

By Senator Baxley

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to background screening; amending ss.
3 25.386 and 44.106, F.S.; requiring that certain
4 standards and procedures for foreign language court
5 interpreters and mediators, respectively, include
6 level 2 background screenings; providing an effective
7 date.

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

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11 Section 1. Section 25.386, Florida Statutes, is amended to
12 read:

13 25.386 Foreign language court interpreters.—The Supreme
14 Court shall establish minimum standards and procedures for
15 qualifications, certification, professional conduct, discipline,
16 and training of foreign language court interpreters who are
17 appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction. Such standards
18 and procedures must require a level 2 background screening
19 conducted in accordance with chapter 435. The Supreme Court
20 shall set fees to be charged to applicants for certification and
21 renewal of certification as a foreign language court
22 interpreter. The revenues generated from such fees shall be used
23 to offset the costs of administration of the certification
24 program and shall be deposited into the Administrative Trust
25 Fund within the state courts system. The Supreme Court may
26 appoint or employ such personnel as are necessary to assist the
27 court in administering this section.

28 Section 2. Section 44.106, Florida Statutes, is amended to
29 read:

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30 44.106 Standards and procedures for mediators and
31 arbitrators; fees.—The Supreme Court shall establish minimum
32 standards and procedures for qualifications, certification,
33 professional conduct, discipline, and training for mediators and
34 arbitrators who are appointed pursuant to this chapter. Such
35 standards and procedures for mediators must require a level 2
36 background screening conducted in accordance with chapter 435.
37 The Supreme Court is authorized to set fees to be charged to
38 applicants for certification and renewal of certification. The
39 revenues generated from these fees shall be used to offset the
40 costs of administration of the certification process. The
41 Supreme Court may appoint or employ such personnel as are
42 necessary to assist the court in exercising its powers and
43 performing its duties under this chapter.

44 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.