1

A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to clerks of the court; amending s. 3 28.13, F.S.; providing requirements for the storage of 4 papers and electronic filings and requiring that they 5 be stamped with the date and time of submission; 6 requiring the clerk to retain control and custody of 7 filed documents; amending s. 28.222, F.S.; authorizing 8 the clerk to remove certain court records from the 9 Official Records; amending s. 28.24, F.S.; deleting provisions exempting specified persons from service 10 11 fees; amending s. 28.244, F.S.; increasing the 12 threshold amount for automatic repayment of 13 overpayments; amending s. 28.345, F.S.; requiring that the clerk provide access to public records without 14 15 charge to certain persons, subject to a limitation and 16 an exception; authorizing the clerk to provide public records in an electronic format under certain 17 circumstances; amending s. 57.081, F.S.; clarifying 18 19 that, with the exception of charges for issuance of a summons, the prepayment of costs is not required upon 20 a certification of indigence; amending s. 57.082, 21 22 F.S.; providing for the inclusion of certain filing 23 fees in payment plans; amending s. 101.151, F.S.; 24 clarifying when the office title "Clerk of the Circuit 25 Court and Comptroller" may be used; amending s. 26 119.0714, F.S.; requiring that certain requests for 27 maintenance of a public record exemption specify 28 certain information; amending s. 194.032, F.S.;

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29 requiring that the property appraiser, rather than the 30 clerk, provide the property record card to a 31 petitioner regardless of whether the petitioner 32 initiates evidence exchange; amending s. 938.30, F.S.; 33 providing that the state is not required to pay fees 34 to enforce judgment for costs and fines; providing an 35 effective date.

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

39 Section 1. Section 28.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to 40 read:

41 28.13 To keep Papers and electronic filings.-The clerk of 42 the circuit court must maintain shall keep all papers and 43 electronic filings filed in the clerk's office with the utmost 44 care and security, storing them with related case arranged in appropriate files and affixing a stamp, which may be electronic, 45 46 to each submission indicating (endorsing upon each the date and 47 time that when the submission same was filed. The clerk may), 48 and shall not permit any attorney or other person to remove 49 filed documents from the control or custody take papers once 50 filed out of the office of the clerk without leave of the court, 51 except as otherwise is hereinafter provided by law.

52 Section 2. Present subsections (4) through (6) of section 53 28.222, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5) 54 through (7), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to 55 that section to read:

56

28.222 Clerk to be county recorder.-

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84

57 (4) The county recorder shall remove recorded court
58 documents from the Official Records pursuant to a sealing or
59 expunction order.

60 Section 3. Section 28.24, Florida Statutes, is amended to 61 read:

62 28.24 Service charges by clerk of the circuit court.-The 63 clerk of the circuit court shall charge for services rendered manually or electronically by the clerk's office in recording 64 65 documents and instruments and in performing other specified the duties. These charges may enumerated in amounts not to exceed 66 those specified in this section, except as provided in s. 67 68 28.345. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the 69 clerk of the circuit court shall provide without charge to the 70 state attorney, public defender, guardian ad litem, public 71 guardian, attorney ad litem, criminal conflict and civil 72 regional counsel, and private court-appointed counsel paid by 73 the state, and to the authorized staff acting on behalf of each, 74 access to and a copy of any public record, if the requesting 75 party is entitled by law to view the exempt or confidential 76 record, as maintained by and in the custody of the clerk of the 77 circuit court as provided in general law and the Florida Rules 78 of Judicial Administration. The clerk of the circuit court may 79 provide the requested public record in an electronic format in 80 lieu of a paper format when capable of being accessed by the 81 requesting entity. 82 83 Charges

