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Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Appropriations (Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice)

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to juvenile justice; amending s. 985.557, F.S.; revising the circumstances under which the state attorney is authorized to file an information when a child of a certain age range commits or attempts to commit specified crimes; deleting a requirement that a state attorney file an information under certain circumstances; revising the effects of the direct filing of a child; prohibiting the transfer of a child under certain circumstances based on the child's competency; requiring the court to consider certain factors after a written request is made for a hearing; authorizing the court, based on these factors, to waive the case back to juvenile court; requiring the Department of Juvenile Justice to collect specified data under certain circumstances; requiring the department to provide an annual report to the Legislature; amending s. 985.56, F.S.; revising the age of a child who is subject to the jurisdiction of a court for certain crimes; prohibiting the transfer of a child under certain circumstances based on the child's competency; removing provisions regarding sentencing of a child; authorizing, rather than requiring, a court to transfer a child indicted under certain circumstances; amending s. 985.565, F.S.; revising the criteria in determining whether to impose juvenile or adult sanctions; requiring the



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adult court to render an order including specific findings of fact and the reasons for its decision; providing that the order is reviewable on appeal; requiring the court to consider any reports that may assist it; providing for the examination of the reports; revising how a child may be sanctioned under certain circumstances; removing a provision which requires a court to impose adult sanctions under certain circumstances; requiring the court to explain the basis for imposing adult sanctions; revising when juvenile sanctions may be imposed; amending s. 985.556, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; reenacting s. 985.04(2), F.S., relating to oaths, records, and confidential information, to incorporate the amendments made to ss. 985.557, 985.56, and 985.565, F.S., in a reference thereto; reenacting ss. 985.15(1), 985.265(5), and 985.556(3), F.S., relating to filing decisions; detention transfer and release, education, and adult jails; and waiver of juvenile court jurisdiction and hearings, respectively, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 985.557, F.S., in references thereto; reenacting ss. 985.514(3) and 985.556(5)(a), F.S., relating to responsibility for cost of care and fees, and waiver of juvenile court jurisdiction and hearings, respectively, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 985.565, F.S., in references thereto; providing an effective date.

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



576-03725-15 57 Section 1. Section 985.557, Florida Statutes, is amended to 58 59 read: (Substantial rewording of section. See 60 61 s. 985.557, F.S., for present text.) 62 985.557 Direct filing of an information.-63 (1) DIRECT FILE.— (a) With respect to a child who was 16 years of age or 64 65 older or less than 18 years of age at the time the alleged 66 offense was committed, the state attorney may file an 67 information if, in the state attorney's judgment and discretion, 68 the public interest requires that adult sanctions be considered and the offense charged is for the commission of or attempt to 69 70 commit: 71 1. Murder; 72 2. Manslaughter; 73 3. Sexual battery as defined in s. 794.011(3); 74 4. Armed robbery; 75 5. Aggravated assault with a firearm; 76 6. Aggravated child abuse; 77 7. Arson in violation of S. 806.031; 78 8. Kidnapping; 79 9. Unlawful throwing, placing, or discharging of a 80 destructive device or bomb; 81 10. Aggravated battery resulting in great bodily harm, 82

- permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement;
- 11. Carrying, displaying, using, or threatening or attempting to use a weapon or firearm in furtherance of the commission of a felony, if the use or threatened use does not

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include the mere acquisition of a deadly weapon or firearm during the felony;

- 12. Possessing or discharging a firearm on school property in violation of s. 790.115;
 - 13. Home invasion robbery;
 - 14. Aggravated stalking;
 - 15. Carjacking;
 - 16. Aggravated animal cruelty by intentional acts; or
- 17. DUI resulting in fatality, great bodily harm, permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement to a person.
- (b) With respect to a child who was 14 or 15 years of age at the time the alleged offense was committed, the state attorney may file an information if, in the state attorney's judgment and discretion, the public interest requires that adult sanctions be considered and the offense charged is for the commission of or attempt to commit:
 - 1. Murder;
 - 2. Manslaughter; or
 - 3. Sexual battery in violation of S. 794.011(3).
 - (2) EFFECT OF DIRECT FILE.—
- (a) When a child is transferred for criminal prosecution as an adult, the court may transfer and certify to the adult circuit court for prosecution of the child as an adult all related felony cases pertaining to the child which have not yet resulted in a plea of guilty or nolo contendere or in which a finding of guilt has not been made. If the child is acquitted of all charged offenses or lesser included offenses contained in the original case transferred to adult court, any felony cases that were transferred to adult court under this subsection are



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subject to the same penalties they were subject to before their transfer.

