By Senator Truenow

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

1415

1617

18

19

20

21

22

2324

25

2627

28

29

13-00236A-25 2025456

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to bail bonds; reenacting and amending s. 903.011, F.S.; requiring, rather than authorizing, that any monetary or cash component of any form of pretrial release be met by specified means; amending s. 903.045, F.S.; revising a statement of public policy and legislative intent relating to the nature of criminal bail bonds; amending s. 903.046, F.S.; revising the criteria that a court must consider in making specified determinations; amending s. 903.0471, F.S.; requiring that, upon a court's entry of an order to revoke pretrial release and order pretrial detention, the clerk of the court discharge any bond previously posted as a condition of pretrial release without further order of the court; amending s. 903.05, F.S.; deleting the requirement that a surety own certain real estate as a qualification for the release of a person on bail; repealing s. 903.08, F.S., relating to sufficiency of sureties; amending s. 903.09, F.S.; requiring sureties, other than bail bond agents, to justify their suretyship by attaching to the bond United States currency, a United States postal money order, or a cashier's check in the amount of the bond; providing that such currency, money order, or cashier's check may not be used to secure more than one bond; deleting the requirement that a surety execute an affidavit providing certain information; amending s. 903.101, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made by the act; amending s.

31

32

33 34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43 44

45 46

47

48 49

50

51

52

53

54

5556

57

58

13-00236A-25 2025456

903.16, F.S.; authorizing a defendant who has been admitted to bail, or another person on the defendant's behalf, to deposit with the official authorized to take bail money an amount equal to the bail amount set in the court order; requiring that such deposit be receipted in the name of the defendant; requiring, rather than authorizing, the sheriff or other officials to remit to the clerk money or bonds received which are to be held by the clerk pending court action; deleting a provision stating that consent is conclusively presumed for the clerk of the circuit court to sell bonds deposited as bail after forfeiture of the bond; repealing s. 903.17, F.S., relating to substitution of cash bail for other bail; amending s. 903.21, F.S.; specifying that the surety is exonerated of liability on a bond if a specified determination is made before forfeiture of the bond; requiring clerks, upon a certain affirmation by the sheriff or the chief correctional officer, to discharge the bond without further hearing or order from the court; amending s. 903.26, F.S.; providing that a certain signed certificate that certifies a specified required notice constitutes sufficient proof of the mailing or electronic transmission of such notice; deleting a requirement that municipal officials having custody of forfeited money deposit such money in a designated municipal fund within 60 days after the forfeiture notice has been mailed or electronically transmitted; deleting certain

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

67 68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79 80

8182

83

8485

86

87

13-00236A-25 2025456

requirements that must be met when bonds are forfeited; revising the circumstances under which the court is required to discharge a forfeiture within a specified timeframe; specifying circumstances under which the clerk must discharge a forfeiture and issue a certain notice to the surety without further order of the court; specifying circumstances under which the clerk does not have standing to object to specified motions; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; making technical changes; amending s. 903.27, F.S.; requiring the clerk of the circuit court to enter a certain judgment if the forfeiture is not paid or discharged by order of a court of competent jurisdiction within 60 days after the forfeiture notice has been mailed or electronically transmitted; reducing the number of days within which the clerk must furnish specified information to the Department of Financial Services and the Office of Insurance Regulation of the Financial Services Commission and the surety company at its home office; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 903.28, F.S.; increasing the amount of time within which a court must order remission of a forfeiture if it determines that there was no breach of the bond; requiring a court, upon a certain motion, to order remission in accordance with specified provisions if a defendant surrenders, is deceased, is apprehended, or is deported within a certain time after forfeiture; deleting provisions relating to the ordering of

89

90

91

92

93 94

95

96

9798

99

100

101

102

103

104

105

106

107

108

109

110

111

112

113

114

115

116

13-00236A-25 2025456

remission under specified circumstances; decreasing the amount of time for which the clerk of the circuit court and the state attorney must be given notice before a certain hearing and be furnished with copies of certain documents; requiring the clerk of the circuit court to issue a remission within a certain timeframe after the entry of a court order directing remission; providing for accrual of interest if remission is not issued within such timeframe; amending s. 903.31, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the ordering of a bond cancellation; revising applicability; defining the term "revoked"; specifying that the original appearance bond does not guarantee a sentencing deferral, a delayed sentencing, or an appearance after entering a plea agreement; amending s. 924.065, F.S.; specifying that an appeal may not be a supersedeas to the execution of the judgment, sentence, or order of the payment of the judgment, fine, and any future costs that may be adjudged by the appellate court; deleting a provision requiring that bonds be conditioned on certain factors; amending s. 951.26, F.S.; requiring that county public safety coordinating councils include a licensed bail bond agent; providing for designation and the term of such agents; requiring that public safety coordinating councils for a consortium of counties include a licensed bond agent; providing for designation and the term of such agents; reenacting ss. 903.047(1)(c) and 907.041(5)(c) and (d), F.S., relating to conditions of

13-00236A-25 2025456

117 pretrial release and pretrial detention and release, 118 respectively, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 119 903.046, F.S., in references thereto; reenacting s. 120 903.286(2), F.S., relating to cash bond forms, to 121 incorporate the amendment made to s. 903.09, F.S., in 122 a reference thereto; reenacting s. 924.14, F.S., 123 relating to stay of execution when a defendant 124 appeals, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 125 924.065, F.S., in a reference thereto; providing an effective date. 126

127

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

128 129

130

131

132

135

136

137

138

139

140

141

142

143

144

145

Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 903.011, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (6) of that section is reenacted, to read:

133 134

- 903.011 Pretrial release; general terms; statewide uniform bond schedule.-
- (2) Any monetary or cash component of any form of pretrial release must may be met by a surety bond, United States currency, United States postal money order, or a cashier's check.
- (6) A person may not be released before his or her first appearance hearing or bail determination and a judge must determine the appropriate bail, if any, based on an individualized consideration of the criteria in s. 903.046(2), if the person meets any of the following criteria:
- (a) The person was, at the time of arrest for any felony, on pretrial release, probation, or community control in this

13-00236A-25 2025456

146 state or any other state;

147

148

149

150

151

152

153154

155

156

157

158

159

160

161

162

163

164165

166167

168169

170171

172

173

174

- (b) The person was, at the time of arrest, designated as a sexual offender or sexual predator in this state or any other state;
- (c) The person was arrested for violating a protective injunction;
- (d) The person was, at the time of arrest, on release from supervision under s. 947.1405, s. 947.146, s. 947.149, or s. 944.4731;
- (e) The person has, at any time before the current arrest, been sentenced pursuant to s. 775.082(9) or s. 775.084 as a prison releasee reoffender, habitual violent felony offender, three-time violent felony offender, or violent career criminal;
- (f) The person has been arrested three or more times in the 6 months immediately preceding his or her arrest for the current offense; or
- (g) The person's current offense of arrest is for one or more of the following crimes:
- 1. A capital felony, life felony, felony of the first degree, or felony of the second degree;
- 2. A homicide under chapter 782; or any attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit a homicide;
- 3. Assault in furtherance of a riot or an aggravated riot; felony battery; domestic battery by strangulation; domestic violence, as defined in s. 741.28; stalking; mob intimidation; assault or battery on a law enforcement officer; assault or battery on juvenile probation officer, or other staff of a detention center or commitment facility, or a staff member of a commitment facility, or health services personnel; assault or

176

177

178

179

180181

182

183

184185

186

187

188189

190

191

192

193

194

195

196

197

198

199

13-00236A-25 2025456

battery on a person 65 years of age or older; robbery; burglary; carjacking; or resisting an officer with violence;

- 4. Kidnapping, false imprisonment, human trafficking, or human smuggling;
- 5. Possession of a firearm or ammunition by a felon, violent career criminal, or person subject to an injunction against committing acts of domestic violence, stalking, or cyberstalking;
- 6. Sexual battery; indecent, lewd, or lascivious touching; exposure of sexual organs; incest; luring or enticing a child; or child pornography;
- 7. Abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an elderly person or disabled adult;
  - 8. Child abuse or aggravated child abuse;
- 9. Arson; riot, aggravated riot, inciting a riot, or aggravated inciting a riot; or a burglary or theft during a riot;
- 10. Escape; tampering or retaliating against a witness, victim, or informant; destruction of evidence; or tampering with a jury;
- 11. Any offense committed for the purpose of benefiting, promoting, or furthering the interests of a criminal gang;
- 12. Trafficking in a controlled substance, including conspiracy to engage in trafficking in a controlled substance;
  - 13. Racketeering; or
- 200 14. Failure to appear at required court proceedings while on bail.
- Section 2. Section 903.045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

13-00236A-25 2025456

903.045 Nature of criminal surety bail bonds.—It is the public policy of this state and the intent of the Legislature that a criminal surety bail bond, executed by a bail bond agent licensed pursuant to chapter 648, or by a resident of this state, in connection with the pretrial or appellate release of a criminal defendant, shall be construed as a commitment by and an obligation upon such agent or resident the bail bond agent to ensure that the defendant appears at all criminal proceedings for which such bail the surety bond is posted.

Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section 903.046, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

903.046 Purpose of and criteria for bail determination.-

- (2) When determining whether to release a defendant on bail or other conditions, and what that bail or those conditions may be, the court shall consider:
- (d) The defendant's past and present conduct, including any record of convictions, previous flight to avoid prosecution, or failure to appear at court proceedings. However, any defendant who had failed to appear on the day of any required court proceeding in the case at issue, but who had later voluntarily appeared or surrendered, shall not be eligible for a recognizance bond; and any defendant who failed to appear on the day of any required court proceeding in the case at issue and who was later arrested shall not be eligible for a recognizance bond or for any form of bond which does not require the greater of a monetary undertaking or commitment equal to or greater than \$2,000 or twice the value of the monetary commitment or undertaking of the original bond, whichever is greater.

  Notwithstanding anything in this section, the court has

13-00236A-25 2025456

discretion in determining conditions of release if the defendant proves circumstances beyond his or her control for the failure to appear. This section may not be construed as imposing additional duties or obligations on a governmental entity related to monetary bonds.

Section 4. Section 903.0471, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

903.0471 Violation of condition of pretrial release.—
Notwithstanding s. 907.041, a court may, on its own motion, revoke pretrial release and order pretrial detention if the court finds probable cause to believe that the defendant committed a new crime while on pretrial release or violated any other condition of pretrial release in a material respect. Upon entry of such an order to revoke pretrial release and order pretrial detention, the clerk of the court must discharge any bond previously posted as a condition of pretrial release without further order of the court.

Section 5. Section 903.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

903.05 Qualification of sureties.—A surety for the release of a person on bail, other than a company authorized by law to act as a surety, <u>must shall</u> be a resident of <u>this</u> the state or own real estate within the state.

Section 6. <u>Section 903.08, Florida Statutes, is repealed.</u>
Section 7. Subsection (1) of section 903.09, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

903.09 Justification of sureties.-

(1) A surety, other than a bail bond agent as defined in s. 648.25, shall justify his or her suretyship by attaching to the

2.72

13-00236A-25 2025456

bond United States currency, a United States postal money order, or a cashier's check in the amount of the bond; however, the United States currency, United States postal money order, or cashier's check may not be used to secure more than one bond execute an affidavit stating that she or he possesses the qualifications and net worth required to become a surety. The affidavit shall describe the surety's property and any encumbrances and shall state the number and amount of any bonds entered into by the surety at any court that remain undischarged.

Section 8. Section 903.101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

903.101 Sureties; licensed persons; to have equal access.— Subject to rules adopted by the Department of Financial Services and by the Financial Services Commission, every surety who meets the requirements of ss. 903.05, 903.06, 903.08, and 903.09, and every person who is currently licensed by the Department of Financial Services and registered as required by s. 648.42 has shall have equal access to the jails of this state for the purpose of making bonds.

Section 9. Section 903.16, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

903.16 Deposit of money or bonds as bail.-

(1) A defendant who has been admitted to bail, or another person in the defendant's behalf, may deposit with the official authorized to take bail money an amount equal to the bail amount set in the court order. Such deposit must be receipted in the name of the defendant or nonregistered bonds of the United States, the state, or a city, town, or county in the state,

13-00236A-25 2025456

equal in market value to the amount set in the order and the personal bond of the defendant and an undertaking by the depositor if the money or bonds are deposited by another. The sheriff or other officials <u>must may</u> remit money or bonds received to the clerk to be held by the clerk pending court action or return to the defendant or depositor. The clerk shall accept money or bonds remitted by the sheriff.

- (2) Consent is conclusively presumed for the clerk of the circuit court to sell bonds deposited as bail after forfeiture of the bond.
- Section 10. <u>Section 903.17</u>, <u>Florida Statutes</u>, <u>is repealed</u>. Section 11. Subsection (3) of section 903.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 903.21 Method of surrender; exoneration of obligors.-
- (3) (a) The surety shall be exonerated of liability on the bond if it is determined before forfeiture breach of the bond that the defendant is in any jail or prison and the surety agrees in writing to pay the costs and expenses incurred in returning the defendant to the jurisdiction of the court. Upon affirmation by the sheriff or the chief correctional officer of the defendant being in any jail or prison and the surety agreeing in writing to pay the costs and expenses incurred in returning the defendant to the jurisdiction of the court, the clerk must discharge the bond without further hearing or order of the court. A surety is only responsible for the itemized costs and expenses incurred for the transport of a defendant to whom he or she has a fiduciary duty and is not liable for the costs and expenses incurred in transporting any other defendant.
  - (b) As used in For purposes of this subsection, the term:

13-00236A-25 2025456

1. "Costs and expenses" means the prorated salary of any law enforcement officer or employee of a contracted transportation company as well as the actual expenses of transporting each defendant, which may only consist of mileage, vehicle expenses, meals, and, if necessary, overnight lodging for any law enforcement officer or employee of a contracted transportation company and the defendant.

2. "Jurisdiction" means the county from which the defendant was released on bail.

Section 12. Section 903.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

903.26 Forfeiture of the bond; when and how directed; discharge; how and when made; effect of payment.—

- (1) A bail bond may shall not be forfeited unless:
- (a) The information, indictment, or affidavit was filed within 6 months after from the date of arrest, and
- (b) The clerk of the court gave the surety at least 72 hours' notice, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, before the time of the required appearance of the defendant.

  Notice is shall not be necessary if the time for appearance is within 72 hours after from the time of arrest, or if the time is stated on the bond. Such notice may be mailed or electronically transmitted. A certificate signed by the clerk of the court or the clerk's designee which certifies that the notice required under this paragraph was mailed or electronically transmitted on a specified date and time and which is accompanied by a copy of the required notice constitutes sufficient proof that such mailing or electronic transmission was properly accomplished as required in this paragraph.

350

351

352

353

354

355

356

357

358359

360

361

362

363

364

365

366

367

368

369

370

371

372

373374

375

376

377

13-00236A-25 2025456\_\_

(2)(a) If there is a failure of the defendant to appear as required, the court must shall declare the bond and any bonds or money deposited as bail forfeited. The clerk of the court shall mail or electronically transmit a notice to the surety agent, bail agency, and surety company within 5 days after the forfeiture. A certificate signed by the clerk of the court or the clerk's designee which certifies, certifying that the notice required under this section herein was mailed or electronically transmitted on a specified date and which is accompanied by a copy of the required notice, constitutes shall constitute sufficient proof that such mailing or electronic transmission was properly accomplished as required in this paragraph indicated therein. If such mailing or electronic transmission was properly accomplished as evidenced by such certificate, the failure of the surety agent, a bail agency, of a company, or of a defendant to receive such notice does shall not constitute a defense to such forfeiture and may shall not be grounds for discharge, remission, reduction, set aside, or continuance of such forfeiture. The forfeiture must shall be paid within 60 days after the date the notice was mailed or electronically transmitted.

(b) If Failure of the defendant fails to appear at the time, date, and place of required appearance, shall result in forfeiture of the bond is forfeited. Such forfeiture must shall be automatically entered by the clerk upon such failure to appear, and the clerk shall follow the procedures in paragraph (a). However, the court may determine, in its discretion and, in the interest of justice, that an appearance by the defendant on the same day as required day does not warrant forfeiture of the

13-00236A-25 2025456

bond; and the court may direct the clerk to set aside any such forfeiture which may have been entered. Any appearance by the defendant later than the required day constitutes forfeiture of the bond, and the court may shall not preclude entry of such forfeiture by the clerk.