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85 For examining, comparing, correcting, verifying, and (1)86 certifying transcripts of record in appellate proceedings, 87 prepared by attorney for appellant or someone else other than 88 89 For preparing, numbering, and indexing an original (2) 90 record of appellate proceedings, per instrument......3.50 For certifying copies of any instrument in the public 91 (3) 92 (4) For verifying any instrument presented for 93 certification prepared by someone other than clerk, per page 94 95 3.50 96 (5) (a) For making copies by photographic process of any 97 instrument in the public records consisting of pages of not more than 14 inches by 8 1/2 inches, per page.....1.00 98 99 (b) For making copies by photographic process of any instrument in the public records of more than 14 inches by 8 1/2 100 101 For making microfilm copies of any public records: 102 (6) 103 (a) 104 (b) 105 (C) 106 (7)For copying any instrument in the public records by 107 other than photographic process, per page.....6.00 For writing any paper other than herein specifically 108 (8) mentioned, same as for copying, including signing and sealing 109 110 7.00 (9) For indexing each entry not recorded.....1.00 111 112 (10) For receiving money into the registry of court:

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113	(a)1. First \$500, percent
114	2. Each subsequent \$100, percent
115	(b) Eminent domain actions, per deposit170.00
116	(11) For examining, certifying, and recording plats and
117	for recording condominium exhibits larger than 14 inches by 8
118	1/2 inches:
119	(a) First page
120	(b) Each additional page15.00
121	(12) For recording, indexing, and filing any instrument
122	not more than 14 inches by 8 1/2 inches, including required
123	notice to property appraiser where applicable:
124	(a) First page or fraction thereof
125	(b) Each additional page or fraction thereof4.00
126	(c) For indexing instruments recorded in the official
127	records which contain more than four names, per additional name
128	1.00
129	(d) An additional service charge <u>must</u> shall be paid to the
130	clerk of the circuit court to be deposited in the Public Records
131	Modernization Trust Fund for each instrument listed in s.
132	28.222, except judgments received from the courts and notices of
133	lis pendens, recorded in the official records:
134	1. First page1.00
135	2. Each additional page0.50
136	
137	Said fund must shall be held in trust by the clerk and used
138	exclusively for equipment and maintenance of equipment,
139	personnel training, and technical assistance in modernizing the
140	public records system of the office. In a county where the duty

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141 of maintaining official records exists in an office other than 142 the office of the clerk of the circuit court, the clerk of the 143 circuit court is entitled to 25 percent of the moneys deposited 144 into the trust fund for equipment, maintenance of equipment, 145 training, and technical assistance in modernizing the system for 146 storing records in the office of the clerk of the circuit court. 147 The fund may not be used for the payment of travel expenses, membership dues, bank charges, staff-recruitment costs, salaries 148 149 or benefits of employees, construction costs, general operating 150 expenses, or other costs not directly related to obtaining and 151 maintaining equipment for public records systems or for the 152 purchase of furniture or office supplies and equipment not 153 related to the storage of records. On or before December 1, 154 1995, and on or before December 1 of each year immediately 155 preceding each year during which the trust fund is scheduled for 156 legislative review under s. 19(f)(2), Art. III of the State 157 Constitution, each clerk of the circuit court shall file a 158 report on the Public Records Modernization Trust Fund with the 159 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of 160 Representatives. The report must itemize each expenditure made 161 from the trust fund since the last report was filed; each 162 obligation payable from the trust fund on that date; and the 163 percentage of funds expended for each of the following: 164 equipment, maintenance of equipment, personnel training, and 165 technical assistance. The report must indicate the nature of the 166 system each clerk uses to store, maintain, and retrieve public 167 records and the degree to which the system has been upgraded since the creation of the trust fund. 168

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(e) An additional service charge of \$4 per page shall be
paid to the clerk of the circuit court for each instrument
listed in s. 28.222, except judgments received from the courts
and notices of lis pendens, recorded in the official records.
From the additional \$4 service charge collected:

174 1. If the counties maintain legal responsibility for the costs of the court-related technology needs as defined in s. 175 176 29.008(1)(f)2. and (h), 10 cents shall be distributed to the 177 Florida Association of Court Clerks and Comptrollers, Inc., for 178 the cost of development, implementation, operation, and 179 maintenance of the clerks' Comprehensive Case Information 180 System; \$1.90 shall be retained by the clerk to be deposited in the Public Records Modernization Trust Fund and used exclusively 181 182 for funding court-related technology needs of the clerk as 183 defined in s. 29.008(1)(f)2. and (h); and \$2 shall be 184 distributed to the board of county commissioners to be used 185 exclusively to fund court-related technology, and court technology needs as defined in s. 29.008(1)(f)2. and (h) for the 186 187 state trial courts, state attorney, public defender, and 188 criminal conflict and civil regional counsel in that county. If 189 the counties maintain legal responsibility for the costs of the 190 court-related technology needs as defined in s. 29.008(1)(f)2. 191 and (h), notwithstanding any other provision of law, the county 192 is not required to provide additional funding beyond that 193 provided herein for the court-related technology needs of the 194 clerk as defined in s. 29.008(1)(f)2. and (h). All court records 195 and official records are the property of the State of Florida, 196 including any records generated as part of the Comprehensive

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197 Case Information System funded pursuant to this paragraph and 198 the clerk of court is designated as the custodian of such 199 records, except in a county where the duty of maintaining 200 official records exists in a county office other than the clerk 201 of court or comptroller, such county office is designated the 202 custodian of all official records, and the clerk of court is 203 designated the custodian of all court records. The clerk of 204 court or any entity acting on behalf of the clerk of court, 205 including an association, may shall not charge a fee to any 206 agency as defined in s. 119.011, the Legislature, or the State 207 Court System for copies of records generated by the 208 Comprehensive Case Information System or held by the clerk of 209 court or any entity acting on behalf of the clerk of court, 210 including an association.

2. If the state becomes legally responsible for the costs
of court-related technology needs as defined in s.
29.008(1)(f)2. and (h), whether by operation of general law or
by court order, \$4 shall be remitted to the Department of
Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund.

216 Oath, administering, attesting, and sealing, not (13)217 218 (14)For validating certificates, any authorized bonds, 219 each 3.50 For preparing affidavit of domicile......5.00 220 (15)221 (16)For exemplified certificates, including signing and 222 223 For authenticated certificates, including signing and (17)224 sealing.....7.00

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225 (18) (a) For issuing and filing a subpoena for a witness, 226 not otherwise provided for herein (includes writing, preparing, signing, and sealing).....7.00 227 228 (b) For signing and sealing only.....2.00 229 (19)For approving bond.....8.50 230 (20)For searching of records, for each year's search2.00 231 For processing an application for a tax deed sale (21)232 (includes application, sale, issuance, and preparation of tax deed, and disbursement of proceeds of sale), other than excess 233 234 235 For disbursement of excess proceeds of tax deed sale, (22)236 first \$100 or fraction thereof.....10.00 237 Upon receipt of an application for a marriage (23)238 license, for preparing and administering of oath; issuing, 239 sealing, and recording of the marriage license; and providing a 240 241 (24)242 For sealing any court file or expungement of any (25)243 244 (26) (a) For receiving and disbursing all restitution 245 246 (b) For receiving and disbursing all partial payments, 247 other than restitution payments, for which an administrative processing service charge is not imposed pursuant to s. 28.246, 248 249 250 (C) For setting up a payment plan, a one-time 251 administrative processing charge in lieu of a per month charge 252 under paragraph (b).....25.00

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(27) Postal charges incurred by the clerk of the circuit
 court in any mailing by certified or registered mail <u>must</u> shall
 be paid by the party at whose instance the mailing is made.

(28) For furnishing an electronic copy of information contained in a computer database: a fee as provided for in chapter 119.

259 Section 4. Section 28.244, Florida Statutes, is amended to 260 read:

261 28.244 Refunds.-A clerk of the circuit court or a filing 262 officer of another office where records are filed who receives 263 payment for services provided and thereafter determines that an 264 overpayment has occurred shall refund to the person who made the 265 payment the amount of any overpayment that exceeds \$10 \$5. If 266 the amount of the overpayment is \$10 \$5 or less, the clerk of 267 the circuit court or a filing officer of another office where 268 records are filed is not required to refund the amount of the 269 overpayment unless the person who made the overpayment makes a 270 written request.