- (b) Once a child has been convicted and sentenced to adult sanctions pursuant to this section, he or she shall be handled as an adult for any subsequent violation of state law, unless the court imposes juvenile sanctions under s. 985.565.
- (3) TRANSFER PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other law, a child who is eligible for direct file and who is pending a competency hearing in juvenile court or has previously been found to be incompetent and has not been restored to competency by a court may not be transferred to adult court for criminal prosecution.
- (4) REVERSE WAIVER.—A child who is transferred to adult court pursuant to this section may request, in writing, a hearing to determine whether he or she shall remain in adult court. The adult court, in determining whether public safety would be best served by retaining jurisdiction, shall consider the seriousness of the offense, the extent of the child's alleged participation or role in the offense, the sophistication and maturity of the child, and any prior offenses the child has committed. The adult court may, based on these considerations, waive the case back to juvenile court.
 - (5) DATA COLLECTION RELATING TO DIRECT FILE.
- (a) The department shall collect data regarding children who qualify for direct file under subsection (1), including, but not limited to:
 - 1. Age;
 - 2. Race and ethnicity;
 - 3. Gender;



576-03725-15 144 4. Circuit and county of residence; 5. Circuit and county of offense; 145 146 6. Prior adjudicated offenses; 147 7. Prior periods of probation; 148 8. Previous contacts with law enforcement agencies or the 149 courts; 150 9. Initial charges; 151 10. Charges at disposition; 152 11. Whether adult codefendants were involved; 153 12. Whether child codefendants were involved who were 154 transferred to adult court; 155 13. Whether the child was represented by counsel; 156 14. Whether the child has waived counsel; 157 15. Risk assessment instrument score; 158 16. The child's medical, mental health, substance abuse, or 159 trauma history; 160 17. The child's history of physical or mental impairment or 161 disability-related accommodations; 162 18. The child's history of abuse or neglect; 163 19. The child's history of foster care placements, including the number of prior placements; 164 20. Whether the child has fetal alcohol syndrome or was 165 166 exposed to controlled substances at birth; 167 21. Whether the child has below-average intellectual 168 functioning or is eligible for exceptional student education 169 services; 170 22. Whether the child has received mental health services 171 or treatment;

23. Whether the child has been the subject of a CINS/FINS

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173 or dependency petition;

- 24. Plea offers made by the state and the outcome of any plea offers;
- 25. Whether the child was transferred for criminal prosecution as an adult;
 - 26. The case resolution in juvenile court; or
 - 27. The case resolution in adult court.
- (b) When a child is transferred for criminal prosecution as an adult, the department shall also collect disposition data, including, but not limited to, whether the child received adult sanctions, juvenile sanctions, or diversion, and, if sentenced to prison, length of prison sentence or enhanced sentence.
- (c) The department shall annually provide a report analyzing this aggregated data to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- Section 2. Section 985.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

985.56 Indictment of a juvenile.-

- (1) A child 14 years of age or older of any age who is charged with a violation of state law punishable by death or by life imprisonment is subject to the jurisdiction of the court as set forth in s. 985.0301(2) unless and until an indictment on the charge is returned by the grand jury. When such indictment is returned, the petition for delinquency, if any, must be dismissed and the child must be tried and handled in every respect as an adult:
- (a) On the indicting offense punishable by death or by life imprisonment; and
 - (b) On all other felonies or misdemeanors charged in the



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indictment which are based on the same act or transaction as the indicting offense punishable by death or by life imprisonment or on one or more acts or transactions connected with the offense punishable by death or by life imprisonment.

- (2) An adjudicatory hearing may not be held until 21 days after the child is taken into custody and charged with having committed an indictable offense punishable by death or by life imprisonment, unless the state attorney advises the court in writing that he or she does not intend to present the case to the grand jury, or has presented the case to the grand jury and the grand jury has not returned an indictment. If the court receives such a notice from the state attorney, or if the grand jury fails to act within the 21-day period, the court may proceed as otherwise authorized under this part.
- (3) Notwithstanding any other law, a child who is eligible for indictment and who is pending a competency hearing in juvenile court or has been previously found to be incompetent and has not been restored to competency by a court may not be transferred to adult court for criminal prosecution If the child is found to have committed the offense punishable by death or by life imprisonment, the child shall be sentenced as an adult. If the juvenile is not found to have committed the indictable offense but is found to have committed a lesser included offense or any other offense for which he or she was indicted as a part of the criminal episode, the court may sentence under s. 985.565.
- (4)(a) Once a child has been indicted pursuant to this section and has been found to have committed any offense for which he or she was indicted as a part of the criminal episode,



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the child shall be handled thereafter in every respect as if an adult for any subsequent violation of state law, unless the court imposes juvenile sanctions under s. 985.565.

(b) When a child has been indicted pursuant to this section, the court may shall immediately transfer and certify to the adult circuit court all related felony cases pertaining to the child, for prosecution of the child as an adult, which have not yet resulted in a plea of quilty or nolo contendere or in which a finding of guilt has not been made. If the child is acquitted of all charged offenses or lesser included offenses contained in the indictment case, any all felony cases that were transferred to adult court pursuant to this paragraph shall be subject to the same penalties such cases were subject to before being transferred to adult court.

Section 3. Subsection (1), paragraph (c) of subsection (3), and subsection (4) of section 985.565, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

985.565 Sentencing powers; procedures; alternatives for juveniles prosecuted as adults.-

- (1) POWERS OF DISPOSITION.-
- (a) A child who is found to have committed a violation of law may, as an alternative to adult dispositions, be committed to the department for treatment in an appropriate program for children outside the adult correctional system or be placed on juvenile probation.
- (b) In determining whether to impose juvenile or sanctions instead of adult sanctions, the court shall consider the following criteria:
 - 1. The seriousness of the offense to the community and



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whether the protection of the community would be best served be protected by juvenile or adult sanctions.

- 2. The extent of the child's participation in the offense.
- 3. The effect, if any, of familial or peer pressure on the child's actions.
- 4.2. Whether the offense was committed in an aggressive, violent, premeditated, or willful manner.
- 5.3. Whether the offense was against persons or against property, with greater weight being given to offenses against persons, especially if personal injury resulted.
- 6.4. The sophistication and maturity of the child, including: offender
- a. The child's age, maturity, intellectual capacity, and mental and emotional health at the time of the offense.
- b. The child's background, including his or her family, home, and community environment.
- c. The effect, if any, of immaturity, impetuosity, or failure to appreciate the risks and consequences on the child's participation in the offense.
- d. The effect, if any, of characteristics attributable to the child's age on the child's judgment.
- 7.5. The record and previous history of the child offender, including:
- a. Previous contacts with the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the former Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, the Department of Children and Families, law enforcement agencies, and the courts and the adequacy and appropriateness of the services provided to address the child's needs.



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- b. Prior periods of probation.
- c. Prior adjudications that the offender committed a delinguent act or violation of law as a child.
- d. Prior commitments to the Department of Juvenile Justice, the former Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, the Department of Children and Families, or other facilities or institutions and the adequacy and appropriateness of the services provided to address the child's needs.
- e. Previous contacts with law enforcement agencies and the courts.
- f. History of abuse, abandonment or neglect, foster care placements, failed adoption, fetal alcohol syndrome, exposure to controlled substances at birth, and below-average intellectual functioning.
- g. Identification of the child as having a disability or having previously received mental health services or treatment.
- 8.6. The prospects for adequate protection of the public and the likelihood of deterrence and reasonable rehabilitation of the offender if assigned to services and facilities of the Department of Juvenile Justice.
- 9.7. Whether the Department of Juvenile Justice has appropriate programs, facilities, and services immediately available.
- 8. Whether adult sanctions would provide more appropriate punishment and deterrence to further violations of law than the imposition of juvenile sanctions.
- 10. Whether the Department of Corrections has appropriate programs, facilities, and services immediately available.
 - (c) The adult court shall render an order including



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specific findings of fact and the reasons for its decision. The order shall be reviewable on appeal under s. 985.534 and the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.

- (3) SENTENCING HEARING. -
- (c) The court may receive and consider any other relevant and material evidence, including other reports, written or oral, in its effort to determine the action to be taken with regard to the child, and may rely upon such evidence to the extent of its probative value even if the evidence would not be competent in an adjudicatory hearing. The court shall consider any reports that may assist it, including prior predisposition reports, psycho-social assessments, individualized educational programs, developmental assessments, school records, abuse or neglect reports, home studies, protective investigations, and psychological and psychiatric evaluations. The child, the child's defense counsel, and the state attorney, have the right to examine these reports and to question the parties responsible for them at the hearing.
 - (4) SENTENCING ALTERNATIVES.-
 - (a) Adult Sanctions.-
- 1. Cases prosecuted on indictment.-If the child is found to have committed the offense punishable by death or life imprisonment, the child shall be sentenced as an adult. If the iuvenile is not found to have committed the indictable offense but is found to have committed a lesser included offense or any other offense for which he or she was indicted as a part of the criminal episode, the court may sentence as follows:
 - a. As an adult;
 - b. Under chapter 958; or