- (c) If there is a forfeiture of the bond, the clerk <u>must</u> shall provide, upon request, a certified copy of the warrant or capias to the bail bond agent or surety company.
- (3) Sixty days after the forfeiture notice has been mailed or electronically transmitted:
- (a) State and county officials having custody of forfeited money shall deposit the money in the fine and forfeiture fund established pursuant to s. 142.01.
- (b) Municipal officials having custody of forfeited money shall deposit the money in a designated municipal fund.
- (c) Officials having custody of bonds as authorized by s. 903.16 shall transmit the bonds to the clerk of the circuit court who shall sell them at market value and disburse the proceeds as provided in paragraph (a) paragraphs (a) and (b).
- (4) (a) When a bond is forfeited, the clerk shall transmit the bond and any affidavits to the clerk of the circuit court in which the bond and affidavits are filed. The clerk of the circuit court shall record the forfeiture in the deed or official records book. If the undertakings and affidavits describe real property in another county, the clerk shall transmit the bond and affidavits to the clerk of the circuit court of the county where the property is located who shall record and return them.
  - (b)—The bond and affidavits shall be a lien on the real

13-00236A-25 2025456

property they describe from the time of recording in the county where the property is located for 2 years or until the final determination of an action instituted thereon within a 2-year period. If an action is not instituted within 2 years from the date of recording, the lien shall be discharged. The lien will be discharged 2 years after the recording even if an action was instituted within 2 years unless a lis pendens notice is recorded in the action.

- (5) The court shall discharge a forfeiture within 60 days upon any of the following:
- (a) A determination that, due to circumstances beyond the defendant's control, it was impossible for the defendant to appear as required or within 60 days after the forfeiture notice was mailed or electronically transmitted date of the required appearance due to circumstances beyond the defendant's control. The potential adverse economic consequences of appearing as required may not be considered as constituting a ground for such a determination.;
- (b) A determination that, at the time of the required appearance or within 60 days after the forfeiture notice was mailed or electronically transmitted date of the required appearance, the defendant was confined in an institution or hospital; was confined in any county, state, federal, or immigration detention facility; was deported; or is deceased.
- (c) Surrender or arrest of the defendant at the time of the required appearance or within 60 days after the <u>forfeiture</u> notice was mailed or electronically transmitted date of the required appearance in any county, state, or federal jail or prison and upon a hold being placed to return the defendant to

13-00236A-25 2025456

the jurisdiction of the court. The court shall condition a discharge or remission on the payment of costs and the expenses as provided in s. 903.21(3), incurred by an official in returning the defendant to the jurisdiction of the court.; or

- (d) A determination that the state is unwilling to seek extradition of the fugitive defendant within 10 30 days after a written request by the surety agent to do so, and contingent upon the surety agent's consent to pay all costs and the expenses incurred by an official in returning the defendant to the jurisdiction of the court, as provided in s. 903.21(3) up to the penal amount of the bond. If the state does not respond in writing within 10 days after receiving a written request to seek a determination of extradition, the failure to respond is evidence that the state is unwilling to seek extradition.
- (5) In the interest of justice, if the state is willing to extradite the defendant, the state must enter the information of the defendant into the National Crime Information Center database for the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications

  System region or regions requested within 10 days after a request by the surety to do so.
- (6) The discharge of a forfeiture <u>may shall</u> not be ordered for any reason other than as specified herein.
- (7) The payment by a surety of a forfeiture under this law <a href="has shall have">has shall have</a> the same effect on the bond as payment of a judgment.
- (8) If the defendant is arrested and returned to the county of jurisdiction of the court or has posted a new bond for the case at issue before judgment, the clerk <a href="mailto:shall">shall</a>, upon affirmation by the sheriff or the chief correctional officer and, shall,

13-00236A-25 2025456

without further hearing or order of the court, discharge the forfeiture of the bond. However, if the surety agent fails to pay the costs and expenses incurred in returning the defendant to the county of jurisdiction, the clerk <u>may shall</u> not discharge the forfeiture of the bond. If the surety agent and the sheriff fail to agree on the amount of <u>such said</u> costs, then the court, after notice to the sheriff and the state attorney, <u>must shall</u> determine the amount of the costs.

- (9) If, after forfeiture of a bond, the criminal charges for which the bond guaranteed appearance are resolved, adjudicated, or otherwise disposed of by any action of the court or state, the clerk must discharge the forfeiture and issue such notice to the surety without further order of the court. If such resolution or disposition occurs after payment of a forfeiture or judgment, remission must be granted upon proper motion and as specified under s. 903.28.
- (10) Unless the time for payment or discharge of the forfeiture set forth in s. 903.27(1) has passed, or unless payment of the forfeiture has already been made, the clerk does not have standing to object to a motion to set aside a forfeiture under paragraph (2)(b), a motion to discharge a bond under subsection (4), or a motion to reinstate a bond under s. 903.31(2).
- Section 13. Section 903.27, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 903.27 Forfeiture to judgment.-
- (1) If the forfeiture is not paid or discharged by order of a court of competent jurisdiction within 60 days <u>after the</u> forfeiture notice has been mailed or electronically transmitted