271 Section 5. Section 28.345, Florida Statutes, is amended to 272 read:

273 28.345 <u>State access to records;</u> exemption from court-274 related fees and charges.-

275 (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the clerk
 276 of the circuit court shall, upon request, provide access to
 277 public records without charge to the state attorney, public
 278 defender, guardian ad litem, public guardian, attorney ad litem,
 279 criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, and private court 280 appointed counsel paid by the state, and to authorized staff

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281 acting on their behalf. The clerk of court may provide the 282 requested public record in an electronic format in lieu of a 283 paper format if the requesting entity is capable of accessing 284 such public record electronically.

285 Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter or (2) 286 law to the contrary, judges and those court staff acting on 287 behalf of judges, state attorneys, guardians ad litem, public guardians, attorneys ad litem, court-appointed private counsel, 288 289 criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, and public 290 defenders, and state agencies, while acting in their official 291 capacity, and state agencies, are exempt from all court-related 292 fees and charges assessed by the clerks of the circuit courts.

293 (3) The exemptions from fees and charges provided in this
 294 section apply only to state agencies and state entities and the
 295 party represented by the agency or entity.

296 Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 57.081, Florida 297 Statutes, is amended to read:

298 57.081 Costs; right to proceed where prepayment of costs 299 and payment of filing fees waived.-

300 Any indigent person, except a prisoner as defined in (1)301 s. 57.085, who is a party or intervenor in any judicial or 302 administrative agency proceeding or who initiates such 303 proceeding shall receive the services of the courts, sheriffs, 304 and clerks, with respect to such proceedings, despite his or her 305 present inability to pay for these services. Such services are 306 limited to filing fees; service of process; certified copies of 307 orders or final judgments; a single photocopy of any court 308 pleading, record, or instrument filed with the clerk; examining

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309 fees; mediation services and fees; private court-appointed 310 counsel fees; subpoena fees and services; service charges for 311 collecting and disbursing funds; and any other cost or service 312 arising out of pending litigation. In any appeal from an 313 administrative agency decision, for which the clerk is 314 responsible for preparing the transcript, the clerk shall record the cost of preparing the transcripts and the cost for copies of 315 any exhibits in the record. Prepayment of costs to any court, 316 317 clerk, or sheriff is not required and payment of filing fees is 318 not required in any action if the party has obtained in each 319 proceeding a certification of indigence in accordance with s. 320 27.52 or s. 57.082 A party who has obtained a certification of 321 indigence pursuant to s. 27.52 or s. 57.082 with respect to a proceeding is not required to prepay costs to a court, clerk, or 322 323 sheriff and is not required to pay filing fees or charges for 324 issuance of a summons.

325 Section 7. Subsection (6) of section 57.082, Florida 326 Statutes, is amended to read:

327

57.082 Determination of civil indigent status.-

328 (6) PROCESSING CHARGE; PAYMENT PLANS.-A person who the 329 clerk or the court determines is indigent for civil proceedings 330 under this section shall be enrolled in a payment plan under s. 331 28.246 and shall be charged a one-time administrative processing 332 charge under s. 28.24(26)(c). A monthly payment amount, 333 calculated based upon all fees and all anticipated costs, is 334 presumed to correspond to the person's ability to pay if it does 335 not exceed 2 percent of the person's annual net income, as 336 defined in subsection (1), divided by 12. The person may seek

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337 review of the clerk's decisions regarding a payment plan 338 established under s. 28.246 in the court having jurisdiction 339 over the matter. A case may not be impeded in any way, delayed 340 in filing, or delayed in its progress, including the final 341 hearing and order, due to nonpayment of any fees or costs by an 342 indigent person. Filing fees waived from payment under s. 57.081 343 may not be included in the calculation related to a payment plan 344 established under this section.

345 Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 346 101.151, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

347

101.151 Specifications for ballots.-

348 (2) (a) The ballot <u>must include</u> shall have the following
349 office titles <u>above</u> under which shall appear the names of the
350 candidates for the respective offices in the following order:

351 1. The office titles of President and Vice President above 352 and thereunder the names of the candidates for President and 353 Vice President of the United States nominated by the political 354 party that received the highest vote for Governor in the last 355 general election of the Governor in this state, followed by-356 Then shall appear the names of other candidates for President 357 and Vice President of the United States who have been properly 358 nominated.

359 2. The office titles of United States Senator and360 Representative in Congress.

