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1  
2 An act relating to criminal conflict and civil  
3 regional counsels; amending s. 27.0065, F.S.;  
4 specifying the responsibilities of regional counsels  
5 regarding witness coordination; amending s. 27.341,  
6 F.S.; revising legislative intent regarding electronic  
7 filing and receipt of court documents; amending s.  
8 27.511, F.S.; removing the requirement that regional  
9 counsel employees be governed by Justice  
10 Administrative Commission classification and salary  
11 and benefits plans; modifying procedures for the  
12 Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission to  
13 nominate candidates to the Governor for regional  
14 counsel positions; specifying that the nomination and  
15 appointment process applies retroactively; prohibiting  
16 the court from appointing a regional counsel to  
17 represent a defendant who has retained private  
18 counsel; specifying requirements for the manner of  
19 access to court facilities for regional counsels;  
20 amending s. 27.53, F.S.; revising requirements for the  
21 classification and pay plan jointly developed by the  
22 regional counsels; amending s. 39.0132, F.S.;  
23 authorizing regional counsels to access certain  
24 confidential information relating to proceedings  
25 involving children under specified circumstances;  
26 authorizing the release to regional counsels of  
27 certain confidential information relating to  
28 proceedings involving children under specified  
29 circumstances; amending s. 92.153, F.S.; providing a

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30 limit on costs for documents produced in response to a  
31 subpoena or records request by a regional counsel;  
32 amending s. 112.19, F.S.; revising the definition of  
33 the term "law enforcement, correctional, or  
34 correctional probation officer" to include regional  
35 counsel investigators for purposes of eligibility for  
36 certain death benefits; amending s. 320.025, F.S.;  
37 authorizing regional counsel offices to obtain  
38 fictitious names for motor vehicle and vessel plates  
39 or decals; amending s. 393.12, F.S.; waiving an  
40 education requirement for the appointment of attorneys  
41 from regional counsel offices to represent a person  
42 with a developmental disability; amending s. 394.916,  
43 F.S.; requiring a court to appoint a regional counsel  
44 or other counsel to represent an alleged sexually  
45 violent predator in the event of a conflict; amending  
46 s. 744.331, F.S.; waiving a certain training  
47 requirement for the appointment of attorneys from  
48 regional counsel offices to represent an alleged  
49 incapacitated person; amending s. 943.053, F.S.;  
50 specifying that a regional counsel office may not be  
51 charged a fee for accessing certain criminal justice  
52 information; requiring the Department of Law  
53 Enforcement to provide regional counsel offices online  
54 access to certain information; amending s. 945.10,  
55 F.S.; authorizing the release of certain records and  
56 information to regional counsels; amending s. 945.48,  
57 F.S.; authorizing the appointment of a regional  
58 counsel to represent an inmate subject to involuntary

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59 mental health treatment if certain conditions exist;  
60 amending s. 985.045, F.S.; requiring that regional  
61 counsel offices have access to official records of  
62 juveniles whom they represent; reenacting ss.  
63 110.123(4)(e) and 112.1912(1), F.S., relating to the  
64 payment of health insurance premiums by state agencies  
65 for certain employees and surviving spouses and death  
66 benefits for education expenses for survivors of first  
67 responders, respectively, to incorporate the amendment  
68 made to s. 112.19, F.S., in references thereto;  
69 providing effective dates.

70

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

72

73 Section 1. Section 27.0065, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
74 read:

75 27.0065 Witness coordination.—Each state attorney, and  
76 public defender, and criminal conflict and civil regional  
77 counsel is ~~shall be~~ responsible for:

78 (1) Coordinating court appearances, including pretrial  
79 conferences and depositions, for all witnesses who are  
80 subpoenaed in criminal cases, including law enforcement  
81 personnel.

82 (2) Contacting witnesses and securing information necessary  
83 to place a witness on an on-call status with regard to his or  
84 her court appearance.

85 (3) Contacting witnesses to advise them not to report to  
86 court in the event the case for which they have been subpoenaed  
87 has been continued or has had a plea entered, or in the event

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88 there is any other reason why their attendance is not required  
89 on the dates they have been ordered to report.

90 (4) Contacting the employer of a witness, when necessary,  
91 to confirm that the employee has been subpoenaed to appear in  
92 court as a witness.

93

94 In addition, the state attorney, ~~or~~ public defender, or criminal  
95 conflict and civil regional counsel may provide additional  
96 services to reduce time and wage losses to a minimum for all  
97 witnesses.

98 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 27.341, Florida  
99 Statutes, is amended to read:

100 27.341 Electronic filing and receipt of court documents.—

101 (2) It is further the expectation of the Legislature that  
102 each office of the state attorney consult with the office of the  
103 public defender for the same circuit served by the office of the  
104 state attorney, the office of criminal conflict and civil  
105 regional counsel assigned to that circuit, the clerks of court  
106 for the circuit, the Florida Court Technology Commission, and  
107 any authority that governs the operation of a statewide portal  
108 for the electronic filing and receipt of court documents.

109 Section 3. Subsections (2), (3), and (7) of section 27.511,  
110 Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (10) is added to  
111 that section, to read:

112 27.511 Offices of criminal conflict and civil regional  
113 counsel; legislative intent; qualifications; appointment;  
114 duties.—

115 (2) Each office of criminal conflict and civil regional  
116 counsel shall be assigned to the Justice Administrative

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117 Commission for administrative purposes. The commission shall  
118 provide administrative support and service to the offices to the  
119 extent requested by each regional counsel within the available  
120 resources of the commission. The regional counsel and the  
121 offices are not subject to control, supervision, or direction by  
122 the commission in the performance of their duties, ~~but the~~  
123 ~~employees of the offices shall be governed by the classification~~  
124 ~~plan and the salary and benefits plan for the commission.~~

125 (3) (a) Each regional counsel must be, and must have been  
126 for the preceding 5 years, a member in good standing of The  
127 Florida Bar. Each regional counsel shall be appointed by the  
128 Governor and is subject to confirmation by the Senate. The  
129 Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission, ~~in addition to the~~  
130 ~~current regional counsel,~~ shall nominate ~~recommend~~ to the  
131 Governor the currently serving regional counsel, if he or she  
132 seeks reappointment, and may also nominate up to three not fewer  
133 ~~than two or more than five~~ additional qualified candidates for  
134 appointment to each of the five regional counsel positions for  
135 consideration by the Governor. The Governor shall appoint the  
136 regional counsel for the five regions from among the  
137 commission's nominations ~~recommendations~~, or, if it is in the  
138 best interest of the fair administration of justice, the  
139 Governor may reject the nominations and request that the Supreme  
140 Court Judicial Nominating Commission submit three new nominees.  
141 The regional counsel shall be appointed to a term of 4 years,  
142 the term beginning on October 1, 2015, with each successive term  
143 beginning on October 1 every 4 years thereafter. The nomination  
144 and appointment process under this paragraph shall apply  
145 retroactively to the term beginning on October 1, 2019.

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146 Vacancies shall be filled in the manner provided in paragraph  
147 (b).

148 (b) If for any reason a regional counsel is unable to  
149 complete a full term in office, the Governor may immediately  
150 appoint an interim regional counsel who meets the qualifications  
151 to be a regional counsel to serve as regional counsel for that  
152 region ~~district~~ until a new regional counsel is appointed in the  
153 manner provided in paragraph (a). The ~~Florida~~ Supreme Court  
154 Judicial Nominating Commission shall provide the Governor with a  
155 list of nominees for appointment within 6 months after the date  
156 of the vacancy. A temporary vacancy in office does not affect  
157 the validity of any matters or activities of the office of  
158 regional counsel.

159 (7) The court may not appoint the office of criminal  
160 conflict and civil regional counsel to represent, even on a  
161 temporary basis, any person who is not indigent, except to the  
162 extent that appointment of counsel is specifically provided for  
163 in chapters 390, 394, 415, 743, and 744 without regard to the  
164 indigent status of the person entitled to representation. If a  
165 defendant has retained private counsel, the court may not  
166 appoint the office of criminal conflict and civil regional  
167 counsel to represent that defendant simultaneously on the same  
168 case.

169 (10) Each court shall allow for the ingress and egress to  
170 its facilities for regional counsels and assistant regional  
171 counsels in the same manner as is provided to public defenders  
172 and assistant public defenders, subject to the security  
173 requirements of each courthouse.

174 Section 4. Subsection (4) of section 27.53, Florida

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175 Statutes, is amended to read:

176       27.53 Appointment of assistants and other staff; method of  
177 payment.-

178       (4) The five criminal conflict and civil regional counsels  
179 ~~counsel~~ may employ and establish, in the numbers authorized by  
180 the General Appropriations Act, assistant regional counsels  
181 ~~counsel~~ and other staff and personnel in each judicial district  
182 pursuant to s. 29.006, who shall be paid from funds appropriated  
183 for that purpose. Notwithstanding s. 790.01, s. 790.02, or s.  
184 790.25(2)(a), an investigator employed by an office of criminal  
185 conflict and civil regional counsel, while actually carrying out  
186 official duties, is authorized to carry concealed weapons if the  
187 investigator complies with s. 790.25(3)(o). However, such  
188 investigators are not eligible for membership in the Special  
189 Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System. The five regional  
190 counsels ~~counsel~~ shall jointly develop a coordinated recommended  
191 ~~modifications to the classification and pay plan for submission~~  
192 ~~to and the salary and benefits plan for~~ the Justice  
193 Administrative Commission, the President of the Senate, and the  
194 Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1 of each  
195 year. The plan must ~~recommendations shall be submitted to the~~  
196 ~~commission, the office of the President of the Senate, and the~~  
197 ~~office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives before~~  
198 ~~January 1 of each year.~~ Such ~~recommendations shall~~ be developed  
199 in accordance with policies and procedures of the Executive  
200 Office of the Governor established in s. 216.181. Each assistant  
201 regional counsel appointed by the regional counsel under this  
202 section shall serve at the pleasure of the regional counsel.  
203 Each investigator employed by the regional counsel shall have

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204 full authority to serve any witness subpoena or court order  
205 issued by any court or judge in a criminal case in which the  
206 regional counsel has been appointed to represent the accused.

207 Section 5. Subsection (3) and paragraph (a) of subsection  
208 (4) of section 39.0132, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:  
209 39.0132 Oaths, records, and confidential information.—

210 (3) The clerk shall keep all court records required by this  
211 chapter separate from other records of the circuit court. All  
212 court records required by this chapter shall not be open to  
213 inspection by the public. All records shall be inspected only  
214 upon order of the court by persons deemed by the court to have a  
215 proper interest therein, except that, subject to the provisions  
216 of s. 63.162, a child and the parents of the child and their  
217 attorneys, the guardian ad litem, criminal conflict and civil  
218 regional counsels, law enforcement agencies, and the department  
219 and its designees shall always have the right to inspect and  
220 copy any official record pertaining to the child. The Justice  
221 Administrative Commission may inspect court dockets required by  
222 this chapter as necessary to audit compensation of court-  
223 appointed attorneys. If the docket is insufficient for purposes  
224 of the audit, the commission may petition the court for  
225 additional documentation as necessary and appropriate. The court  
226 may permit authorized representatives of recognized  
227 organizations compiling statistics for proper purposes to  
228 inspect and make abstracts from official records, under whatever  
229 conditions upon their use and disposition the court may deem  
230 proper, and may punish by contempt proceedings any violation of  
231 those conditions.

232 (4) (a) 1. All information obtained pursuant to this part in

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233 the discharge of official duty by any judge, employee of the  
234 court, authorized agent of the department, correctional  
235 probation officer, or law enforcement agent is confidential and  
236 exempt from s. 119.07(1) and may not be disclosed to anyone  
237 other than the authorized personnel of the court, the department  
238 and its designees, correctional probation officers, law  
239 enforcement agents, the guardian ad litem, criminal conflict and  
240 civil regional counsels, and others entitled under this chapter  
241 to receive that information, except upon order of the court.

242 2.a. The following information held by a guardian ad litem  
243 is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art.  
244 I of the State Constitution:

245 (I) Medical, mental health, substance abuse, child care,  
246 education, law enforcement, court, social services, and  
247 financial records.

248 (II) Any other information maintained by a guardian ad  
249 litem which is identified as confidential information under this  
250 chapter.

