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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/04/2023	.	
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The Committee on Judiciary (Torres) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
28.35, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

28.35 Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation.—

(3) (a) The list of court-related functions that clerks may  
fund from filing fees, service charges, court costs, and fines  
is limited to those functions expressly authorized by law or  
court rule. Those functions include the following: case



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12 maintenance; records management; court preparation and  
13 attendance; translation services; processing the assignment,  
14 reopening, and reassignment of cases; processing of appeals;  
15 collection and distribution of fines, fees, service charges, and  
16 court costs; processing of bond forfeiture payments; data  
17 collection and reporting; determinations of indigent status; and  
18 paying reasonable administrative support costs to enable the  
19 clerk of the court to carry out these court-related functions.

20 Section 2. Section 28.215, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
21 read:

22 28.215 Pro se assistance.—The clerk of the circuit court  
23 shall provide ministerial assistance to pro se litigants.

24 (1) Assistance may ~~shall~~ not include the provision of legal  
25 advice.

26 (2) Assistance may include translation services to pro se  
27 litigants under s. 28.217.

28 Section 3. Section 28.217, Florida Statutes, is created to  
29 read:

30 28.217 Translation services.—

31 (1) The clerk of the circuit court may contract with a  
32 third-party translation service provider for translation  
33 services for civil cases. The provision of such services is  
34 ministerial and constitutes a court-related function under s.  
35 28.35(3) (a), and such services are an allowable expenditure by  
36 the clerk of the circuit court under s. 28.36.

37 (2) Translation services may be made available to any party  
38 requesting such services, regardless of whether the party is  
39 represented by counsel. The clerk of the circuit court shall  
40 provide ministerial assistance only in making such services



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41 available, and such assistance may not include the provision of  
42 legal advice.

43 (3) Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit a  
44 party from providing for his or her own translation service or  
45 third-party translation service provider.

46 (4) The provision of translation services under this  
47 section is an optional court-related function, and nothing in  
48 this section requires the clerk of the circuit court to provide  
49 such services.

50 Section 4. This act shall take effect October 1, 2023.

51  
52 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

53 And the title is amended as follows:

54 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
55 and insert:

56 A bill to be entitled  
57 An act relating to translation services; amending ss.  
58 28.35 and 28.215, F.S.; authorizing a clerk of the  
59 circuit court to provide translation services;  
60 creating s. 28.217, F.S.; authorizing a clerk of the  
61 circuit court to contract with a third-party  
62 translation service provider to provide translation  
63 services; requiring that such service by a clerk of  
64 the circuit court be ministerial assistance only;  
65 prohibiting a clerk of the circuit court from  
66 providing legal advice; providing construction;  
67 providing that the clerk of the circuit court is not  
68 required to provide translation services; providing an  
69 effective date.