495

496

497

498

499

500

501

502

503

504

505

506

507

508509

510

511

512

513

514

515

516

517

518

519520

521

522

13-00236A-25 2025456

and the bond is secured other than by money and bonds authorized in s. 903.16, the clerk of the circuit court for the county where the order was made must shall enter a judgment against the surety for the amount of the penalty and issue execution. However, in any case in which the bond forfeiture has been discharged by the court of competent jurisdiction conditioned upon the payment by the surety of certain costs or fees as allowed by statute, the amount for which judgment may be entered may not exceed the amount of the unpaid fees or costs upon which the discharge had been conditioned. Judgment for the full amount of the forfeiture may shall not be entered if payment of a lesser amount will satisfy the conditions to discharge the forfeiture. Within 5 10 days, the clerk shall furnish the Department of Financial Services and the Office of Insurance Regulation of the Financial Services Commission with a certified copy of the judgment docket and shall furnish the surety company at its home office a copy of the judgment, which shall include the power of attorney number of the bond and the name of the executing agent. If the judgment is not paid within 35 days, the clerk must shall furnish the Department of Financial Services, the Office of Insurance Regulation, and the sheriff of the county in which the bond was executed, or the official responsible for operation of the county jail, if that official is not other than the sheriff, two copies of the judgment and a certificate stating that the judgment remains unsatisfied. When and if the judgment is properly paid or an order to vacate the judgment has been entered by a court of competent jurisdiction, the clerk shall immediately notify the sheriff, or other such the official responsible for the operation of the county jail,

13-00236A-25 2025456

if other than the sheriff, and, if they have been previously notified of nonpayment, the Department of Financial Services and the Office of Insurance Regulation, if the department and office had been previously notified of nonpayment, of such payment or order to vacate the judgment. The clerk may furnish documents or give notice as required in this subsection by mail or electronic means. The clerk shall also immediately prepare and record in the public records a satisfaction of the judgment or record the order to vacate judgment. If the defendant is returned to the county of jurisdiction of the court, whenever a motion to set aside the judgment is filed, the operation of the motion.

- or his designee which certifies, certifying that the notice required in subsection (1) was mailed or electronically delivered on a specified date, and is accompanied by a copy of the required notice constitutes sufficient proof that such mailing or electronic delivery was properly accomplished as required in this subsection indicated therein. If such mailing or electronic delivery was properly accomplished as evidenced by such certificate, the failure of a company to receive a copy of the judgment as prescribed in subsection (1) does not constitute a defense to the forfeiture and is not a ground for the discharge, remission, reduction, set aside, or continuance of such forfeiture.
- (3) Surety bail bonds may not be executed by a bail bond agent or a bail agency against whom a judgment has been entered which has remained unpaid for 35 days and may not be executed for a company against whom a judgment has been entered which has

13-00236A-25 2025456

remained unpaid for 50 days.  $\underline{A}$  No sheriff or other official who is empowered to accept or approve surety bail bonds  $\underline{may}$  not  $\underline{shall}$  accept or approve such a bond executed by such a bail bond agent or executed for such a company until such judgment has been paid.

- (4) After notice of judgment against the surety given by the clerk of the circuit court, the surety, a bail agency, or a bail bond agent shall, within 35 days after of the entry of judgment, submit to the clerk of the circuit court an amount equal to the judgment, unless the judgment has been set aside by the court within 35 days after its of the entry of judgment. If a motion to set aside the judgment has been filed pursuant to subsection (5), the amount submitted must shall be held in escrow until such time as the court has disposed of the motion. The failure to comply with the provisions of this subsection constitutes a failure to pay the judgment.
- (5) After notice of judgment against the surety given by the clerk of the circuit court, the surety, bail agency, or bail bond agent may within 35 days file a motion to set aside or stay the judgment or to stay the judgment. It shall be a condition of Any such motion or and of any order to stay the judgment must be conditioned on payment by that the surety of pay the amount of the judgment to the clerk, which amount must shall be held in escrow until such time as the court has disposed of the motion to set aside the judgment. The filing of such a motion, when accompanied by the required escrow deposit, acts shall act as an automatic stay of further proceedings, including execution, until the motion has been heard and a decision rendered by the court.

13-00236A-25 2025456\_\_

(6) The failure of a state attorney to file, or of the clerk of the circuit court to make, a certified copy of the order of forfeiture as required by law applicable <u>before prior</u> to July 1, 1982, <u>does shall</u> not invalidate any judgment entered by the clerk before <u>prior to June 12</u>, 1981.

Section 14. Section 903.28, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 903.28 Remission of forfeiture; conditions.-
- (1) On application within 1,095 days after 2 years from forfeiture, the court  $\underline{\text{must}}$  shall order remission of the forfeiture if it determines that there was no breach of the bond.
- (2) If the defendant surrenders, is deceased, or is apprehended, or is deported within 1,095 90 days after forfeiture, the court, on motion at a hearing upon notice having been given to the clerk of the circuit court and the state attorney as required under subsection (4), must in subsection (8), shall direct remission in accordance with the following:
  - (a) One-hundred percent of the forfeiture if:
- 1. The defendant surrenders, is apprehended, or is deported within 90 days after forfeiture;
- 2. The state is unwilling to seek extradition of the defendant from any jail or prison after a request by the surety agent, bail agency, or the surety company, and contingent upon the surety agent, or bail agency, or surety company consenting to pay all costs incurred by an official in returning the defendant to the jurisdiction of the court, as provided in s. 903.21(3)(a), up to the penal amount of the bond;
  - 3. The defendant is deceased or was confined in any county,

13-00236A-25 2025456

state, federal, or immigration detention facility and
subsequently was released from custody or deported without the
state placing a detainer on the defendant; or