251 b. Such confidential and exempt information may not be  
252 disclosed to anyone other than the authorized personnel of the  
253 court, the department and its designees, correctional probation  
254 officers, law enforcement agents, guardians ad litem, and others  
255 entitled under this chapter to receive that information, except  
256 upon order of the court.

257 Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
258 92.153, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

259 92.153 Production of documents by witnesses; reimbursement  
260 of costs.—

261 (2) REIMBURSEMENT OF A DISINTERESTED WITNESS.—

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262 (a) In any proceeding, a disinterested witness shall be  
263 paid for any costs the witness reasonably incurs either directly  
264 or indirectly in producing, searching for, reproducing, or  
265 transporting documents pursuant to a summons; however, the cost  
266 of documents produced pursuant to a subpoena or records request  
267 by a state attorney, a ~~or~~ public defender, or a criminal  
268 conflict and civil regional counsel may not exceed 15 cents per  
269 page and \$10 per hour for research or retrieval.

270 Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
271 112.19, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

272 112.19 Law enforcement, correctional, and correctional  
273 probation officers; death benefits.—

274 (1) As used in this section, the term:

275 (b) "Law enforcement, correctional, or correctional  
276 probation officer" means any officer as defined in s. 943.10(14)  
277 or employee of the state or any political subdivision of the  
278 state, including any law enforcement officer, correctional  
279 officer, correctional probation officer, state attorney  
280 investigator, ~~or~~ public defender investigator, or criminal  
281 conflict and civil regional counsel investigator, whose duties  
282 require such officer or employee to investigate, pursue,  
283 apprehend, arrest, transport, or maintain custody of persons who  
284 are charged with, suspected of committing, or convicted of a  
285 crime; and the term includes any member of a bomb disposal unit  
286 whose primary responsibility is the location, handling, and  
287 disposal of explosive devices. The term also includes any full-  
288 time officer or employee of the state or any political  
289 subdivision of the state, certified pursuant to chapter 943,  
290 whose duties require such officer to serve process or to attend

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291 a session of a circuit or county court as bailiff.

292 Section 8. Contingent upon SB 598 or similar legislation  
293 taking effect, subsection (1) of section 320.025, Florida  
294 Statutes, is amended to read:

295 320.025 Registration certificate and license plate or decal  
296 issued under fictitious name; application.—

297 (1) A confidential registration certificate and  
298 registration license plate or decal shall be issued under a  
299 fictitious name only for a motor vehicle or vessel owned or  
300 operated by a law enforcement agency of state, county,  
301 municipal, or federal government;; the Attorney General's  
302 Medicaid Fraud Control Unit;;~~or~~ any state public defender's  
303 office; or any criminal conflict and civil regional counsel  
304 office. The requesting agency shall file a written application  
305 with the department, on forms furnished by the department,  
306 including which includes a statement that the license plate or  
307 decal will be used for certain activities by the Attorney  
308 General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit; any ~~or~~ law enforcement or  
309 any state public defender's office; or a criminal conflict and  
310 civil regional counsel office which requires the activities  
311 ~~requiring~~ concealment of publicly leased or owned motor vehicles  
312 or vessels and a statement of the position classifications of  
313 the individuals who are authorized to use the license plate or  
314 decal. The department may modify its records to reflect the  
315 fictitious identity of the owner or lessee until such time as  
316 the license plate or decal and registration certificate are  
317 surrendered to it.

318 Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section  
319 393.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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320 393.12 Capacity; appointment of guardian advocate.—

321 (5) COUNSEL.—Within 3 days after a petition has been filed,  
322 the court shall appoint an attorney to represent a person with a  
323 developmental disability who is the subject of a petition to  
324 appoint a guardian advocate. The person with a developmental  
325 disability may substitute his or her own attorney for the  
326 attorney appointed by the court.

327 (a) The court shall initially appoint a private attorney  
328 who shall be selected from the attorney registry compiled  
329 pursuant to s. 27.40. Such attorney must have completed a  
330 minimum of 8 hours of education in guardianship. The court may  
331 waive this requirement for an attorney who has served as a  
332 court-appointed attorney in guardian advocate proceedings or as  
333 an attorney of record for guardian advocates for at least 3  
334 years. This education requirement does not apply to a court-  
335 appointed attorney who is employed by an office of criminal  
336 conflict and civil regional counsel.

