

Traffic Violation Penalties Shifted to Support Court Clerks Funding

HB 925 – Rep. Dana Trabulsy (SB 1322 – Sen. Jonathan Martin)

General Bill Summary

CS/HB 925 revises the funding structure for Florida Clerks of the Circuit Court by increasing reimbursement rates for certain court filings and modifying how civil traffic penalties are distributed. The bill authorizes the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation (CCOC) to submit reimbursement requests on behalf of clerks to the Justice Administrative Commission for filings where fees are waived or prohibited by law.

The legislation increases the reimbursement rate for eligible filings from \$40 to \$195 per petition or filing, aligning reimbursement with the amount typically retained by clerks when a standard filing fee is paid. It also expands the categories of filings eligible for reimbursement to include filings for indigent status determinations, petitions for review of indigent determinations, and certain petitions related to involuntary treatment proceedings under the Marchman Act.

Additionally, the bill modifies the distribution of civil traffic violation penalties that occur within municipal boundaries. After required statutory distributions, the remaining funds must be divided equally between the clerk and the municipality. This change increases the clerk's share of the remaining funds from 5.6 percent to 28.2 percent, while decreasing the municipality's share from 50.8 percent to 28.2 percent.

The bill was passed by the Legislature and revises statutory provisions governing filing fee reimbursement and traffic penalty distributions to strengthen the funding framework supporting clerk court operations.

Potential County Impact

Clerks of the Circuit Court are constitutional county officers who serve as clerks and accountants to boards of county commissioners while also performing court-related functions. As a result, changes to clerk funding structures can influence county government operations and financial administration.

By increasing reimbursement rates for filings where fees are waived and adjusting traffic penalty distributions, the bill is expected to increase revenue available to clerks' fine and forfeiture funds, which support court operations such as case processing, records management, and indigent status determinations.

For counties, improved clerk funding may help stabilize court-related services and administrative support provided by the clerk's office. In some jurisdictions where county resources supplement clerk operations, stronger state-supported funding may reduce potential fiscal pressures.

However, the bill primarily shifts a portion of traffic penalty revenues away from municipalities rather than counties, meaning direct county fiscal impacts are expected to be limited. Counties

may experience minor administrative adjustments as clerks coordinate with the Clerks of Court Operations Corporation for reimbursement submissions and tracking of newly eligible filing categories.

Effective Date

July 1, 2026

Primary Statutory References

- **s. 28.241, F.S.**
- **s. 28.246, F.S.**
- **s. 34.041, F.S.**
- **s. 57.081, F.S.**
- **s. 316.0083, F.S.**
- **s. 318.18, F.S.**
- **s. 938.01, F.S.**