- $\underline{\text{4. The defendant is deceased within 1,095 days after}}$  forfeiture.
- (b) Ninety-five percent of the forfeiture if the defendant surrenders, is apprehended, or is deported within 180 days after forfeiture.
- (c) Ninety percent of the forfeiture if the defendant surrenders, is apprehended, or is deported within 270 days after forfeiture.
- (d) Eighty-five percent of the forfeiture if the defendant surrenders, is apprehended, or is deported within 365 days after forfeiture.
- (e) Eighty percent of the forfeiture if the defendant surrenders, is apprehended, or is deported within 730 days after forfeiture.
- (f) Seventy-five percent of the forfeiture if the defendant surrenders, is apprehended, or is deported within 1,095 days after forfeiture of up to, but not more than, 100 percent of a forfeiture if the surety apprehended and surrendered the defendant or if the apprehension or surrender of the defendant was substantially procured or caused by the surety, or the surety has substantially attempted to procure or cause the apprehension or surrender of the defendant, and the delay has not thwarted the proper prosecution of the defendant. In addition, remission shall be granted when the surety did not substantially participate or attempt to participate in the apprehension or surrender of the defendant when the costs of

640

641

642

643

644

645

646647

648649

650

651

652

653

654

655

656

657

658

659

660

661

662

663

664

665

666

667

13-00236A-25 2025456

returning the defendant to the jurisdiction of the court have been deducted from the remission and when the delay has not thwarted the proper prosecution of the defendant.

(3) If the defendant surrenders or is apprehended within 180 days after forfeiture, the court, on motion at a hearing upon notice having been given to the clerk of the circuit court and the state attorney as required in subsection (8), shall direct remission of up to, but not more than, 95 percent of a forfeiture if the surety apprehended and surrendered the defendant or if the apprehension or surrender of the defendant was substantially procured or caused by the surety, or the surety has substantially attempted to procure or cause the apprehension or surrender of the defendant, and the delay has not thwarted the proper prosecution of the defendant. In addition, remission shall be granted when the surety did not substantially participate or attempt to participate in the apprehension or surrender of the defendant when the costs of returning the defendant to the jurisdiction of the court have been deducted from the remission and when the delay has not thwarted the proper prosecution of the defendant.

(4) If the defendant surrenders or is apprehended within 270 days after forfeiture, the court, on motion at a hearing upon notice having been given to the clerk of the circuit court and the state attorney as required in subsection (8), shall direct remission of up to, but not more than, 90 percent of a forfeiture if the surety apprehended and surrendered the defendant or if the apprehension or surrender of the defendant was substantially procured or caused by the surety, or the surety has substantially attempted to procure or cause the

669

670

671

672

673

674

675

676

677

678

679

680

681 682

683

684

685

686

687

688

689

690

691

692

693

694

695

696

13-00236A-25 2025456

apprehension or surrender of the defendant, and the delay has not thwarted the proper prosecution of the defendant. In addition, remission shall be granted when the surety did not substantially participate or attempt to participate in the apprehension or surrender of the defendant when the costs of returning the defendant to the jurisdiction of the court have been deducted from the remission and when the delay has not thwarted the proper prosecution of the defendant.

(5) If the defendant surrenders or is apprehended within 1 year after forfeiture, the court, on motion at a hearing upon notice having been given to the clerk of the circuit court and the state attorney as required in subsection (8), shall direct remission of up to, but not more than, 85 percent of a forfeiture if the surety apprehended and surrendered the defendant or if the apprehension or surrender of the defendant was substantially procured or caused by the surety, or the surety has substantially attempted to procure or cause the apprehension or surrender of the defendant, and the delay has not thwarted the proper prosecution of the defendant. In addition, remission shall be granted when the surety did not substantially participate or attempt to participate in the apprehension or surrender of the defendant when the costs of returning the defendant to the jurisdiction of the court have been deducted from the remission and when the delay has not thwarted the proper prosecution of the defendant.

(6)—If the defendant surrenders or is apprehended within 2 years after forfeiture, the court, on motion at a hearing upon notice having been given to the clerk of the circuit court and the state attorney as required in subsection (8), shall direct

13-00236A-25 2025456

remission of up to, but not more than, 50 percent of a forfeiture if the surety apprehended and surrendered the defendant or if the apprehension or surrender of the defendant was substantially procured or caused by the surety, or the surety has substantially attempted to procure or cause the apprehension or surrender of the defendant, and the delay has not thwarted the proper prosecution of the defendant. In addition, remission shall be granted when the surety did not substantially participate or attempt to participate in the apprehension or surrender of the defendant when the costs of returning the defendant to the jurisdiction of the court have been deducted from the remission and when the delay has not thwarted the proper prosecution of the defendant.

 $\underline{(3)}$  (7) The remission of a forfeiture may not be ordered for any reason other than as specified in this section herein.

(4) (8) An application for remission must be accompanied by affidavits setting forth the facts on which it is founded; however, the surety must establish by further documentation or other evidence any claimed attempt at procuring or causing the apprehension or surrender of the defendant before the court may order remission based upon an attempt to procure or cause such apprehension or surrender. The clerk of the circuit court and the state attorney must be given 10 20 days' notice before a hearing on an application and be furnished copies of all papers, applications, and affidavits. Remission must shall be granted on the condition of payment of costs, as provided in s.

903.21(3)(a), unless the ground for remission is that there was no breach of the bond.

(5) The clerk of the circuit court may enter into a

13-00236A-25 2025456

contract with a private attorney or into an interagency agreement with a governmental agency to represent the clerk of the court in an action for the remission of a forfeiture under this section.