337 Section 10. Subsection (3) of section 394.916, Florida  
338 Statutes, is amended to read:

339 394.916 Trial; counsel and experts; indigent persons;  
340 jury.—

341 (3) At all adversarial proceedings under this act, the  
342 person subject to this act is entitled to the assistance of  
343 counsel, and, if the person is indigent, the court must ~~shall~~  
344 appoint the public defender or, if a conflict exists, the court  
345 must appoint a criminal conflict and civil regional counsel or  
346 other counsel to assist the person.

347 Section 11. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section  
348 744.331, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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349 744.331 Procedures to determine incapacity.—

350 (2) ATTORNEY FOR THE ALLEGED INCAPACITATED PERSON.—

351 (d) An attorney seeking to be appointed by a court for  
352 incapacity and guardianship proceedings must have completed a  
353 minimum of 8 hours of education in guardianship. A court may  
354 waive the initial training requirement for an attorney who has  
355 served as a court-appointed attorney in incapacity proceedings  
356 or as an attorney of record for guardians for not less than 3  
357 years. This training requirement does not apply to a court-  
358 appointed attorney employed by an office of criminal conflict  
359 and civil regional counsel.

360 Section 12. Paragraph (e) of subsection (3) and subsection  
361 (7) of section 943.053, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:  
362 943.053 Dissemination of criminal justice information;  
363 fees.—

364 (3)

365 (e) The fee per record for criminal history information  
366 provided pursuant to this subsection and s. 943.0542 is \$24 per  
367 name submitted, except that the fee for the guardian ad litem  
368 program and vendors of the Department of Children and Families,  
369 the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Agency for Persons with  
370 Disabilities, and the Department of Elderly Affairs is ~~shall be~~  
371 \$8 for each name submitted; the fee for a state criminal history  
372 provided for application processing as required by law to be  
373 performed by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
374 is ~~shall be~~ \$15 for each name submitted; and the fee for  
375 requests under s. 943.0542, which implements the National Child  
376 Protection Act, is ~~shall be~~ \$18 for each volunteer name  
377 submitted. An office ~~The state offices~~ of the public defender or

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378 an office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel may  
379 ~~shall~~ not be assessed a fee for Florida criminal history  
380 information or wanted person information.

381 (7) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the  
382 department shall provide to each office of the public defender  
383 and each office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel  
384 online access to criminal records of this state which are not  
385 exempt from disclosure under chapter 119 or confidential under  
386 law. Such access shall be used solely in support of the duties  
387 of a public defender as provided in s. 27.51, a criminal  
388 conflict and civil regional counsel as provided in s. 27.511, or  
389 ~~of~~ any attorney specially assigned as authorized in s. 27.53 in  
390 the representation of any person who is determined indigent as  
391 provided in s. 27.52. The costs of establishing and maintaining  
392 such online access must ~~shall~~ be borne by the office to which  
393 the access has been provided.

394 Section 13. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section  
395 945.10, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

396 945.10 Confidential information.—

397 (2) The records and information specified in paragraphs  
398 (1)(a)-(i) may be released as follows unless expressly  
399 prohibited by federal law:

400 (d) Information specified in paragraph (1)(b) to a public  
401 defender or a criminal conflict and civil regional counsel  
402 representing a defendant, except those portions of the records  
403 containing a victim's statement or address, or the statement or  
404 address of a relative of the victim. A request for records or  
405 information pursuant to this paragraph need not be in writing.  
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407 Records and information released under this subsection remain  
408 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and  
409 s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution when held by the  
410 receiving person or entity.

411 Section 14. Subsection (3) of section 945.48, Florida  
412 Statutes, is amended to read:

413 945.48 Rights of inmates provided mental health treatment;  
414 procedure for involuntary treatment.—

