

BILL

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to service of process; amending s.  
 3           48.021, F.S.; expanding service of process to include  
 4           physical delivery, electronic transmission, or upload  
 5           to an online document portal; authorizing the court to  
 6           appoint a process server; requiring all process to be  
 7           served in accordance with the rules of civil  
 8           procedure; revising provisions relating to the list of  
 9           special process servers; amending s. 48.091, F.S.;  
 10          authorizing a registered agent to receive service of  
 11          process electronically or to create an online document  
 12          portal; providing construction; providing an effective  
 13          date.

14  
 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16  
 17           **Section 1. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection**  
 18           **(2) of section 48.021, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

19           48.021 Process; by whom served.—  
 20           (1) All process, whether delivered physically or, in the  
 21           case of a registered agent as provided in s. 48.091(4)(d),  
 22           transmitted electronically or uploaded to an online document  
 23           portal, shall be served by the sheriff of the county where the  
 24           person to be served is found, except that nonenforceable civil  
 25           process, criminal witness subpoenas, and criminal summonses,

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

26 | whether delivered physically, transmitted electronically, or  
 27 | uploaded to an online document portal, may be served by a  
 28 | special process server appointed by the sheriff as provided in  
 29 | this section, ~~or~~ by a certified process server as provided in s.  
 30 | 48.27, or by a person appointed by the court in accordance with  
 31 | the rules of civil procedure. Civil witness subpoenas shall be  
 32 | served by any person authorized by the rules of civil procedure.  
 33 | Regardless of the manner of delivery, all process shall be  
 34 | served in accordance with this chapter and the rules of civil  
 35 | procedure.

36 | (2) (a) The sheriff of each county may, in his or her  
 37 | discretion, establish an approved list of natural persons  
 38 | designated as special process servers. Once the sheriff has  
 39 | established an approved list, the sheriff shall add to such list  
 40 | the names of those natural persons who have applied for  
 41 | appointment and met the requirements provided for in this  
 42 | section. Each natural person whose name has been added to the  
 43 | approved list is subject to annual recertification and  
 44 | reappointment by the sheriff. The sheriff shall prescribe an  
 45 | appropriate form for application for appointment. A reasonable  
 46 | fee for the processing of the application shall be charged.

47 | **Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 48.091, Florida**  
 48 | **Statutes, is amended to read:**

49 | 48.091 Partnerships, corporations, and limited liability  
 50 | companies; designation of registered agent and registered

BILL

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YEAR

51 office.—

52 (4) (a) A registered agent who is a natural person may be  
53 served with process in accordance with s. 48.031.

54 (b) A person attempting to serve process at the registered  
55 office designated pursuant to subsection (2) on a registered  
56 agent who is a natural person, if such natural person is not  
57 present at the designated registered office at the time of  
58 service, may serve the process, including during the first  
59 attempt at service, on any employee of such natural person who  
60 is present at the designated registered office at the time of  
61 service.

62 (c) A person attempting to serve process at the registered  
63 office designated pursuant to subsection (2) on a registered  
64 agent that is other than a natural person may serve the process  
65 in accordance with the provisions of applicable law relating to  
66 service of process on that type of entity or on any employee of  
67 the registered agent who is present at the designated registered  
68 office at the time of service.

69 (d) The registered agent may receive service of process  
70 electronically or may create an online document portal to which  
71 process may be uploaded. Such service must be made by a person  
72 authorized under s. 48.021. This paragraph does not prevent a  
73 person authorized to serve process under s. 48.021 from serving  
74 process in any other manner authorized by this chapter.

75 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.