

By Representative Dudley

SENATE SUMMARY

Amends s. 120.57, F.S., of the Administrative Procedure Act to require that all pleadings, motions, or other papers filed in a proceeding be signed by a party, the party's attorney, or the party's qualified representative. Provides that such signature constitutes a certificate that the signer has read the paper and that, to the best of the signer's knowledge, information, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the paper is not interposed for any improper purposes, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or for economic advantage, competitive reason, or frivolous purpose or needless increase in the cost of litigation. Authorizes the hearing officer to impose an appropriate sanction upon a signer who violates these requirements, including ordering him to pay the other party's reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees.