of the court to 428 carry out these court-related functions.

(b) The <u>list of court-related</u> functions that clerks may
not fund from <u>filing fees</u>, service charges, costs, and fines
includes state appropriations include:

432

1. Those functions not specified within paragraph (a).

433 2. Functions assigned by administrative orders which are
434 not required for the clerk to perform the functions in paragraph
435 (a).

436 3. Enhanced levels of service which are not required for437 the clerk to perform the functions in paragraph (a).

438 4. Functions identified as local requirements in law or439 local optional programs.

440 The corporation shall prepare a legislative budget (4) 441 request for the resources necessary to perform its duties, 442 submit the request pursuant to chapter 216, and be funded 443 pursuant a contract with the Chief Financial Officer. Funds 444 shall be provided to the Chief Financial Officer for such 445 purpose as appropriated by general law. Such funds shall be 446 available to the corporation for the performance of the duties 447 and responsibilities set forth in this section as a budget 448 entity in the General Appropriations Act. The corporation may

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449 hire staff and pay other expenses from <u>such funds</u> state 450 appropriations as necessary to perform the official duties and 451 responsibilities of the corporation as described <u>in this section</u> 452 by law.

453 (5) Certified public accountants conducting audits of 454 counties pursuant to s. 218.39 shall report, as part of the 455 audit, whether or not the clerks of the courts have complied 456 with the requirements of this section and s. 28.36. In addition, 457 each clerk of court shall forward a copy of the portion of the 458 financial audit relating to the court-related duties of the 459 clerk of court to the Florida Clerks of Court Operations 460 Corporation Supreme Court. The Auditor General shall develop a 461 compliance supplement for the audit of compliance with the 462 budgets and applicable workload performance standards certified 463 by the corporation.

464 Section 7. Section 28.36, Florida Statutes, is amended to 465 read:

466 28.36 Budget procedure.—There is established a budget 467 procedure for preparing budget requests for funding for the 468 court-related functions of the clerks of the court.

469 Only those functions listed in s. 28.35(3)(a) may be (1)470 funded from fees, service charges, costs, and fines retained by 471 the clerks of the court Each clerk of court shall prepare a 472 budget request for the last quarter of the county fiscal year 473 and the first three quarters of the next county fiscal year. The 474 proposed budget shall be prepared, summarized, and submitted by 475 the clerk in each county to the Florida Clerks of Court 476 Operations Corporation in the manner and form prescribed by the

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477 corporation to meet the requirements of law. Each clerk shall
478 forward a copy of his or her budget request to the Supreme
479 Court. The budget requests must be provided to the corporation
480 by October 1 of each year.

481 (2) Each clerk shall include in his or her budget request 482 a projection of the amount of court-related fees, service 483 charges, and any other court-related clerk fees which will be 484 collected during the proposed budget period. If the corporation 485 determines that the proposed budget is limited to the standard 486 list of court-related functions in s. 28.35(3)(a) and the 487 projected court-related revenues are less than the proposed 488 budget, the clerk shall increase all fees, service charges, and 489 any other court-related clerk fees and charges to the maximum 490 amounts specified by law or the amount necessary to resolve the 491 deficit, whichever is less.

492 (2)(3) Each proposed budget shall further conform to the 493 following requirements clerk shall include in his or her budget 494 request the number of personnel and the proposed budget for each 495 of the following core services:

496 (a) On or before June 1 of each year beginning in 2014, 497 the proposed budget shall be prepared, summarized, and submitted 498 by the clerk in each county to the Florida Clerks of Court 499 Operations Corporation in the manner and form prescribed by the 500 corporation. The proposed budget must provide detailed 501 information on the anticipated revenues available and 502 expenditures necessary for the performance of the court-related 503 functions listed in s. 28.35(3)(a) of the clerk's office for the 504 county fiscal year beginning October 1.

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505 The proposed budget must be balanced such that the (b) 506 total of the estimated revenues available equals or exceeds the total of the anticipated expenditures. Such revenues include 507 508 revenue projected to be received from fees, services charges, 509 costs, and fines for court-related functions during the fiscal 510 period covered by the budget. The anticipated expenditures must 511 be itemized as required by the corporation. 512 (a) Circuit criminal. 513 (b) County criminal. 514 (c) Juvenile delinquency. 515 (d) Criminal traffic. (e) Circuit civil. 516 517 (f) County civil. (g) Civil traffic. 518 519 (h) Probate. 520 (i) Family. 521 (j) Juvenile dependency. 522 523 Central administrative costs shall be allocated among the core-524 services categories. 525 If a clerk of the court estimates that available funds (3) 526 plus projected revenues from fines, fees, service charges, and 527 costs for court-related services are insufficient to meet the 528 anticipated expenditures for the standard list of court-related 529 functions in s. 28.35(3)(a) performed by his or her office, the 530 clerk must report the revenue deficit to the corporation in the 531 manner and form prescribed by the corporation. The corporation 532 shall verify that the proposed budget is limited to the standard

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533	list of court-related functions in s. 28.35(3)(a). If the
534	corporation verifies that a revenue deficit is projected, the
535	corporation shall certify a revenue deficit and notify the
536	Department of Revenue that the clerk is authorized to retain
537	revenues, in an amount necessary to fully fund the projected
538	revenue deficit, which he or she would otherwise be required to
539	remit to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the
540	department's Clerks of the Court Trust Fund pursuant to s.
541	28.37. If a revenue deficit is projected for that clerk after
542	retaining all of the projected collections from the court-
543	related fines, fees, service charges, and costs, the corporation
544	shall certify the amount of the revenue deficit to the Executive
545	Office of the Governor and request release authority for funds
546	from the department's Clerks of the Court Trust Fund.
547	Notwithstanding s. 216.192 relating to the release of funds, the
548	Executive Office of the Governor may approve the release of
549	funds in accordance with the notice, review, and objection
550	procedures set forth in s. 216.177 and shall provide notice to
551	the Chief Financial Officer. The Department of Revenue shall
552	request monthly distributions from the Chief Financial Officer
553	in equal amounts to each clerk certified to have a revenue
554	deficit, in accordance with the releases approved by the
555	Governor.
556	(4) The Legislative Budget Commission may approve
557	increases to the previously authorized budgets approved for
558	individual clerks of the court pursuant to section 28.35 for
559	court-related functions, if:
560	(a) The additional budget authority is necessary to pay
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561 the cost of performing new or additional functions required by 562 changes in law or court rule; or

563 (b) The additional budget authority is necessary to pay 564 the cost of supporting increases in the number of judges or 565 magistrates authorized by the Legislature.

566 (4) The budget request must identify the service units to
567 be provided within each core service. The service units shall be
568 developed by the corporation, in consultation with the Supreme
569 Court, the Chief Financial Officer, and the appropriations
570 committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

571 (5) The budget request must propose a unit cost for each
572 service unit. The corporation shall provide a copy of each
573 clerk's budget request to the Supreme Court.

574 (6) The corporation shall review each individual clerk's 575 prior-year expenditures, projected revenue, proposed unit costs, 576 and the proposed budget for each of the core-services 577 categories. The corporation shall compare each clerk's prior-578 year expenditures and unit costs for core services with a peer 579 group of clerks' offices having a population of a similar size 580 and a similar number of case filings. If the corporation finds 581 that the expenditures, unit costs, or proposed budget of a clerk 582 is significantly higher than those of clerks in that clerk's 583 peer group, the corporation shall require the clerk to submit 584 documentation justifying the difference in each core-services 585 category. Justification for higher expenditures may include, but 586 is not limited to, collective bargaining agreements, county 587 civil service agreements, and the number and distribution of 588 courthouses served by the clerk. If the expenditures and unit

