

By Senator Gruters

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public defender duties; amending s.
3 27.51, F.S.; specifying additional circumstances under
4 which a public defender may not be appointed to
5 represent a defendant; providing an effective date.
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7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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9 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 27.51, Florida
10 Statutes, is amended to read:
11 27.51 Duties of public defender.—
12 (2) The court may not appoint the public defender to
13 represent, even on a temporary basis, any person who is not
14 indigent. If a defendant has retained private counsel, the court
15 may not appoint the public defender to represent that defendant
16 simultaneously on the same case. The court, however, may appoint
17 private counsel in capital cases as provided in ss. 27.40 and
18 27.5303.
19 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.