

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to nonviolent drug offenders  
 3           converting fines and fees into community service;  
 4           creating s. 948.016, F.S.; defining the term  
 5           "nonviolent"; specifying eligibility for certain  
 6           nonviolent drug offenders to convert fines and fees  
 7           into community service hours; specifying the  
 8           conversion rate; providing requirements for the  
 9           completion of community service hours; requiring the  
 10          clerk of the court to create a form; requiring court  
 11          notification and the provision of documents and  
 12          information to nonviolent drug offenders; providing  
 13          applicability; providing an effective date.

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

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 17           Section 1.   Section 948.016, Florida Statutes, is created  
 18   to read:

19           948.016 Nonviolent drug offender petition for converting  
 20 fines and fees into community service hours; eligibility;  
 21 requirements.-

22           (1) DEFINITION.-As used in this section, the term  
 23 "nonviolent" means was not convicted of, or did not plead guilty  
 24 or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, any felony or  
 25 the attempt to commit any felony listed in s. 775.084(1)(c)1. or

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26 s. 948.06(8)(c).

27 (2) ELIGIBILITY; CONVERSION RATE.—

28 (a) An individual who:

29 1. Successfully completed drug offender probation or a  
30 treatment program for one or more misdemeanor or third degree  
31 felony nonviolent drug offenses.

32 2. Is enrolled in at least one:

33 a. Peer support specialist training course at a  
34 postsecondary institution or career education institution;

35 b. Continuing education course at a postsecondary  
36 institution or career education institution; or

37 c. Other recognized continuing education course for a  
38 licensed occupation or profession.

39 3. Has been sober or drug free for at least 1 year and has  
40 demonstrated that he or she has a good social support system  
41 such as, but not limited to, consistent participation in a  
42 twelve-step program.

43 4. Submitted a letter of recommendation,  
44  
45 may submit to the clerk of the court, along with supporting  
46 documentation, a petition to convert any fines or fees resulting  
47 from a conviction for such nonviolent drug offense to community  
48 service hours. Upon receipt of a completed petition, the clerk  
49 of the court must grant the petition.

50 (b) The conversion is 1 community service hour for every

51 \$15 owed by the individual.

52 (3) REQUIREMENTS.—The community service hours must be  
53 completed within an addiction treatment facility or other  
54 similar facility that helps individuals who committed drug  
55 offenses.

56 (4) FORM.—The clerk of the court shall create a form,  
57 publish the form online, and provide a paper copy of the form  
58 upon request.

59 (5) REQUIRED NOTIFICATION AND PROVISION OF DOCUMENTS AND  
60 INFORMATION.—A court shall notify each nonviolent drug offender  
61 of the existence of the option for converting fines and fees  
62 into community service hours under this section and shall  
63 require the clerk of the court to provide to each nonviolent  
64 drug offender a written or electronic copy of this section and  
65 information and instructions on how to complete a petition.

66 (6) APPLICABILITY.—This section does not apply to an  
67 individual who is convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo  
68 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, any of the following  
69 or the attempt to commit any of the following:

70 (a) An offense that requires the individual to register as  
71 a sexual offender under s. 943.0435.

72 (b) Any offense that is not nonviolent.

73 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.