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589 costs are not justified, the corporation shall recommend a 590 reduction in the funding for that core-services category in the 591 budget request to an amount similar to the peer group of clerks 592 to an amount that the corporation determines is justified. 593 (7) The corporation shall complete its review and 594 adjustments to the clerks' budget requests and make its 595 recommendations to the Legislature and the Supreme Court by 596 December 1 each year. 597 (8) The Chief Financial Officer shall review the proposed 598 unit costs associated with each clerk of court's budget request 599 and make recommendations to the Legislature. The Chief Financial 600 Officer may conduct any audit of the corporation or a clerk of 601 court as authorized by law. The Chief Justice of the Supreme 602 Court may request an audit of the corporation or any clerk of 603 court by the Chief Financial Officer. 604 (9) The Legislature shall appropriate the total amount for 605 the budgets of the clerks in the General Appropriations Act. The 606 Legislature may reject or modify any or all of the unit costs 607 recommended by the corporation. If the Legislature does not 608 specify the unit costs in the General Appropriations Act or 609 other law, the unit costs recommended by the corporation shall 610 be the official unit costs for that budget period. 611 (10) (a) Beginning in the 2010-2011 fiscal year, the 612 corporation shall release appropriations to each clerk quarterly. If funds in the Clerks of Court Trust Fund are 613 614 insufficient to provide a release in a quarter in a single 615 release, the corporation may release partial amounts for that 616 quarter so long as the total of those partial amounts does not Page 22 of 33

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617 exceed that quarter's release. If funds in the Clerks of Court 618 Trust Fund are insufficient for the first quarter release, the 619 corporation may make a request to the Governor for a trust fund 620 loan pursuant to chapter 215. The amount of the first three 621 releases shall be based on one quarter of the estimated budget 622 for each clerk as identified in the General Appropriations Act.

623 (b) The corporation shall estimate the fourth quarter's 624 number of units to be performed by each clerk. The amount of the 625 fourth-quarter release shall be based on the approved unit cost 626 times the estimated number of units of the fourth quarter with 627 the following adjustment: the fourth-quarter release shall be 628 adjusted based on the first three quarter's actual number of 629 service units provided as reported to the corporation by each clerk. If the clerk has performed fewer service units in the 630 631 first three quarters of the year compared to three quarters of the estimated number of service units in the General 632 633 Appropriations Act, the corporation shall decrease the fourth-634 quarter release. The amount of the decrease shall equal the 635 amount of the difference between the estimated number of service 636 units for the first three quarters and the actual number of 637 service units provided in the first three quarters times the 638 approved unit cost.

639 (c) No adjustment for the fourth-quarter release shall be
 640 made if the clerk has performed more units than the estimate for
 641 the first three quarters.

642 (d) If the clerk performs fewer units in the fourth
643 quarter than estimated by the corporation, the corporation shall
644 decrease the first-quarter release for the clerk in the next

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645 fiscal year by the amount of the difference between the
646 estimated number of service units for the fourth quarter and the
647 actual number of service units performed in that quarter times
648 the approved unit cost.

649 (c) The total of all releases to the clerks of court may 650 not exceed the amount appropriated in the General Appropriations 651 Act. If, during the year, the corporation determines that the 652 projected releases of appropriations for service units will 653 exceed the estimate used in the General Appropriations Act and 654 result in statewide expenditures greater than the amount 655 appropriated by law, the corporation shall reduce all service 656 unit costs of all clerks by the amount necessary to ensure that 657 service units are funded within the total amount appropriated to 658 the clerks of court. If such action is necessary, the 659 corporation shall notify the Legislative Budget Commission. If 660 the Legislative Budget Commission objects to the adjustments, 661 the Legislative Budget Commission shall adjust all service unit 662 costs by the amount necessary to ensure that projected units of 663 service are funded within the total amount appropriated to the 664 clerks of court at its next scheduled meeting.

665 (11) The corporation may submit proposed legislation to
 666 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
 667 the House of Representatives relating to the preparation of
 668 budget requests of the clerks of court.

669 Section 8. Section 28.365, Florida Statutes, is created to 670 read:

67128.365Procurement.—The clerks of the court and the672Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation are subject to

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the procurement requirements and limitations of chapter 287 for

expenditures made pursuant to the budget provided for in ss.

HB 5301

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28.35 and 28.36. Section 9. Section 28.37, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 28.37 Fines, fees, service charges, and costs remitted to the state.-Pursuant to s. 14(b), Art. V of the State (1)Constitution, selected salaries, costs, and expenses of the state courts system and court-related functions shall be funded from a portion of the revenues derived from statutory fines, fees, service charges, and costs collected by the clerks of the court. Beginning November 1, 2013, that portion of all fines, (2) fees, service charges, and costs collected by the clerks of the court for the previous month that is in excess of one-twelfth of the clerks' total budget for the performance of court-related functions shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund. Such collections do not include funding received for the operation of the Title IV-D child support collections and disbursement program. The clerk of the court shall remit the revenues collected during the previous month due to the state on or before the 10th day of each month. (3) No later than January 25, 2015, and each January 25 thereafter for the previous county fiscal year, the clerks of

699 court, in consultation with the Florida Clerks of Court

700 Operations Corporation, shall remit to the Department of Revenue

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701 for deposit in the General Revenue Fund the cumulative excess of all fines, fees, service charges, and costs retained by the 702 703 clerks of the court, plus any funds received by the clerks of 704 the court from the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund under s. 705 28.36(3), that exceed the amount needed to meet their authorized 706 budget amounts established under s. 28.35, and the Florida 707 Clerks of Court Operations Corporation shall remit to the 708 Department of Revenue for deposit in the General Revenue Fund 709 the cumulative excess of all fines, fees, service charges, and costs retained in the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund. However, 710 711 if the official estimate for funds accruing to the Clerks of the 712 Court Trust Fund made by the Revenue Estimating Conference for 713 the current fiscal year or the next fiscal year included in the estimate is less than the cumulative amount of authorized 714 715 budgets from the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund for the current 716 fiscal year, the Department of Revenue shall deposit the difference in the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund rather than in 717 718 the General Revenue Fund. 719 (4) The Department of Revenue shall collect any funds that 720 the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation determines 721 upon investigation were due no later than January 20 but not 722 remitted to the department. 723 (5) (2) Ten Except as otherwise provided in ss. 28.241 and 724 34.041, all court-related fines, fees, service charges, and 725 costs are considered state funds and shall be remitted by the 726 clerk to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Clerks 727 of the Court Trust Fund within the Justice Administrative 728 Commission. However, 10 percent of all court-related fines

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729 collected by the clerk, except for penalties or fines 730 distributed to counties or municipalities under s. 731 316.0083(1)(b)3. or s. 318.18(15)(a), shall be deposited into 732 the clerk's Public Records Modernization Trust Fund to be used 733 exclusively for additional clerk court-related operational needs 734 and program enhancements.

735 Section 10. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 736 34.041, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (a) of that 737 subsection is published, to read:

738

34.041 Filing fees.-

739 (1)(a) Filing fees are due at the time a party files a 740 pleading to initiate a proceeding or files a pleading for 741 relief. Reopen fees are due at the time a party files a pleading 742 to reopen a proceeding if at least 90 days have elapsed since 743 the filing of a final order or final judgment with the clerk. If 744 a fee is not paid upon the filing of the pleading as required 745 under this section, the clerk shall pursue collection of the fee pursuant to s. 28.246. Upon the institution of any civil action, 746 747 suit, or proceeding in county court, the party shall pay the 748 following filing fee, not to exceed:

For all claims less than \$100.....\$50. 749 1. 750 2. For all claims of \$100 or more but not more than \$500\$75. 751 For all claims of more than \$500 but not more than 3. 752 \$2,500.....\$170. 753 4. For all claims of more than \$2,500.....\$295. 754 5. In addition, for all proceedings of garnishment, 755 attachment, replevin, and distress.....\$85. 756 Notwithstanding subparagraphs 3. and 5., for all claims 6.

