1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to clerks of court; amending s. 3 28.101, F.S.; revising the collections requirements of 4 a clerk of court when a party petitions for a 5 dissolution of marriage; amending s. 28.2401, F.S.; 6 revising the collections requirements of a clerk of 7 court in probate matters; amending s. 28.241, F.S.; 8 revising the collections requirements of a clerk of 9 court in trial and appellate proceedings; revising the allocation of filing fees in trial and appellate 10 proceedings in certain instances; amending s. 28.35, 11 12 F.S.; revising the duties of the Florida Clerks of 13 Court Operations Corporation; amending s. 28.37, F.S.; 14 revising the collections requirements of a clerk of 15 court as it relates to fines, fees, service charges, 16 and costs remitted to the state; amending s. 34.041, 17 F.S.; revising the collections requirements of a clerk 18 of court as it relates to filing fees in county court; 19 amending s. 40.29, F.S.; authorizing a clerk of court to submit a request for reimbursement of certain due 20 21 process costs in criminal proceedings; providing 22 reimbursement to a clerk of court for an application 23 for civil indigency when certain requirements are met; 24 establishing submission and form requirements for 25 requests for reimbursement for an application for

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26	civil indigency; requiring the Florida Clerks of Court
27	Operations Corporation to certify the amount of
28	certain court-related employee costs; amending s.
29	318.18, F.S.; revising the collections requirements of
30	a clerk of court as it relates to an additional civil
31	penalty; removing a provision that excludes an
32	additional civil penalty from the budget of the clerk
33	of court; removing a provision that excludes an
34	Article V assessment from the budget of the clerk of
35	court; amending ss. 741.30, 784.046, 784.0485, F.S.;
36	removing provisions allowing a clerk of court to
37	request reimbursement; providing an effective date.
38	
39	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
40	
41	Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
42	28.101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
43	28.101 Petitions and records of dissolution of marriage;
44	additional charges
45	(1) When a party petitions for a dissolution of marriage,
46	in addition to the filing charges in s. 28.241, the clerk shall
47	collect and receive:
48	(c) A charge of \$37.50. On a monthly basis, The clerk
49	shall <u>deposit the moneys collected pursuant to this paragraph in</u>
50	the fine and forfeiture fund established pursuant to s. 142.01
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51 transfer the moneys collected pursuant to this paragraph to the 52 Department of Revenue for deposit in the General Revenue Fund. 53 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 28.2401, Florida 54 Statutes, is amended to read: 55 28.2401 Service charges and filing fees in probate 56 matters.-57 (1)Except when otherwise provided, the clerk may impose service charges or filing fees for the following services or 58 59 filings, not to exceed the following amounts: 60 Fee for the opening of any estate of one document or (a) more, including, but not limited to, petitions and orders to 61 approve settlement of minor's claims; to open a safe-deposit 62 box; to enter rooms and places; for the determination of heirs, 63 64 if not formal administration; and for a foreign guardian to 65 manage property of a nonresident; but not to include issuance of 66 letters or order of summary administration.....\$230 Charge for caveat\$40 67 (b) 68 (C) Fee for petition and order to admit foreign wills, 69 authenticated copies, exemplified copies, or transcript to 70 record\$230 71 (d) Fee for disposition of personal property without 72 administration......\$230 73 Fee for summary administration-estates valued at (e) \$1,000 or more.....\$340 74 75 Fee for summary administration-estates valued at less (f)

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76	than \$1,000\$230		
77	(g) Fee for formal administration, guardianship,		
78	ancillary, curatorship, or conservatorship proceedings\$395		
79	(h) Fee for guardianship proceedings of person only \$230		
80	(i) Fee for veterans' guardianship pursuant to chapter 744\$230		
81	(j) Charge for exemplified certificates\$7		
82	(k) Fee for petition for determination of incompetency \$230		
83			
84	The clerk shall remit \$115 of each filing fee collected under		
85	\bar{b} paragraphs (a), (c)-(i), and (k) to the Department of Revenue		
86	for deposit into the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund and shall		
87	remit \$15 of each filing fee collected under paragraphs (a),		
88	(c), (d), (f), (h), (i), and (k), \$1 of each filing fee		
89	collected under paragraph (j), \$5 of each filing fee collected		
90	under paragraph (b), \$25 of each filing fee collected under		
91	paragraph (e), and \$30 of each filing fee collected under		
92	paragraph (g) to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the		
93	General Revenue Fund.		
94	Section 3. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (1) of		
95	section 28.241, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:		
96	28.241 Filing fees for trial and appellate proceedings		
97	(1) Filing fees are due at the time a party files a		
98	pleading to initiate a proceeding or files a pleading for		
99	relief. Reopen fees are due at the time a party files a pleading		
100	to reopen a proceeding if at least 90 days have elapsed since		
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101 the filing of a final order or final judgment with the clerk. If 102 a fee is not paid upon the filing of the pleading as required 103 under this section, the clerk shall pursue collection of the fee 104 pursuant to s. 28.246.