415 (3) PROCEDURE FOR INVOLUNTARY TREATMENT OF INMATES.—

416 Involuntary mental health treatment of an inmate who refuses  
417 treatment that is deemed to be necessary for the appropriate  
418 care of the inmate and the safety of the inmate or others may be  
419 provided at a mental health treatment facility. The warden of  
420 the institution containing the mental health treatment facility  
421 shall petition the circuit court serving the county in which the  
422 mental health treatment facility is located for an order  
423 authorizing the treatment of the inmate. The inmate shall be  
424 provided with a copy of the petition along with the proposed  
425 treatment; the basis for the proposed treatment; the names of  
426 the examining experts; and the date, time, and location of the  
427 hearing. The inmate may have an attorney represent him or her at  
428 the hearing, and, if the inmate is indigent, the court must  
429 ~~shall~~ appoint the office of the public defender to represent the  
430 inmate at the hearing. If the office of the public defender  
431 withdraws from the appointment due to a conflict, the court must  
432 appoint a criminal conflict and civil regional counsel or  
433 private counsel pursuant to s. 27.40(1) to represent the inmate  
434 ~~at the hearing~~. An attorney representing the inmate shall have  
435 access to the inmate and any records, including medical or

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436 mental health records, which are relevant to the representation  
437 of the inmate.

438 Section 15. Subsection (2) of section 985.045, Florida  
439 Statutes, is amended to read:

440 985.045 Court records.—

441 (2) The clerk shall keep all official records required by  
442 this section separate from other records of the circuit court,  
443 except those records pertaining to motor vehicle violations,  
444 which shall be forwarded to the Department of Highway Safety and  
445 Motor Vehicles. Except as provided in ss. 943.053 and  
446 985.04(6)(b) and (7), official records required by this chapter  
447 are not open to inspection by the public, but may be inspected  
448 only upon order of the court by persons deemed by the court to  
449 have a proper interest therein, except that a child and the  
450 parents, guardians, or legal custodians of the child and their  
451 attorneys, law enforcement agencies, the Department of Juvenile  
452 Justice and its designees, the Florida Commission on Offender  
453 Review, the Department of Corrections, and the Justice  
454 Administrative Commission shall always have the right to inspect  
455 and copy any official record pertaining to the child. Offices of  
456 the public defender and criminal conflict and civil regional  
457 counsel ~~offices~~ shall have access to official records of  
458 juveniles on whose behalf they are expected to appear in  
459 detention or other hearings before an appointment of  
460 representation. The court may permit authorized representatives  
461 of recognized organizations compiling statistics for proper  
462 purposes to inspect, and make abstracts from, official records  
463 under whatever conditions upon the use and disposition of such  
464 records the court may deem proper and may punish by contempt

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465 proceedings any violation of those conditions.

466 Section 16. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
467 made by this act to section 112.19, Florida Statutes, in a  
468 reference thereto, paragraph (e) of subsection (4) of section  
469 110.123, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

470 110.123 State group insurance program.—

471 (4) PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS; CONTRIBUTION BY STATE; LIMITATION  
472 ON ACTIONS TO PAY AND COLLECT PREMIUMS.—

473 (e) No state contribution for the cost of any part of the  
474 premium shall be made for retirees or surviving spouses for any  
475 type of coverage under the state group insurance program.  
476 However, any state agency that employs a full-time law  
477 enforcement officer, correctional officer, or correctional  
478 probation officer who is killed or suffers catastrophic injury  
479 in the line of duty as provided in s. 112.19, or a full-time  
480 firefighter who is killed or suffers catastrophic injury in the  
481 line of duty as provided in s. 112.191, shall pay the entire  
482 premium of the state group health insurance plan selected for  
483 the employee's surviving spouse until remarried, and for each  
484 dependent child of the employee, subject to the conditions and  
485 limitations set forth in s. 112.19 or s. 112.191, as applicable.

486 Section 17. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
487 made by this act to section 112.19, Florida Statutes, in a  
488 reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 112.1912, Florida  
489 Statutes, is reenacted to read:

490 112.1912 First responders; death benefits for educational  
491 expenses.—

492 (1) As used in this section, the term "first responder"  
493 means:

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494 (a) A law enforcement, correctional, or correctional  
495 probation officer as defined in s. 112.19(1) who is killed as  
496 provided in s. 112.19(2) on or after July 1, 2019;

497 (b) A firefighter as defined in s. 112.191(1) who is killed  
498 as provided in s. 112.191(2) on or after July 1, 2019; or

499 (c) An emergency medical technician or a paramedic, as  
500 defined in s. 112.1911(1), who is killed as provided in s.  
501 112.1911(2) on or after July 1, 2019.

502 Section 18. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
503 act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2022.