

By Senator Rouson

16-00819A-24

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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 nonviolent  
6           drug offenders to convert fines and fees into  
7           community service hours; specifying the conversion  
8           rate; providing requirements for the completion of  
9           community service hours; requiring the clerk of the  
10          court to create a form; requiring court notification  
11          and the provision of documents and information to  
12          nonviolent drug offenders; providing applicability;  
13          providing an effective date.

14  
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 to  
18           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  
26           s. 948.06(8)(c).

27           (2) ELIGIBILITY; CONVERSION RATE.—An individual who has  
28           successfully completed drug offender probation or a treatment  
29           program for one or more nonviolent drug offenses and is enrolled

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30 in at least one continuing education course may submit to the  
31 clerk of the court, along with supporting documentation of such  
32 course or courses, a petition to convert any fines or fees  
33 resulting from a conviction for such nonviolent drug offense to  
34 community service hours. Upon receipt of a completed petition,  
35 the clerk of the court must grant it. The conversion is 1  
36 community service hour for every \$15 owed by the individual.

37 (3) REQUIREMENTS.—The community service hours must be  
38 completed within an addiction treatment facility or other  
39 similar facility that helps individuals who committed drug  
40 offenses.

41 (4) FORM.—The clerk of the court shall create a form,  
42 publish it online, and provide it upon request in paper form for  
43 petitioners to complete.

44 (5) REQUIRED NOTIFICATION AND PROVISION OF DOCUMENTS AND  
45 INFORMATION.—A court shall notify each nonviolent drug offender  
46 of the existence of the option for converting fines and fees  
47 into community service hours under this section and shall  
48 require the clerk of the court to provide to each nonviolent  
49 drug offender a written or electronic copy of this section and  
50 information and instructions on how to complete a petition.

51 (6) APPLICABILITY.—This section does not apply to an  
52 individual who is convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo  
53 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, or the attempt of,  
54 any of the following:

55 (a) An offense that meets the definition of a sexual  
56 offender as defined in s. 943.0435.

57 (b) Any offense that is not nonviolent.

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