105 (a)1.a. Except as provided in sub-subparagraph b. and 106 subparagraph 2., the party instituting any civil action, suit, 107 or proceeding in the circuit court shall pay to the clerk of that court a filing fee of up to \$395 in all cases in which 108 109 there are not more than five defendants and an additional filing fee of up to \$2.50, from which the clerk shall remit \$0.50 to 110 111 the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, for each defendant in excess of five. Of the first \$200 in 112 filing fees, \$195 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue 113 114 for deposit into the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund, \$4 must be 115 remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the 116 Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial 117 Services and used to fund the contract with the Florida Clerks 118 of Court Operations Corporation created in s. 28.35, and \$1 must 119 be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the 120 Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services to fund audits of individual clerks' court-related 121 122 expenditures conducted by the Department of Financial Services. 123 By the 10th of each month, the clerk shall submit that portion 124 of the filing fees collected in the previous month which is in 125 excess of one-twelfth of the clerk's total budget to the

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126 Department of Revenue for deposit into the Clerks of the Court 127 Trust Fund.

128 The party instituting any civil action, suit, or b. 129 proceeding in the circuit court under chapter 39, chapter 61, 130 chapter 741, chapter 742, chapter 747, chapter 752, or chapter 131 753 shall pay to the clerk of that court a filing fee of up to 132 \$295 in all cases in which there are not more than five defendants and an additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each 133 134 defendant in excess of five. Of the first \$100 in filing fees, 135 \$95 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit 136 into the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund, \$4 must be remitted to 137 the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services and used 138 139 to fund the contract with the Florida Clerks of Court Operations 140 Corporation created in s. 28.35, and \$1 must be remitted to the 141 Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust 142 Fund within the Department of Financial Services to fund audits of individual clerks' court-related expenditures conducted by 143 the Department of Financial Services. 144

c. An additional filing fee of \$4 shall be paid to the clerk. The clerk shall remit \$3.50 to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Court Education Trust Fund and shall remit 50 cents to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services to fund clerk education provided by the Florida Clerks

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151 of Court Operations Corporation. An additional filing fee of up 152 to \$18 shall be paid by the party seeking each severance that is 153 granted, from which the clerk shall remit \$3 to the Department 154 of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund. The clerk 155 may impose an additional filing fee of up to \$85, from which the 156 clerk shall remit \$10 to the Department of Revenue for deposit 157 into the General Revenue Fund, for all proceedings of garnishment, attachment, replevin, and distress. Postal charges 158 159 incurred by the clerk of the circuit court in making service by 160 certified or registered mail on defendants or other parties shall be paid by the party at whose instance service is made. 161 Additional fees, charges, or costs may not be added to the 162 filing fees imposed under this section, except as authorized in 163 164 this section or by general law.

165 2.a. Notwithstanding the fees prescribed in subparagraph 166 1., a party instituting a civil action in circuit court relating 167 to real property or mortgage foreclosure shall pay a graduated 168 filing fee based on the value of the claim.

b. A party shall estimate in writing the amount in controversy of the claim upon filing the action. For purposes of this subparagraph, the value of a mortgage foreclosure action is based upon the principal due on the note secured by the mortgage, plus interest owed on the note and any moneys advanced by the lender for property taxes, insurance, and other advances secured by the mortgage, at the time of filing the foreclosure.

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The value shall also include the value of any tax certificates related to the property. In stating the value of a mortgage foreclosure claim, a party shall declare in writing the total value of the claim, as well as the individual elements of the value as prescribed in this sub-subparagraph.

c. In its order providing for the final disposition of the matter, the court shall identify the actual value of the claim. The clerk shall adjust the filing fee if there is a difference between the estimated amount in controversy and the actual value of the claim and collect any additional filing fee owed or provide a refund of excess filing fee paid.

