

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to appointment of attorneys for
 3 dependent children with special needs; providing a
 4 short title; amending s. 39.01305, F.S.; requiring the
 5 payment of due process costs of litigation of all pro
 6 bono attorneys appointed to represent dependent
 7 children with certain special needs, subject to
 8 appropriations and review for reasonableness;
 9 providing an effective date.

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

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 13 Section 1. This act shall be called the "Pro Bono Matters
 14 Act of 2018."

15 Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 39.01305, Florida
 16 Statutes, is amended to read:

17 39.01305 Appointment of an attorney for a dependent child
 18 with certain special needs.—

19 (5) Unless ~~Except if~~ the attorney has agreed to provide
 20 pro bono services, an appointed attorney or organization must be
 21 adequately compensated. All appointed attorneys and
 22 organizations, including pro bono attorneys, must be provided
 23 with access to funding for expert witnesses, depositions, and
 24 other due process costs of litigation. Payment of attorney fees
 25 and case-related due process costs are ~~to an attorney is~~ subject

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26 | to appropriations and ~~subject to~~ review by the Justice
27 | Administrative Commission for reasonableness. The Justice
28 | Administrative Commission shall contract with attorneys
29 | appointed by the court. Attorney fees may not exceed \$1,000 per
30 | child per year.

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