

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 1072

C 58 L 21

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Removing only one of the restrictions on the use of civil legal aid funds.

Sponsors: Representatives Lekanoff, Valdez, Wylie, Simmons, Kloba, Gregerson, Santos, Macri and Pollet.

House Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary

House Committee on Appropriations

Senate Committee on Law & Justice

Background:

The Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA) is an independent judicial branch agency established in 2005 to administer and oversee state funds appropriated for the provision of civil legal aid services to eligible low-income people.

The OCLA is prohibited from providing direct representation of clients. Instead, moneys appropriated by the Legislature for civil representation are to be used solely for the purposes of contracting with qualified legal aid programs for legal representation of indigent persons in matters relating to:

- domestic relations and family law matters;
- governmental assistance and services;
- health care;
- housing and utilities;
- mortgage foreclosures;
- consumer, financial services, credit, and bankruptcy;
- employment;
- rights of residents of long-term care facilities;
- wills, estates, and living wills;
- elder abuse;
- guardianship;
- disability rights;

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- education, including special education;
- administrative agency decisions; and
- discrimination prohibited by local, state, or federal law.

Moneys distributed to qualified legal aid programs by the OCLA may not be used directly or indirectly for:

- lobbying or grass roots lobbying;
- class action lawsuits;
- participating in or identifying the program with prohibited political activities, such as any activity directed toward the success or failure of a political party, candidate, or ballot measure, or voter registration or transportation activities;
- representation in fee-generating cases;
- organizing any association, union, or federation, or representing a labor union;
- representation of individuals who are in the United States without legal authority;
- picketing, demonstrations, strikes, or boycotts;
- engaging in inappropriate solicitation; or
- conducting training programs that: advocate particular public policies, encourage or facilitate political activities, labor or antilabor activities, boycotts, picketing, strikes or demonstrations, or attempt to influence legislation or rulemaking.

Moneys appropriated for civil legal representation may not be used for legal representation that is either expressly prohibited or beyond the scope of what is permitted.

Summary:

The prohibition on the use of funds by qualified legal aid programs to represent individuals who are in the United States without legal authority is removed.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	56	40
Senate	28	21

Effective: July 25, 2021