

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL ANALYSIS

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BILL #: [HB 5401](#) [PCB JUB 26-01](#)

TITLE: Trust Funds of the State Court System

SPONSOR(S): Maney

COMPANION BILL: None

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Orig. Comm.: Justice Budget](#)

13 Y, 0 N

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill terminates the Mediation and Arbitration Trust Fund within the State Courts System, and provides that all current balances and revenues of the fund be transferred to the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill [terminates](#) the [Mediation and Arbitration Trust Fund](#) within the State Courts System, and provides that all current balances and revenues be transferred to the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund. (Section [1](#))

The bill directs the State Courts System to pay any outstanding debts or obligations of the fund as soon as practicable, and directs the Chief Financial Officer to close out and remove the fund from state accounting systems. (Section [1](#))

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2026. (Section [2](#))

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

[Trust Fund Review and Termination](#)

[Article III, s. 19\(f\)](#) of the Florida Constitution requires the termination of all state trust funds within four years of their initial creation, unless they are re-created by law. As such, the Legislature reviews all state trust funds at least once every four years.¹ The Legislature may re-create, modify, or terminate a trust fund by law after its review. Once a trust fund has been re-created, it may be retained as it is without further legislative action.

The Governor's Office of Policy and Budget annually develops a four-year schedule of state agencies requiring trust fund review within its instructions for the Legislative Budget Request process.² The Governor, Chief Justice, and agencies are required to review and make recommendations for the re-creation, retention, modification, or termination of trust funds under their purview.

¹ [S. 215.3208, F.S.](#)

² [S. 215.3206, F.S.](#)

STORAGE NAME: h5401.JUB

DATE: 2/16/2026

[Mediation and Arbitration Trust Fund](#)

The Mediation and Arbitration Trust Fund was created within the State Courts System in 1990 to be used for administration of the certification and renewal of certification for appointed mediators and arbitrators.³ The fund receives revenues from circuit and county court service charges.⁴ In 2011, the Legislature redirected all revenues from the Mediation and Arbitration Trust Fund to the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund, and struck all statutory references to the trust fund.⁵ As such, the fund has not held a balance since January 9, 2012.

RECENT LEGISLATION:

YEAR	BILL #/SUBJECT	HOUSE/SENATE SPONSOR(S)	OTHER INFORMATION
2025	SB 7014 - Trust Funds of the State Courts System		Passed the Senate, but died in the House.

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Orig. Comm.: Justice Budget Subcommittee	13 Y, 0 N	2/16/2026	Keith	Saag

³ Ch. 90-188, L.O.F.; [s. 44.106, F.S.](#)

⁴[S. 44.108, F.S.](#)

⁵ Ch. 2011-133, L.O.F.