361 3. The office titles of Governor and Lieutenant Governor;
362 Attorney General; Chief Financial Officer; Commissioner of
363 Agriculture; State Attorney, with the applicable judicial
364 circuit; and Public Defender, with the applicable judicial

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365 circuit.

366 4. The office titles of State Senator and State
367 Representative, with the applicable district for the office
368 printed beneath.

369 5. The office titles of Clerk of the Circuit Court_{au} or<u>,</u> 370 when the Clerk of the Circuit Court also serves as the County 371 <u>Comptroller</u>, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller<u>,</u> 372 (whichever is applicable and when authorized by $law_{\underline{i}}$), Clerk of 373 the County Court<u>,</u> (when authorized by $law_{\underline{i}}$), Sheriff<u>;</u> Property 374 Appraiser<u>;</u> Tax Collector<u>;</u> District Superintendent of Schools<u>;</u> 375 and Supervisor of Elections.

6. The office titles of Board of County Commissioners, with the applicable district printed beneath each office, and such other county and district offices as are involved in the election, in the order fixed by the Department of State, followed, in the year of their election, by "Party Offices," and thereunder the offices of state and county party executive committee members.

383 Section 9. Paragraph (f) is added to subsection (2) of 384 section 119.0714, Florida Statutes, and section (3) is amended, 385 to read:

386 119.0714 Court files; court records; official records.387 (2) COURT RECORDS.-

388 (f) A request for maintenance of a public records 389 exemption in s. 119.071(4)(d)2. made pursuant to s.

390 <u>119.071(4)(d)3.</u> must specify the document type, name,

391 identification number, and page number of the court record that

392 contains the exempt information.

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393

(3) OFFICIAL RECORDS.-

394 (a) <u>A</u> Any person who prepares or files a record for
395 recording in the official records as provided in chapter 28 may
396 not include in that record a social security number or a bank
397 account, debit, charge, or credit card number unless otherwise
398 expressly required by law.

399 <u>(a) (b)1.</u> If a social security number or a bank account, 400 debit, charge, or credit card number is included in an official 401 record, such number may be made available as part of the 402 official records available for public inspection and copying 403 unless redaction is requested by the holder of such number or by 404 the holder's attorney or legal guardian.

405 <u>1.2.</u> If such record is in electronic format, on January 1, 406 2011, and thereafter, the county recorder must use his or her 407 best effort, as provided in paragraph <u>(d) (h)</u>, to keep social 408 security numbers confidential and exempt as provided for in s. 409 119.071(5)(a), and to keep complete bank account, debit, charge, 410 and credit card numbers exempt as provided for in s. 411 119.071(5)(b), without any person having to request redaction.

412 <u>2.3.</u> Section 119.071(5)(a)7. and 8. does not apply to the 413 county recorder with respect to official records.

414 (b) (c) The holder of a social security number or a bank 415 account, debit, charge, or credit card number, or the holder's 416 attorney or legal guardian, may request that a county recorder 417 redact from an image or copy of an official record placed on a 418 county recorder's publicly available Internet website or on a 419 publicly available Internet website used by a county recorder to 420 display public records, or otherwise made electronically

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421 available to the public, his or her social security number or 422 bank account, debit, charge, or credit card number contained in 423 that official record.

424 <u>1.(d)</u> A request for redaction must be a signed, legibly
425 written request and must be delivered by mail, facsimile,
426 electronic transmission, or in person to the county recorder.
427 The request must specify the identification page number of the
428 record that contains the number to be redacted.

429 <u>2.(e)</u> The county recorder does not have a duty to inquire
430 beyond the written request to verify the identity of a person
431 requesting redaction.

432 <u>3.(f)</u> A fee may not be charged for redacting a social
433 security number or a bank account, debit, charge, or credit card
434 number.

435 <u>(c) (g)</u> A county recorder shall immediately and 436 conspicuously post signs throughout his or her offices for 437 public viewing, and shall immediately and conspicuously post on 438 any Internet website or remote electronic site made available by 439 the county recorder and used for the ordering or display of 440 official records or images or copies of official records, a 441 notice stating, in substantially similar form, the following:

1. On or after October 1, 2002, any person preparing or filing a record for recordation in the official records may not include a social security number or a bank account, debit, charge, or credit card number in such document unless required by law.

