

CHAPTER 2024-154

House Bill No. 1393

An act relating to court interpreter services; amending s. 29.0185, F.S.; authorizing the state courts system to use state revenues, if available, to provide court-appointed interpreting services to nonindigent individuals; requiring such services to be provided as prescribed by the Supreme Court; amending s. 29.0195, F.S.; repealing the cost recovery requirement for court-appointed interpreting services; providing an exception; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 29.0185, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

29.0185 Provision of state-funded due process services to individuals.

(1) Due process services may not be provided with state revenues to an individual unless the individual on whose behalf the due process services are being provided is eligible for court-appointed counsel under s. 27.40, based upon a determination of indigency under s. 27.52, regardless of whether such counsel is appointed or the individual on whose behalf the due process services are being provided is eligible for court-appointed counsel under s. 27.40 and has been determined indigent for costs pursuant to s. 27.52.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), state revenues may be used by the state courts system to provide court-appointed interpreting services to nonindigent individuals if funds are available in the fiscal year appropriation for due process services and if interpreting services are provided as prescribed by the Supreme Court.

Section 2. Section 29.0195, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

29.0195 Recovery of expenditures for state-funded services.—

(1) The trial court administrator of each circuit shall recover expenditures for state-funded services when those services have been furnished to a user of the state court system who possesses the present ability to pay. The rate of compensation for such services ~~is~~ shall be the actual cost of the services, including the cost of recovery. The trial court administrator shall deposit moneys recovered under this section in the Administrative Trust Fund within the state courts system. The trial court administrator shall recover the costs of court reporter services and transcription; translations ~~court interpreter services, including translation~~; and any other service for which state funds were used to provide a product or service within the circuit.

(2) This section does not authorize cost recovery for court-appointed interpreting services, except translations, or cost recovery from entities described in ss. 29.005-29.007.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 6, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 6, 2024.