1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to unclaimed funds held by the clerks 3 of court; repealing s. 43.19, F.S., relating to the 4 disposition of certain money paid into a court which 5 is unclaimed; amending s. 45.032, F.S.; deleting 6 provisions defining and specifying the powers of a 7 "surplus trustee"; requiring the clerk to report to 8 the Department of Financial Services as unclaimed 9 property a surplus under certain circumstances; specifying the entities who are entitled to a surplus 10 11 under certain circumstances; conforming provisions to 12 changes made by the act; amending s. 45.033, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made by the act; 13 14 repealing s. 45.034, F.S., relating to qualifications and appointment of a surplus trustee in foreclosure 15 16 actions; amending s. 45.035, F.S.; revising service 17 charges that a clerk may receive and deduct from surplus amounts; amending ss. 717.124, 717.138, and 18 19 717.1401, F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing 20 an effective date. 21 22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 23 24 Section 43.19, Florida Statutes, is repealed. Section 1. 25 Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 45.032, Florida

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Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (4), and paragraph (d) of subsection (1), paragraph (c) of subsection (3), and present subsection (4) of that section are amended to read:

45.032 Disbursement of surplus funds after judicial sale.-

(1) For purposes of ss. 45.031-45.035, the term:

- (d) "Surplus trustee" means a person qualifying as a surplus trustee pursuant to s. 45.034.
- (3) During the 60 days after the clerk issues a certificate of disbursements, the clerk shall hold the surplus pending a court order.
- the owner of record or any subordinate lienholder, it is subject to s. 717.113 and shall be reported and remitted to the Department of Financial Services in accordance with ss. 717.117 and 717.119. For purposes of establishing entitlement to the property, only the owner of record reported by the clerk or the estate or beneficiary, as defined in s. 731.201, of a deceased owner of record reported by the clerk is entitled to the surplus. A surplus of less than \$10 escheats to no claim is filed during the 60-day period, the clerk shall appoint a surplus trustee from a list of qualified surplus trustees as authorized in s. 45.034. Upon such appointment, the clerk shall prepare a notice of appointment of surplus trustee and shall furnish a copy to the surplus trustee. The form of the notice may be as follows:

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51 52 (Caption of Action) 53 54 NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT 55 OF SURPLUS TRUSTEE 56 57 The undersigned clerk of the court certifies that he or she 58 disbursed the proceeds received from the sale of the property as provided in the order or final judgment to the persons named in 59 60 the certificate of disbursements, and that surplus funds of 61 \$.... remain and are subject to disbursement to the owner of 62 record. You have been appointed as surplus trustee for the purpose of finding the owner of record in order for the clerk to 63 64 disburse the surplus, after deducting costs, to the owner of 65 record. WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on ...., ... (year).... 66 67 ...(Clerk)... By ... (Deputy Clerk) ... 68 69 70 (4) If the surplus trustee is unable to locate the owner 71 of record entitled to the surplus within 1 year after 72 appointment, the appointment shall terminate and the clerk shall notify the surplus trustee that his or her appointment was 73 74 terminated. Thirty days after termination of the appointment of the surplus trustee, the clerk shall treat the remaining funds 75

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as unclaimed property to be deposited with the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to chapter 717.

- Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section 45.033, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (e) of that subsection is redesignated as paragraph (d), to read:
- 45.033 Sale or assignment of rights to surplus funds in a property subject to foreclosure.—
- (3) A voluntary transfer or assignment shall be a transfer or assignment qualified under this subsection, thereby entitling the transferee or assignee to the surplus funds or a portion or percentage of the surplus funds, if:
- (d) The transferor or assignee is qualified as a surplus trustee, or could qualify as a surplus trustee, pursuant to s. 45.034.
  - Section 4. <u>Section 45.034, Florida Statutes, is repealed.</u>
- Section 5. Paragraphs (b) and (d) of subsection (2) of section 45.035, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (c) of that subsection is redesignated as paragraph (b), to read:
- 45.035 Clerk's fees.—In addition to other fees or service charges authorized by law, the clerk shall receive service charges related to the judicial sales procedure set forth in ss. 45.031-45.034 and this section:
- (2) If there is a surplus resulting from the sale, the clerk may receive the following service charges, which shall be deducted from the surplus:

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(b) The clerk is entitled to a service charge of \$15 for

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102 notifying a surplus trustee of his or her appointment. 103 (d) The clerk is entitled to a service charge of \$15 for 104 appointing a surplus trustee, furnishing the surplus trustee 105 with a copy of the final judgment and the certificate of 106 disbursements, and disbursing to the surplus trustee the 107 trustee's cost advance. Section 6. Subsection (8) of section 717.124, Florida 108 109 Statutes, is amended to read: 110 717.124 Unclaimed property claims. This section applies to all unclaimed property 111 112 reported and remitted to the Chief Financial Officer, including, but not limited to, property reported pursuant to ss. 43.19, 113 114 45.032, 732.107, 733.816, and 744.534. 115 Section 7. Section 717.138, Florida Statutes, is amended 116 to read: 717.138 Rulemaking authority.—The department shall 117 118 administer and provide for the enforcement of this chapter. The 119 department has authority to adopt rules pursuant to ss.

120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this

chapter. The department may adopt rules to allow for electronic

filing of fees, forms, and reports required by this chapter. The

authority to adopt rules pursuant to this chapter applies to all

unclaimed property reported and remitted to the Chief Financial

Officer, including, but not limited to, property reported and

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126	remitted pursuant to ss. $43.19$ , $45.032$ , $732.107$ , $733.816$ , and
127	744.534.
128	Section 8. Section 717.1401, Florida Statutes, is amended
129	to read:
130	717.1401 Repeal.—This chapter shall not repeal, but shall
131	be additional and supplemental to the existing provisions of ss.
132	43.18 <del>, 43.19,</del> and 402.17 and chapter 716.
133	Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

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