187

d. The party shall pay a filing fee of:

Three hundred and ninety-five dollars in all cases in 188 (I) 189 which the value of the claim is \$50,000 or less and in which 190 there are not more than five defendants. The party shall pay an 191 additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant in 192 excess of five. Of the first \$200 in filing fees, \$195 must be 193 remitted by the clerk to the Department of Revenue for deposit 194 into the General Revenue Fund, \$4 must be remitted to the 195 Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust 196 Fund within the Department of Financial Services and used to 197 fund the contract with the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation created in s. 28.35, and \$1 must be remitted to the 198 199 Department of Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services to fund audits 200

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201 of individual clerks' court-related expenditures conducted by 202 the Department of Financial Services;

203 (II) Nine hundred dollars in all cases in which the value 204 of the claim is more than \$50,000 but less than \$250,000 and in 205 which there are not more than five defendants. The party shall 206 pay an additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant 207 in excess of five. Of the first \$355 \$705 in filing fees, \$350 208 \$700 must be remitted by the clerk to the Department of Revenue 209 for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, except that the first 210 \$1.5 million in such filing fees remitted to the Department of 211 Revenue and deposited into the General Revenue Fund in fiscal 212 year 2018-2019 shall be distributed to the Miami-Dade County 213 Clerk of Court; \$4 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue 214 for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the 215 Department of Financial Services and used to fund the contract 216 with the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation created 217 in s. 28.35, \div and \$1 must be remitted to the Department of 218 Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within 219 the Department of Financial Services to fund audits of 220 individual clerks' court-related expenditures conducted by the 221 Department of Financial Services; or

(III) One thousand nine hundred dollars in all cases in which the value of the claim is \$250,000 or more and in which there are not more than five defendants. The party shall pay an additional filing fee of up to \$2.50 for each defendant in

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226 excess of five. Of the first \$1,240 \$1,705 in filing fees, \$465 227 \$930 must be remitted by the clerk to the Department of Revenue 228 for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, \$770 must be remitted 229 to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the State Courts 230 Revenue Trust Fund, \$4 must be remitted to the Department of 231 Revenue for deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within 232 the Department of Financial Services to fund the contract with 233 the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation created in s. 234 28.35, and \$1 must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for 235 deposit into the Administrative Trust Fund within the Department 236 of Financial Services to fund audits of individual clerks' 237 court-related expenditures conducted by the Department of 238 Financial Services.

239 e. An additional filing fee of \$4 shall be paid to the 240 clerk. The clerk shall remit \$3.50 to the Department of Revenue 241 for deposit into the Court Education Trust Fund and shall remit 242 50 cents to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the 243 Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Financial 244 Services to fund clerk education provided by the Florida Clerks 245 of Court Operations Corporation. An additional filing fee of up 246 to \$18 shall be paid by the party seeking each severance that is 247 granted. The clerk may impose an additional filing fee of up to 248 \$85 for all proceedings of garnishment, attachment, replevin, 249 and distress. Postal charges incurred by the clerk of the circuit court in making service by certified or registered mail 250

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on defendants or other parties shall be paid by the party at whose instance service is made. Additional fees, charges, or costs may not be added to the filing fees imposed under this section, except as authorized in this section or by general law.

(d) The clerk of court shall collect a service charge of \$10 for issuing an original, a certified copy, or an electronic certified copy of a summons, which the clerk shall <u>deposit into</u> the fine and forfeiture fund established pursuant to s. 142.01 remit to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund. The clerk shall assess the fee against the party seeking to have the summons issued.

262 Section 4. Paragraph (i) of subsection (2) of section 263 28.35, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (j) is added 264 to that subsection, to read:

265

28.35 Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation.-

266 (2) The duties of the corporation shall include the 267 following:

268 (i) Annually preparing a budget request which, notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 216 and in accordance 269 270 with s. 216.351, provides the anticipated amount necessary for reimbursement pursuant to s. 40.29(6) and (7) s. 40.29(6). The 271 272 request for the anticipated reimbursement amount shall be 273 submitted in the form and manner prescribed by the Justice 274 Administrative Commission. Such request is not subject to change by the Justice Administrative Commission, except for technical 275

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276 changes necessary to conform to the legislative budget 277 instructions, and shall be submitted to the Governor for 278 transmittal to the Legislature. 279 (j) Annually preparing a budget request which, 280 notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 216 and in accordance 281 with s. 216.351, provides the anticipated amount necessary to 282 fund increases in employer contribution rates pursuant to ss. 283 121.71 and 121.72 for court-related employees participating in 284 the Florida Retirement System. The request for the anticipated 285 appropriation shall be submitted in the form and manner 286 prescribed by the Justice Administrative Commission. Such 287 request is not subject to change by the Justice Administrative 288 Commission, except for technical changes necessary to conform to 289 the legislative budget instructions and shall be submitted to 290 the Governor for transmittal to the Legislature. 291 Section 5. Subsection (3) of section 28.37, Florida 292 Statutes, is amended to read: 293 28.37 Fines, fees, service charges, and costs remitted to 294 the state.-295 (3) The portion of all fines, fees, service charges, and 296 costs collected by the clerks of the court for the previous quarter month which is in excess of one-fourth one-twelfth of 297 298 the clerks' total budget for the performance of court-related 299 functions must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund. Such 300