- $\underline{(6)}$  (10) The clerk of the circuit court is the real party in interest for all appeals arising from an action for the remission of a forfeiture under this section.
- (7) The clerk of the circuit court shall issue a remission within 10 days after entry of a court order directing remission, and a remission untimely issued accrues interest at the rate of 1.5 percent per month.
- Section 15. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 903.31, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
  - 903.31 Canceling the bond.-
- (1) Within 10 business days after the conditions of a bond have been satisfied or the forfeiture discharged or remitted, the court <u>must shall</u> order the bond canceled and, if the surety has attached a certificate of cancellation to the original bond, the clerk of the court <u>must shall</u> mail or electronically furnish an executed certificate of cancellation to the surety without cost. <u>The clerk of the court shall discharge the bond upon</u> an adjudication of guilt or innocence or an acquittal, <u>or</u> if a period of 36 months has passed since the original bond was posted. To a withholding of an adjudication of guilt, a finding of guilt by a jury, or a no action by the state satisfies shall satisfy the conditions of the bond. If the bond has been revoked by the court, the clerk of the court must discharge or cancel the bond. The original appearance bond shall expire 36 months after such bond has been posted for the release of the defendant

13-00236A-25 2025456

from custody. This subsection does not apply to cases in which a bond has been declared forfeited before the 36-month expiration, unless the forfeiture was set aside, the original bond was reinstated, or a new bond was posted. As used in this subsection, the term "revoked" means that an act, statement, document, or promise has been annulled or canceled.

deferred sentence; a sentencing deferral; a delayed sentencing; an appearance after entering a plea agreement; an appearance during or after a presentence investigation; an appearance during or after appeals; conduct during or appearance after admission to a pretrial intervention program; placement in a court-ordered program, including a residential mental health facility; payment of fines; or attendance at educational or rehabilitation facilities the court otherwise provides in the judgment. If the original appearance bond has been forfeited or revoked, it may the bond shall not be reinstated without approval from the surety on the original bond.

Section 16. Subsection (2) of section 924.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

924.065 Denial of motion for new trial or arrest of judgment; appeal bond; supersedeas.—

(2) An appeal may not be a supersedeas to the execution of the judgment, sentence, or order of until the appellant has entered into a bond with at least two sureties to secure the payment of the judgment, fine, and any future costs that may be adjudged by the appellate court. The bond shall be conditioned on the appellant's personally answering and abiding by the final order, sentence, or judgment of the appellate court and, if the

13-00236A-25 2025456

action is remanded, on the appellant's appearing before the court in which the case was originally determined and not departing without leave of court.

Section 17. Subsection (1) of section 951.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

951.26 Public safety coordinating councils.-

- (1) Each board of county commissioners shall establish a county public safety coordinating council for the county or shall join with a consortium of one or more other counties to establish a public safety coordinating council for the geographic area represented by the member counties.
- (a)1. The public safety coordinating council for a county shall consist of:
- a. The state attorney, or an assistant state attorney designated by the state attorney.
- b. The public defender, or an assistant public defender designated by the public defender.
- c. The chief circuit judge, or another circuit judge designated by the chief circuit judge.
- d. The chief county judge, or another county judge designated by the chief county judge.
  - e. The chief correctional officer.
- f. The sheriff, or a member designated by the sheriff, if the sheriff is not the chief correctional officer.
- g. The state probation circuit administrator, or a member designated by the state probation circuit administrator, to be appointed to a 4-year term.
- h. The <u>chair chairperson</u> of the board of county commissioners, or another county commissioner as designee.

814

815

816817

818

819

820

821

822

823

824

825

826

827828

829

830

831832

833

834

835

836

837

838

839

840

841

13-00236A-25 2025456

i. If the county has such program available, the director of any county probation or pretrial intervention program, to be appointed to a 4-year term.

- j. The director of a local substance abuse treatment program, or a member designated by the director, to be appointed to a 4-year term.
- k. Representatives from county and state jobs programs and other community groups who work with offenders and victims, appointed by the <a href="chair chair chair
- 1. A bail bond agent licensed pursuant to chapter 648, designated by the council, to be appointed to a 4-year term.
- 2. The <u>chair chairperson</u> of the board of county commissioners, or another county commissioner as designee, shall serve as the <u>chair chairperson</u> of the council until the council elects a chair <del>chairperson</del> from the membership of the council.
- (b)1. The public safety coordinating council for a consortium of two or more counties shall consist of the following members, appointed with the approval of each board of county commissioners within the consortium:
- a. A chief circuit judge, or a circuit judge designated by a chief circuit judge.
- b. A chief county judge, or a county judge designated by a chief county judge.
- c. A state attorney, or an assistant state attorney designated by a state attorney.
- d. A public defender, or an assistant public defender designated by a public defender.
  - e. A state probation circuit administrator, or a member

843

844

845

846

847

848

849

850

851852

853854

855

856

857

858

859

860

861

862

863

864

865

866

867

868

869

870

13-00236A-25 2025456

designated by a state probation circuit administrator, to be appointed to a 4-year term.

- f. A physician who practices in the area of alcohol and substance abuse, to be appointed to a 4-year term.
- g. A mental health professional who practices in the area of alcohol and substance abuse, to be appointed to a 4-year term.
- h. A sheriff or a jail administrator for a county within the consortium.
- i. A chief of police for a municipality within the geographic area of the consortium.
- j. A county commissioner from each member county of the consortium.
- k. An elected member of the governing body of the most populous municipality within the geographic area of the consortium.
- 1. An elected member of a school board within the geographic area of the consortium.
- m. A bail bond agent licensed pursuant to chapter 648, designated by the Florida Bail Agents Association, to be appointed to a 4-year term.
- 2. The members of the public safety coordinating council shall elect a chair <del>chairperson</del> from among its members.

Section 18. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 903.046, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 903.047, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

- 903.047 Conditions of pretrial release.
- (1) As a condition of pretrial release, whether such

13-00236A-25 2025456

release is by surety bail bond or recognizance bond or in some other form, the defendant must:

- (c) Comply with all conditions of pretrial release imposed by the court. A court must consider s. 903.046(2) when determining whether to impose nonmonetary conditions in addition to or in lieu of monetary bond. Such nonmonetary conditions may include, but are not limited to, requiring a defendant to:
- 1. Maintain employment, or, if unemployed, actively seek employment.
  - 2. Maintain or commence an educational program.
- 3. Abide by specified restrictions on personal associations, place of residence, or travel.
- 4. Report on a regular basis to a designated law enforcement agency, pretrial services agency, or other agency.
  - 5. Comply with a specified curfew.
- 6. Refrain from possessing a firearm, destructive device, or other dangerous weapon.
- 7. Refrain from excessive use of alcohol, or any use of a narcotic drug or other controlled substance without a prescription from a licensed medical practitioner.
- 8. Undergo available medical, psychological, psychiatric, mental health, or substance abuse evaluation and follow all recommendations, including treatment for drug or alcohol dependency, and remain in a specified institution, if required for that purpose.
- 9. Return to custody for specified hours following release for employment, school, or other limited purposes.
- 10. Any other condition that is reasonably necessary to assure the appearance of the defendant at subsequent proceedings

13-00236A-25 2025456

and to protect the community against unreasonable danger of harm.

Section 19. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 903.046, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (5) of section 907.041, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:

907.041 Pretrial detention and release.-

- (5) PRETRIAL DETENTION.
- (c) Upon motion by the state attorney, the court may order pretrial detention if it finds a substantial probability, based on a defendant's past and present patterns of behavior, the criteria in s. 903.046, and any other relevant facts, that any of the following circumstances exist:
- 1. The defendant has previously violated conditions of release and that no further conditions of release are reasonably likely to assure the defendant's appearance at subsequent proceedings;
- 2. The defendant, with the intent to obstruct the judicial process, has threatened, intimidated, or injured any victim, potential witness, juror, or judicial officer, or has attempted or conspired to do so, and that no condition of release will reasonably prevent the obstruction of the judicial process;
- 3. The defendant is charged with trafficking in controlled substances as defined by s. 893.135, that there is a substantial probability that the defendant has committed the offense, and that no conditions of release will reasonably assure the defendant's appearance at subsequent criminal proceedings;
- 4. The defendant is charged with DUI manslaughter, as defined by s. 316.193, and that there is a substantial

13-00236A-25 2025456

probability that the defendant committed the crime and that the defendant poses a threat of harm to the community; conditions that would support a finding by the court pursuant to this subparagraph that the defendant poses a threat of harm to the community include, but are not limited to, any of the following:

- a. The defendant has previously been convicted of any crime under s. 316.193, or of any crime in any other state or territory of the United States that is substantially similar to any crime under s. 316.193;
- b. The defendant was driving with a suspended driver license when the charged crime was committed; or
- c. The defendant has previously been found guilty of, or has had adjudication of guilt withheld for, driving while the defendant's driver license was suspended or revoked in violation of s. 322.34;
- 5. The defendant poses the threat of harm to the community. The court may so conclude, if it finds that the defendant is presently charged with a dangerous crime, that there is a substantial probability that the defendant committed such crime, that the factual circumstances of the crime indicate a disregard for the safety of the community, and that there are no conditions of release reasonably sufficient to protect the community from the risk of physical harm to persons;
- 6. The defendant was on probation, parole, or other release pending completion of sentence or on pretrial release for a dangerous crime at the time the current offense was committed;
- 7. The defendant has violated one or more conditions of pretrial release or bond for the offense currently before the court and the violation, in the discretion of the court,

13-00236A-25 2025456

supports a finding that no conditions of release can reasonably protect the community from risk of physical harm to persons or assure the presence of the accused at trial; or

- 8.a. The defendant has ever been sentenced pursuant to s. 775.082(9) or s. 775.084 as a prison releasee reoffender, habitual violent felony offender, three-time violent felony offender, or violent career criminal, or the state attorney files a notice seeking that the defendant be sentenced pursuant to s. 775.082(9) or s. 775.084, as a prison releasee reoffender, habitual violent felony offender, three-time violent felony offender, or violent career criminal;
- b. There is a substantial probability that the defendant committed the offense; and
- c. There are no conditions of release that can reasonably protect the community from risk of physical harm or ensure the presence of the accused at trial.
- (d) If a defendant is arrested for a dangerous crime that is a capital felony, a life felony, or a felony of the first degree, and the court determines there is probable cause to believe the defendant committed the offense, the state attorney, or the court on its own motion, shall motion for pretrial detention. If the court finds a substantial probability that the defendant committed the offense and, based on the defendant's past and present patterns of behavior, consideration of the criteria in s. 903.046, and any other relevant facts, that no conditions of release or bail will reasonably protect the community from risk of physical harm, ensure the presence of the defendant at trial, or assure the integrity of the judicial process, the court must order pretrial detention.

13-00236A-25 2025456

Section 20. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 903.09, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (2) of section 903.286, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

903.286 Return of cash bond; requirement to withhold unpaid fines, fees, court costs; cash bond forms.—

(2) All cash bond forms used in conjunction with the requirements of s. 903.09 must prominently display a notice explaining that all funds are subject to forfeiture and withholding by the clerk of the court for the payment of costs of prosecution, costs of representation as provided by ss. 27.52 and 938.29, court fees, court costs, and criminal penalties on behalf of the criminal defendant regardless of who posted the funds.

Section 21. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 924.065, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, section 924.14, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

924.14 Stay of execution when defendant appeals.—An appeal by a defendant from either the judgment or sentence shall stay execution of the sentence, subject to the provisions of s. 924.065.

Section 22. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.