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of not more than \$1,000 filed simultaneously with an action for
replevin of property that is the subject of the claim.....\$125.
7. For removal of tenant action.....\$180.

761 The filing fee in subparagraph 6. is the total fee due under 762 this paragraph for that type of filing, and no other filing fee 763 under this paragraph may be assessed against such a filing.

764 (b) The first \$80 of the filing fee collected under 765 subparagraph (a)4. shall be remitted to the Department of 766 Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund. The next \$15 767 of the filing fee collected under subparagraph (a)4. τ and the 768 first \$10 of the filing fee collected under subparagraph (a)7. τ 769 shall be deposited in the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund. By 770 the 10th day of each month, the clerk shall submit that portion 771 of the fees collected in the previous month that is in excess of 772 one-twelfth of the clerk's total budget for the performance of 773 court-related functions to the Department of Revenue for deposit 774 into the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund. An additional filing 775 fee of \$4 shall be paid to the clerk. The clerk shall transfer 776 \$3.50 to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Court 777 Education Trust Fund and shall transfer 50 cents to the 778 Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Clerks 779 of the Court Trust Fund within the Department of Financial 780 Services Justice Administrative Commission to fund clerk 781 education provided by the Florida Clerks of Court Operations 782 Corporation. Postal charges incurred by the clerk of the county 783 court in making service by mail on defendants or other parties 784 shall be paid by the party at whose instance service is made.

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785 Except as provided in this section herein, filing fees and 786 service charges for performing duties of the clerk relating to 787 the county court shall be as provided in ss. 28.24 and 28.241. 788 Except as otherwise provided in this section herein, all filing 789 fees shall be retained as fee income of the office of the clerk 790 of the circuit court remitted to the Department of Revenue for 791 deposit into the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the 792 Justice Administrative Commission. Filing fees imposed by this 793 section may not be added to any penalty imposed by chapter 316 794 or chapter 318.

795 Section 11. Subsection (5) of section 43.16, Florida796 Statutes, is amended to read:

797 43.16 Justice Administrative Commission; membership,798 powers and duties.-

(5) The duties of the commission shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) The maintenance of a central state office for
administrative services and assistance when possible to and on
behalf of the state attorneys and public defenders of Florida,
the capital collateral regional counsel of Florida, the criminal
conflict and civil regional counsel, <u>and</u> the Guardian Ad Litem
Program, and the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation.

(b) Each state attorney, public defender, <u>and</u> criminal
conflict and civil regional counsel <u>and</u>, the Guardian Ad Litem
Program, and the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation
shall continue to prepare necessary budgets, vouchers that
represent valid claims for reimbursement by the state for
authorized expenses, and other things incidental to the proper

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813 administrative operation of the office, such as revenue 814 transmittals to the Chief Financial Officer and automated 815 systems plans, but will forward such items same to the 816 commission for recording and submission to the proper state 817 officer. However, when requested by a state attorney, a public 818 defender, a criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, or the Guardian Ad Litem Program, the commission will either assist in 819 820 the preparation of budget requests, voucher schedules, and other 821 forms and reports or accomplish the entire project involved.

822 Section 12. Paragraph (x) of subsection (2) of section823 110.205, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

824

110.205 Career service; exemptions.-

825 (2) EXEMPT POSITIONS.—The exempt positions that are not826 covered by this part include the following:

(x) All officers and employees of the Justice
Administrative Commission, Office of the State Attorney, Office
of the Public Defender, regional offices of capital collateral
counsel, offices of criminal conflict and civil regional
counsel, and Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office, including the
circuit guardian ad litem programs and the Florida Clerks of
Court Operations Corporation.