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301	collections do not include funding received for the operation of
302	the Title IV-D child support collections and disbursement
303	program. The clerk of the court shall remit the revenues
304	collected during the previous <u>quarter</u> month due to the state on
305	or before the 10th day of <u>the next preceding month immediately</u>
306	following the quarterly calculation each month.
307	Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
308	34.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
309	34.041 Filing fees
310	(1)
311	(c) A party in addition to a party described in paragraph
312	(a) who files a pleading in an original civil action in the
313	county court for affirmative relief by cross-claim,
314	counterclaim, counterpetition, or third-party complaint, or who
315	files a notice of cross-appeal or notice of joinder or motion to
316	intervene as an appellant, cross-appellant, or petitioner, shall
317	pay the clerk of court a fee of \$295 if the relief sought by the
318	party under this paragraph exceeds \$2,500 but is not more than
319	\$15,000 and \$395 if the relief sought by the party under this
320	paragraph exceeds \$15,000. The clerk shall <u>deposit</u> remit the fee
321	if the relief sought by the party under this paragraph exceeds
322	\$2,500 but is not more than \$15,000 to the Department of Revenue
323	for deposit into the fine and forfeiture fund established
324	pursuant to s. 142.01 General Revenue Fund. This fee does not
325	apply if the cross-claim, counterclaim, counterpetition, or
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third-party complaint requires transfer of the case from county to circuit court. However, the party shall pay to the clerk the standard filing fee for the court to which the case is to be transferred.

330 Section 7. Subsection (6) of section 40.29, Florida 331 Statutes, is amended, and subsections (7) and (8) are added to 332 that section, to read:

333 40.29 Payment of due-process costs; reimbursement for 334 petitions and orders; reimbursement for applications for civil 335 <u>indigency; Florida Retirement System costs.-</u>

Subject to legislative appropriation, the clerk of the 336 (6) 337 circuit court may, on a quarterly basis, submit to the Justice 338 Administrative Commission a certified request for reimbursement 339 for petitions and orders filed under ss. 394.459, 394.463, 340 394.467, 394.917, and 397.6814, at the rate of \$40 per petition 341 or order. For orders filed under ss. 741.30, 784.046, and 342 784.0485, the clerk may, on a quarterly basis, submit a request 343 for reimbursement at the rate of \$60 per petition. From this 344 reimbursement, the clerk shall pay a law enforcement agency 345 serving the injunction a fee of no more than \$20, if so requested by the law enforcement agency. Such request for 346 347 reimbursement shall be submitted in the form and manner 348 prescribed by the Justice Administrative Commission pursuant to 349 s. 28.35(2)(i).

350

(7) Subject to legislative appropriation, the clerk of the

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351 circuit court may, on a quarterly basis, submit to the Justice 352 Administrative Commission a certified request for reimbursement 353 for approved applications for civil indigency under s. 57.082, 354 in which the civil filing fee has been waived, at the rate of 355 \$195 per approved application. Such request for reimbursement 356 shall be submitted in the form and manner prescribed by the 357 Justice Administrative Commission under s. 28.35(2)(i). 358 (8) Subject to legislative appropriation, the Florida 359 Clerks of Court Operations Corporation must submit to the 360 Justice Administrative Commission a certified amount by county of the employer contribution rate increases for the Florida 361 362 Retirement System for court-related employees. Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (8) and subsection 363 364 (19) of section 318.18, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 365 318.18 Amount of penalties.-The penalties required for a 366 noncriminal disposition pursuant to s. 318.14 or a criminal 367 offense listed in s. 318.17 are as follows: 368 (8) (a) Any person who fails to comply with the court's 369 requirements or who fails to pay the civil penalties specified 370 in this section within the 30-day period provided for in s. 371 318.14 must pay an additional civil penalty of \$16, \$1.50 $\frac{6.50}{5}$ 372 of which must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for 373 deposit in the General Revenue Fund, and \$9.50 of which must be 374 remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit in the Highway 375 Safety Operating Trust Fund, and \$5 of which must be retained by