447 2. Any person has a right to request a county recorder to448 remove from an image or copy of an official record placed on a

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449 county recorder's publicly available Internet website or on a 450 publicly available Internet website used by a county recorder to 451 display public records, or otherwise made electronically 452 available to the general public, any social security number 453 contained in an official record. Such request must be made in 454 writing and delivered by mail, facsimile, or electronic 455 transmission, or delivered in person, to the county recorder. 456 The request must specify the identification page number that 457 contains the social security number to be redacted. A fee may 458 not be charged for the redaction of a social security number 459 pursuant to such a request.

460 (d) (h) If the county recorder accepts or stores official 461 records in an electronic format, the county recorder must use 462 his or her best efforts to redact all social security numbers 463 and bank account, debit, charge, or credit card numbers from 464 electronic copies of the official record. The use of an 465 automated program for redaction is shall be deemed to be the best effort in performing the redaction and is shall be deemed 466 467 in compliance with the requirements of this subsection.

468 <u>(e)(i)</u> The county recorder is not liable for the 469 inadvertent release of social security numbers, or bank account, 470 debit, charge, or credit card numbers, filed with the county 471 recorder.

472 (f) A request for maintenance of a public records
473 exemption in s. 119.071(4)(d)2. made pursuant to s.
474 119.071(4)(d)3. must specify the document type, name,
475 identification number, and page number of the official record
476 that contains the exempt information.

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477 Section 10. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 478 194.032, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

479

194.032 Hearing purposes; timetable.-

480 The clerk of the governing body of the county shall (2) (a) 481 prepare a schedule of appearances before the board based on 482 petitions timely filed with him or her. The clerk shall notify 483 each petitioner of the scheduled time of his or her appearance 484 at least 25 calendar days before the day of the scheduled 485 appearance. The notice must shall indicate whether the petition 486 has been scheduled to be heard at a particular time or during a 487 block of time. If the petition has been scheduled to be heard 488 within a block of time, the beginning and ending of that block 489 of time must shall be indicated on the notice; however, as 490 provided in paragraph (b), a petitioner may not be required to 491 wait for more than a reasonable time, not to exceed 2 hours, 492 after the beginning of the block of time. If the petitioner 493 checked the appropriate box on the petition form to request a 494 copy of the property record card containing relevant information 495 used in computing the current assessment, the property appraiser 496 must provide the copy to the petitioner upon receipt of the 497 petition from the clerk regardless of whether the petitioner 498 initiates evidence exchange clerk shall provide the copy of the 499 card along with the notice. Upon receipt of the notice, the 500 petitioner may reschedule the hearing a single time by 501 submitting to the clerk a written request to reschedule, at 502 least 5 calendar days before the day of the originally scheduled 503 hearing.

504

Section 11. Subsections (2) and (6) of section 938.30,

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505 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

506 938.30 Financial obligations in criminal cases; 507 supplementary proceedings.-

508 The court may require a person liable for payment of (2)509 an obligation to appear and be examined under oath concerning 510 the person's financial ability to pay the obligation. The judge 511 may convert the statutory financial obligation into a court-512 ordered obligation to perform community service, subject to the 513 provisions of s. 318.18(8), after examining a person under oath 514 and determining the a person's inability to pay. Any person who 515 fails failing to attend a hearing may be arrested on warrant or 516 capias which may be issued by the clerk upon order of the court.

517 If judgment has not been previously entered on any (6) 518 court-imposed financial obligation, the court may enter judgment 519 thereon and issue any writ necessary to enforce the judgment in the manner allowed in civil cases. Any judgment issued under 520 521 this section constitutes a civil lien against the judgment 522 debtor's presently owned or after-acquired property, when 523 recorded pursuant to s. 55.10. Supplementary proceedings 524 undertaken by any governmental entity to satisfy a judgment 525 imposed pursuant to this section may proceed without bond and 526 without the payment of statutory fees associated with judgment 527 enforcement.

528

Section 12. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.

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