

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to translation services; amending ss.
 3 28.35 and 28.215, F.S.; authorizing a clerk of the
 4 circuit court to provide translation services;
 5 creating s. 28.217, F.S.; authorizing a clerk of the
 6 circuit court to contract with a third-party
 7 translation service provider to provide translation
 8 services; requiring that such service by a clerk of
 9 the circuit court be ministerial assistance only;
 10 prohibiting a clerk of the circuit court from
 11 providing legal advice; providing construction;
 12 providing an effective date.

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

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 16 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
 17 28.35, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

18 28.35 Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation.—

19 (3)(a) The list of court-related functions that clerks may
 20 fund from filing fees, service charges, court costs, and fines
 21 is limited to those functions expressly authorized by law or
 22 court rule. Those functions include the following: case
 23 maintenance; records management; court preparation and
 24 attendance; translation services; processing the assignment,
 25 reopening, and reassignment of cases; processing of appeals;

HB 853

2023

26 collection and distribution of fines, fees, service charges, and
 27 court costs; processing of bond forfeiture payments; data
 28 collection and reporting; determinations of indigent status; and
 29 paying reasonable administrative support costs to enable the
 30 clerk of the court to carry out these court-related functions.

31 Section 2. Section 28.215, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 32 read:

33 28.215 Pro se assistance.—The clerk of the circuit court
 34 shall provide ministerial assistance to pro se litigants.

35 (1) Assistance may ~~shall~~ not include the provision of
 36 legal advice.

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

39 Section 3. Section 28.217, Florida Statutes, is created to
 40 read:

41 28.217 Translation services.—

42 (1) The clerk of the circuit court may contract with a
 43 third-party translation service provider for translation
 44 services for civil cases. The provision of such services is
 45 ministerial and constitutes a court-related function under s.
 46 28.35(3)(a), and such services are an allowable expenditure by
 47 the clerk of the circuit court under s. 28.36.

48 (2) Translation services may be made available to any
 49 party requesting such services, regardless of whether the party
 50 is represented by counsel. The clerk of the circuit court shall

HB 853

2023

51 provide ministerial assistance only in making such services
52 available, and such assistance may not include the provision of
53 legal advice.

54 (3) Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit a
55 party from providing for his or own translation service or
56 third-party translation service provider.

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