

## CHAPTER 2013-112

### Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 311

An act relating to costs of prosecution, investigation, and representation; amending s. 903.286, F.S.; providing for the withholding of unpaid costs of prosecution and representation from the return of a cash bond posted on behalf of a criminal defendant; requiring a notice on bond forms of such possible withholding; amending s. 938.27, F.S.; clarifying the types of cases that are subject to the collection and dispensing of cost payments by the clerk of the court; amending s. 985.032, F.S.; providing for assessment of costs of prosecution against a juvenile who has been adjudicated delinquent or has adjudication of delinquency withheld; amending s. 985.455, F.S.; providing that a child adjudicated delinquent may perform community service in lieu of certain costs and fees; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 903.286, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(1) Notwithstanding s. 903.31(2), the clerk of the court shall withhold from the return of a cash bond posted on behalf of a criminal defendant by a person other than a bail bond agent licensed pursuant to chapter 648 sufficient funds to pay any unpaid costs of prosecution, costs of representation as provided by ss. 27.52 and 938.29, court fees, court costs, and criminal penalties. If sufficient funds are not available to pay all unpaid costs of prosecution, costs of representation as provided by ss. 27.52 and 938.29, court fees, court costs, and criminal penalties, the clerk of the court shall immediately obtain payment from the defendant or enroll the defendant in a payment plan pursuant to s. 28.246.

(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 2. Section 938.27, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

938.27 Judgment for costs of prosecution and investigation ~~on conviction~~.

(1) In all criminal and violation-of-probation or community-control cases, convicted persons are liable for payment of the costs of prosecution, including investigative costs incurred by law enforcement agencies, by fire departments for arson investigations, and by investigations of the Department of

Financial Services or the Office of Financial Regulation of the Financial Services Commission, if requested by such agencies. The court shall include these costs in every judgment rendered against the convicted person. For purposes of this section, “convicted” means a determination of guilt, or of violation of probation or community control, which is a result of a plea, trial, or violation proceeding, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld.

(2)(a) The court shall impose the costs of prosecution and investigation notwithstanding the defendant’s present ability to pay. The court shall require the defendant to pay the costs within a specified period or pursuant to a payment plan under s. 28.246(4).

(b) The end of such period or the last such installment must not be later than:

1. The end of the period of probation or community control, if probation or community control is ordered;
2. Five years after the end of the term of imprisonment imposed, if the court does not order probation or community control; or
3. Five years after the date of sentencing in any other case.

However, the obligation to pay any unpaid amounts does not expire if not paid in full within the period specified in this paragraph.

(c) If not otherwise provided by the court under this section, costs must shall be paid immediately.

(3) If a defendant is placed on probation or community control, payment of any costs under this section shall be a condition of such probation or community control. The court may revoke probation or community control if the defendant fails to pay these costs.

(4) Any dispute as to the proper amount or type of costs shall be resolved by the court by the preponderance of the evidence. The burden of demonstrating the amount of costs incurred is on the state attorney. The burden of demonstrating the financial resources of the defendant and the financial needs of the defendant is on the defendant. The burden of demonstrating such other matters as the court deems appropriate is upon the party designated by the court as justice requires.

(5) Any default in payment of costs may be collected by any means authorized by law for enforcement of a judgment.

(6) The clerk of the court shall collect and dispense cost payments in any case, regardless of whether the disposition of the case takes place before the judge in open court or in any other manner provided by law.

(7) Investigative costs that are recovered must shall be returned to the appropriate investigative agency that incurred the expense. Such costs

include actual expenses incurred in conducting the investigation and prosecution of the criminal case; however, costs may also include the salaries of permanent employees. Any investigative costs recovered on behalf of a state agency must be remitted to the Department of Revenue for deposit in the agency operating trust fund, and a report of the payment must be sent to the agency, except that any investigative costs recovered on behalf of the Department of Law Enforcement ~~must shall~~ be deposited in the department’s Forfeiture and Investigative Support Trust Fund under s. 943.362.

(8) Costs for the state attorney ~~must shall~~ be set in all cases at no less than \$50 per case when a misdemeanor or criminal traffic offense is charged and no less than \$100 per case when a felony offense is charged, including a proceeding in which the underlying offense is a violation of probation or community control. The court may set a higher amount upon a showing of sufficient proof of higher costs incurred. Costs recovered on behalf of the state attorney under this section ~~must shall~~ be deposited into the State Attorneys Revenue Trust Fund to be used during the fiscal year in which the funds are collected, or in any subsequent fiscal year, for actual expenses incurred in investigating and prosecuting criminal cases, which may include the salaries of permanent employees, or for any other purpose authorized by the Legislature.

Section 3. Section 985.032, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

985.032 Legal representation for delinquency cases.—

(1) For cases arising under this chapter, the state attorney shall represent the state.

(2) A juvenile who has been adjudicated delinquent or has adjudication of delinquency withheld shall be assessed costs of prosecution as provided in s. 938.27.

Section 4. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (1) of section 985.455, Florida Statutes, to read:

985.455 Other dispositional issues.—

(1) The court that has jurisdiction over an adjudicated delinquent child may, by an order stating the facts upon which a determination of a sanction and rehabilitative program was made at the disposition hearing:

(d) Order the child, upon a determination of the child’s inability to pay, to perform community service in lieu of all court costs assessed against the delinquent child, including costs of prosecution, public defender application fees, and costs of representation.

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor June 5, 2013.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 5, 2013.