834 Section 13. Section 142.01, Florida Statutes, is amended 835 to read:

836 142.01 Fine and forfeiture fund; disposition of revenue; 837 clerk of the circuit court.-

(1) There shall be established by the clerk of the circuit
court in each county of this state a separate fund to be known
as the fine and forfeiture fund for use by the clerk of the

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HB 5301 2013 841 circuit court in performing court-related functions. The fund 842 shall consist of the following: 843 Fines and penalties pursuant to ss. 28.2402(2), (a) 844 34.045(2), 316.193, 327.35, 327.72, 379.2203(1), and 775.083(1). 845 (b) That portion of civil penalties directed to this fund 846 pursuant to s. 318.21. (c) Court costs pursuant to ss. 28.2402(1)(b), 847 34.045(1)(b), 318.14(10)(b), 318.18(11)(a), 327.73(9)(a) and 848 849 (11) (a), and 938.05(3). 850 Proceeds from forfeited bail bonds, unclaimed bonds, (d) 851 unclaimed moneys, or recognizances pursuant to ss. 321.05(4)(a), 852 379.2203(1), and 903.26(3)(a). 853 Fines and forfeitures pursuant to s. 34.191. (e) 854 (f) Filing fees received pursuant to ss. 28.241 and 855 34.041, unless the disposition of such fees is otherwise 856 required by law. 857 (q) - (f) All other revenues received by the clerk as revenue 858 authorized by law to be retained by the clerk. 859 (2) All revenues received by the clerk in the fine and 860 forfeiture fund from court-related fees, fines, costs, and 861 service charges are considered state funds and shall be remitted 862 monthly to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Clerks 863 of the Court Trust Fund within the Justice Administrative 864 Commission. 865 (2) (2) (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, all 866 fines and forfeitures arising from operation of the provisions 867 of s. 318.1215 shall be disbursed in accordance with that 868 section.

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869 Section 14. Section 213.131, Florida Statutes, is amended 870 to read:

213.131 Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the
Department of Revenue Justice Administrative Commission.—The
Clerks of the Court Trust Fund is created within the Department
of Revenue Justice Administrative Commission.

875 Section 15. Subsection (2) of section 215.22, Florida 876 Statutes, is amended to read:

877

215.22 Certain income and certain trust funds exempt.-

878 (2) Moneys and income of a revenue nature shared with
879 political subdivisions or received from taxes or fees authorized
880 to be levied by any political subdivision, including moneys from
881 service charges, fees, costs, and fines deposited into the
882 Clerks of the Court Trust Fund within the Department of Revenue,
883 shall be exempt from the deduction required by s. 215.20(1).

884Section 16. Paragraph (qq) of subsection (1) of section885216.011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

886

216.011 Definitions.-

887 (1) For the purpose of fiscal affairs of the state,
888 appropriations acts, legislative budgets, and approved budgets,
889 each of the following terms has the meaning indicated:

(qq) "State agency" or "agency" means any official, officer, commission, board, authority, council, committee, or department of the executive branch of state government. For purposes of this chapter and chapter 215, "state agency" or "agency" includes, but is not limited to, state attorneys, public defenders, criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, capital collateral regional counsel, the Florida Clerks of Court

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897 Operations Corporation, the Justice Administrative Commission, 898 the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, and the Florida Public 899 Service Commission. Solely for the purposes of implementing s. 900 19(h), Art. III of the State Constitution, the terms "state 901 agency" or "agency" include the judicial branch. 902 Section 17. For the period of July 1, 2013, through 903 September 30, 2013, the authorized budget for the clerks of the 904 circuit court shall be \$110,845,078 and the authorized budget 905 for the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation shall be 906 \$405,412. The Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation 907 shall determine budget amounts for the individual clerks for 908 that period. For the county fiscal year beginning October 1, 909 2013, and ending September 30, 2014, the authorized budget for 910 the clerks of the circuit court shall be \$443,380,312 and the 911 authorized budget for the Florida Clerks of Court Operations 912 Corporation shall be \$1,621,648. The Florida Clerks of Court 913 Operations Corporation shall determine budget amounts for the 914 individual clerks for that period.

915 Section 18. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this 916 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon 917 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 918 2013.

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