

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to court-related functions; amending
3 ss. 28.35 and 28.215, F.S.; authorizing clerks of the
4 circuit court to provide interpretation and
5 translation services; creating s. 28.217, F.S.;
6 authorizing clerks of the circuit court to contract
7 with third-party interpretation service and
8 translation service providers to provide such services
9 in civil actions; providing that the provision of such
10 services by clerks of the circuit court is
11 ministerial, is an authorized court-related function,
12 and is an allowable expenditure; providing that such
13 services may be made available to a party regardless
14 of whether he or she is represented by counsel;
15 providing construction; providing that the clerks of
16 the circuit court are not required to provide
17 interpretation and translation services; providing an
18 effective date.

19
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21
22 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
23 28.35, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

24 28.35 Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation.—

25 (3) (a) The list of court-related functions that clerks may

26 fund from filing fees, service charges, court costs, and fines
 27 is limited to those functions expressly authorized by law or
 28 court rule. Those functions include the following: case
 29 maintenance; records management; court preparation and
 30 attendance; interpretation and translation services; processing
 31 the assignment, reopening, and reassignment of cases; processing
 32 of appeals; collection and distribution of fines, fees, service
 33 charges, and court costs; processing of bond forfeiture
 34 payments; data collection and reporting; determinations of
 35 indigent status; and paying reasonable administrative support
 36 costs to enable the clerk of the court to carry out these court-
 37 related functions.

38 Section 2. Section 28.215, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 39 read:

40 28.215 Pro se assistance.—The clerk of the circuit court
 41 shall provide ministerial assistance to pro se litigants.

42 (1) Assistance may ~~shall~~ not include the provision of
 43 legal advice.

44 (2) Assistance may include interpretation and translation
 45 services, as provided in s. 28.217, to pro se litigants.

46 Section 3. Section 28.217, Florida Statutes, is created to
 47 read:

48 28.217 Interpretation and translation services.—

49 (1) The clerk of the circuit court may contract with a
 50 third-party interpretation service provider and a third-party

51 translation service provider to provide interpretation and
 52 translation services, respectively, in civil actions.

53 (2) The provision of such services is ministerial and is
 54 an authorized court-related function under s. 28.35(3)(a), and
 55 such services are an allowable expenditure by the clerk of the
 56 circuit court under s. 28.36.

57 (3) Such services may be made available, upon request, to
 58 any party to such an action, regardless of whether the party is
 59 represented by counsel. The clerk of the circuit court may only
 60 provide ministerial assistance in making such services
 61 available, and such assistance may not include the provision of
 62 legal advice.

63 (4) This section may not be construed to prohibit a party
 64 to such an action from providing his or her own interpretation
 65 or translation services or from using his or her own third-party
 66 interpreter or translation service providers.

67 (5) The provision of interpretation and translation
 68 services under this section is an optional court-related
 69 function, and this section does not require the clerk of the
 70 circuit court to provide such services.

71 Section 4. This act shall take effect October 1, 2024.