



590398

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

The Committee on Regulated Industries (Brandes) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Between lines 134 and 135

insert:

Section 11. Section 454.18, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

454.18 Persons ~~Officers~~ not allowed to practice;
exceptions.—

(1) No sheriff or clerk of any court, or full-time deputy thereof, shall practice in this state, nor shall any person not



11 of good moral character, or who has been convicted of an
12 infamous crime be entitled to practice. A person may not be
13 denied the right to practice on account of sex, race, or color.
14 ~~And~~ Any person, regardless of whether he or she is an attorney
15 or falls not, or whether within the exceptions specified in this
16 section mentioned above or not, may:

17 (a) Conduct his or her own cause in any court of this
18 state, or before any public board, committee, or officer,
19 subject to the lawful rules and discipline of such court, board,
20 committee, or officer.

21 (b) Use a digital network, also known as a traffic
22 infraction network, to process and resolve a traffic citation
23 and to procure an independent attorney licensed to practice in
24 this state.

25 (2) The provisions of this section restricting the practice
26 of law by a sheriff or clerk, or full-time deputy thereof, do
27 not apply in a case where such person is representing the office
28 or agency in the course of his or her duties as an attorney.

29 Section 12. Section 454.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to
30 read:

31 454.23 Penalties for unlicensed practice of law;
32 exception.—

33 (1) A ~~Any~~ person not licensed or otherwise authorized to
34 practice law in this state who practices law in this state or
35 holds himself or herself out to the public as qualified to
36 practice law in this state, or who willfully pretends to be, or
37 willfully takes or uses any name, title, addition, or
38 description implying that he or she is qualified, or recognized
39 by law as qualified, to practice law in this state, commits a



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40 felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s.
41 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

42 (2) This section does not apply to a person employed or
43 contracted by a digital network or a traffic infraction network
44 as provided under s. 454.18(1)(b) who assists only with the
45 processing and resolution of a traffic citation or facilitates
46 the procurement of an independent attorney licensed to practice
47 in this state.

48
49 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

50 And the title is amended as follows:

51 Delete line 25

52 and insert:

53 Professional Regulation; amending s. 454.18, F.S.;

54 authorizing the use of digital networks or traffic

55 infraction networks to process and resolve a traffic

56 citation and to facilitate the procurement of an

57 independent attorney licensed to practice in this

58 state; amending s. 454.23, F.S.; providing

59 applicability; amending s. 469.006, F.S.;