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376 the clerk to be deposited in the Public Records Modernization 377 Trust Fund and used exclusively for funding court-related 378 technology needs of the clerk as described in s. 29.008(1)(f)2. 379 and (h), respectively. Of this additional civil penalty of \$16, 380 \$4 is not revenue for purposes of s. 28.36 and may not be used 381 in establishing the budget of the clerk of the court under that 382 section or s. 28.35. The department shall contract with the 383 Florida Association of Court Clerks, Inc., to design, establish, 384 operate, upgrade, and maintain an automated statewide Uniform 385 Traffic Citation Accounting System to be operated by the clerks 386 of the court which shall include, but not be limited to, the 387 accounting for traffic infractions by type, a record of the 388 disposition of the citations, and an accounting system for the 389 fines assessed and the subsequent fine amounts paid to the 390 clerks of the court. The clerks of the court must provide the 391 information required by this chapter to be transmitted to the 392 department by electronic transmission pursuant to the contract. 393 (19)In addition to any penalties imposed, an Article V 394 assessment of \$10 must be paid for all noncriminal moving and

nonmoving violations under chapters 316, 320, and 322. The assessment is not revenue for purposes of s. 28.36 and may not be used in establishing the budget of the clerk of the court under that section or s. 28.35. Of the funds collected under this subsection:

400

(a) The sum of \$5 shall be deposited in the State Courts

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401	Revenue Trust Fund for use by the state courts system;
402	(b) The sum of \$3.33 shall be deposited in the State
403	Attorneys Revenue Trust Fund for use by the state attorneys; and
404	(c) The sum of \$1.67 shall be deposited in the Indigent
405	Criminal Defense Trust Fund for use by the public defenders.
406	Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
407	741.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
408	741.30 Domestic violence; injunction; powers and duties of
409	court and clerk; petition; notice and hearing; temporary
410	injunction; issuance of injunction; statewide verification
411	system; enforcement; public records exemption
412	(2)(a) Notwithstanding any other law, the assessment of a
413	filing fee for a petition for protection against domestic
414	violence is prohibited. However, subject to legislative
415	appropriation, the clerk of the circuit court may, on a
416	quarterly basis, submit to the Office of the State Courts
417	Administrator a certified request for reimbursement for
418	petitions for protection against domestic violence issued by the
419	court, at the rate of \$40 per petition. The request for
420	reimbursement must be submitted in the form and manner
421	prescribed by the Office of the State Courts Administrator. From
422	this reimbursement, the clerk shall pay any law enforcement
423	agency serving the injunction the fee requested by the law
424	enforcement agency; however, this fee may not exceed \$20.
425	Section 10. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section
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426 784.046, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 427 784.046 Action by victim of repeat violence, sexual 428 violence, or dating violence for protective injunction; dating 429 violence investigations, notice to victims, and reporting; 430 pretrial release violations; public records exemption.-431 (3) 432 (b) Notwithstanding any other law, the clerk of the court may not assess a fee for filing a petition for protection 433 434 against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence. 435 However, subject to legislative appropriation, the clerk of the 436 court may, each quarter, submit to the Office of the State 437 Courts Administrator a certified request for reimbursement for 438 petitions for protection issued by the court under this section 439 at the rate of \$40 per petition. The request for reimbursement 440 shall be submitted in the form and manner prescribed by the 441 Office of the State Courts Administrator. From this 442 reimbursement, the clerk shall pay the law enforcement agency 443 serving the injunction the fee requested by the law enforcement 444 agency; however, this fee may not exceed \$20. 445 Section 11. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 784.0485, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 446 447 784.0485 Stalking; injunction; powers and duties of court 448 and clerk; petition; notice and hearing; temporary injunction; 449 issuance of injunction; statewide verification system; enforcement.-450

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451	(2)(a) Notwithstanding any other law, the clerk of court
452	may not assess a filing fee to file a petition for protection
453	against stalking. However, subject to legislative appropriation,
454	the clerk of the circuit court may, on a quarterly basis, submit
455	to the Office of the State Courts Administrator a certified
456	request for reimbursement for petitions for protection against
457	stalking issued by the court, at the rate of \$40 per petition.
458	The request for reimbursement shall be submitted in the form and
459	manner prescribed by the Office of the State Courts
460	Administrator. From this reimbursement, the clerk shall pay any
461	law enforcement agency serving the injunction the fee requested
462	by the law enforcement agency; however, this fee may not exceed
463	\$20.
464	Section 12. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

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