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- c. As a juvenile under this section.
- 2. Other cases .- If a child who has been transferred for criminal prosecution pursuant to information or waiver of juvenile court jurisdiction is found to have committed a violation of state law or a lesser included offense for which he or she was charged as a part of the criminal episode, the court may sentence as follows:
 - 1.a. As an adult;
 - 2.b. As a youthful offender under chapter 958; or
 - 3.c. As a juvenile under this section.
- 3. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, if the state attorney is required to file a motion to transfer and certify the juvenile for prosecution as an adult under s. 985.556(3) and that motion is granted, or if the state attorney is required to file an information under s. 985.557(2)(a) or (b), the court must impose adult sanctions.
- (b) 4. Findings.—The court must Any sentence imposing adult sanctions is presumed appropriate, and the court is not required to set forth specific findings or enumerate the criteria in this subsection as any basis for its decision to impose adult sanctions.
- (c) $\frac{5}{\cdot}$ Restitution.—When a child has been transferred for criminal prosecution as an adult and has been found to have committed a violation of state law, the disposition of the case may include the enforcement of any restitution ordered in any juvenile proceeding.
- (d) (b) Juvenile sanctions.—If a juvenile sentence is For juveniles transferred to adult court but who do not qualify for such transfer under s. 985.556(3) or s. 985.557(2)(a) or (b),



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the court may impose juvenile sanctions under this paragraph. If juvenile sentences are imposed, the court shall, under this paragraph, adjudge the child to have committed a delinquent act. Adjudication of delinquency shall not be deemed a conviction, nor shall it operate to impose any of the civil disabilities ordinarily resulting from a conviction. The court shall impose an adult sanction or a juvenile sanction and may not sentence the child to a combination of adult and juvenile punishments. An adult sanction or a juvenile sanction may include enforcement of an order of restitution or probation previously ordered in any juvenile proceeding. However, if the court imposes a juvenile sanction and the department determines that the sanction is unsuitable for the child, the department shall return custody of the child to the sentencing court for further proceedings, including the imposition of adult sanctions. Upon adjudicating a child delinquent under subsection (1), the court may:

- 1. Place the child in a probation program under the supervision of the department for an indeterminate period of time until the child reaches the age of 19 years or sooner if discharged by order of the court.
- 2. Commit the child to the department for treatment in an appropriate program for children for an indeterminate period of time until the child is 21 or sooner if discharged by the department. The department shall notify the court of its intent to discharge no later than 14 days prior to discharge. Failure of the court to timely respond to the department's notice shall be considered approval for discharge.
- 3. Order disposition under ss. 985.435, 985.437, 985.439, 985.441, 985.45, and 985.455 as an alternative to youthful



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offender or adult sentencing if the court determines not to impose youthful offender or adult sanctions.

(e) (e) Adult sanctions upon failure of juvenile sanctions.-If a child proves not to be suitable to a commitment program, juvenile probation program, or treatment program under paragraph (d) (b), the department shall provide the sentencing court with a written report outlining the basis for its objections to the juvenile sanction and shall simultaneously provide a copy of the report to the state attorney and the defense counsel. The department shall schedule a hearing within 30 days. Upon hearing, the court may revoke the previous adjudication, impose an adjudication of guilt, and impose any sentence which it may lawfully impose, giving credit for all time spent by the child in the department. The court may also classify the child as a youthful offender under s. 958.04, if appropriate. For purposes of this paragraph, a child may be found not suitable to a commitment program, community control program, or treatment program under paragraph (d) (b) if the child commits a new violation of law while under juvenile sanctions, if the child commits any other violation of the conditions of juvenile sanctions, or if the child's actions are otherwise determined by the court to demonstrate a failure of juvenile sanctions.

(f) (d) Further proceedings heard in adult court.—When a child is sentenced to juvenile sanctions, further proceedings involving those sanctions shall continue to be heard in the adult court.

(g) (e) School attendance.—If the child is attending or is eligible to attend public school and the court finds that the victim or a sibling of the victim in the case is attending or



may attend the same school as the child, the court placement order shall include a finding pursuant to the proceeding described in s. 985.455(2), regardless of whether adjudication is withheld.

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> It is the intent of the Legislature that the criteria and quidelines in this subsection are mandatory and that a determination of disposition under this subsection is subject to the right of the child to appellate review under s. 985.534.

Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 985.556, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

985.556 Waiver of juvenile court jurisdiction; hearing.-

(1) VOLUNTARY WAIVER.—The court shall transfer and certify a child's criminal case for trial as an adult if the child is alleged to have committed a violation of law and, prior to the commencement of an adjudicatory hearing, the child, joined by a parent or, in the absence of a parent, by the quardian or quardian ad litem, demands in writing to be tried as an adult. Once a child has been transferred for criminal prosecution pursuant to a voluntary waiver hearing and has been found to have committed the presenting offense or a lesser included offense, the child shall be handled thereafter in every respect as an adult for any subsequent violation of state law, unless the court imposes juvenile sanctions under s. 985.565(4)(d) s. 985.565(4)(b).

Section 5. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to sections 985.557, 985.56, and 985.565, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (2) of section 985.04, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:



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985.04 Oaths; records; confidential information.-

- (2) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, the name, photograph, address, and crime or arrest report of a child:
- (a) Taken into custody if the child has been taken into custody by a law enforcement officer for a violation of law which, if committed by an adult, would be a felony;
- (b) Found by a court to have committed three or more violations of law which, if committed by an adult, would be misdemeanors;
- (c) Transferred to the adult system under s. 985.557, indicted under s. 985.56, or waived under s. 985.556;
- (d) Taken into custody by a law enforcement officer for a violation of law subject to s. 985.557(2)(b) or (d); or
- (e) Transferred to the adult system but sentenced to the juvenile system under s. 985.565

shall not be considered confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) solely because of the child's age.

Section 6. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 985.557, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 985.15, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

985.15 Filing decisions.-

(1) The state attorney may in all cases take action independent of the action or lack of action of the juvenile probation officer and shall determine the action that is in the best interest of the public and the child. If the child meets the criteria requiring prosecution as an adult under s. 985.556,



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the state attorney shall request the court to transfer and certify the child for prosecution as an adult or shall provide written reasons to the court for not making such a request. In all other cases, the state attorney may:

- (a) File a petition for dependency;
- (b) File a petition under chapter 984;
- (c) File a petition for delinquency;
- (d) File a petition for delinquency with a motion to transfer and certify the child for prosecution as an adult;
 - (e) File an information under s. 985.557;
 - (f) Refer the case to a grand jury;
- (g) Refer the child to a diversionary, pretrial intervention, arbitration, or mediation program, or to some other treatment or care program if such program commitment is voluntarily accepted by the child or the child's parents or legal quardian; or
 - (h) Decline to file.

Section 7. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 985.557, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (5) of section 985.265, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

985.265 Detention transfer and release; education; adult jails.-

- (5) The court shall order the delivery of a child to a jail or other facility intended or used for the detention of adults:
- (a) When the child has been transferred or indicted for criminal prosecution as an adult under part X, except that the court may not order or allow a child alleged to have committed a misdemeanor who is being transferred for criminal prosecution



pursuant to either s. 985.556 or s. 985.557 to be detained or held in a jail or other facility intended or used for the detention of adults; however, such child may be held temporarily in a detention facility; or

(b) When a child taken into custody in this state is wanted by another jurisdiction for prosecution as an adult.

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The child shall be housed separately from adult inmates to prohibit a child from having regular contact with incarcerated adults, including trusties. "Regular contact" means sight and sound contact. Separation of children from adults shall permit no more than haphazard or accidental contact. The receiving jail or other facility shall contain a separate section for children and shall have an adequate staff to supervise and monitor the child's activities at all times. Supervision and monitoring of children includes physical observation and documented checks by jail or receiving facility supervisory personnel at intervals not to exceed 10 minutes. This subsection does not prohibit placing two or more children in the same cell. Under no circumstances shall a child be placed in the same cell with an adult.

Section 8. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 985.557, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (3) of section 985.556, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

985.556 Waiver of juvenile court jurisdiction; hearing.-

- (3) INVOLUNTARY MANDATORY WAIVER.-
- (a) If the child was 14 years of age or older, and if the child has been previously adjudicated delinquent for an act



classified as a felony, which adjudication was for the commission of, attempt to commit, or conspiracy to commit murder, sexual battery, armed or strong-armed robbery, carjacking, home-invasion robbery, aggravated battery, aggravated assault, or burglary with an assault or battery, and the child is currently charged with a second or subsequent violent crime against a person; or

(b) If the child was 14 years of age or older at the time of commission of a fourth or subsequent alleged felony offense and the child was previously adjudicated delinquent or had adjudication withheld for or was found to have committed, or to have attempted or conspired to commit, three offenses that are felony offenses if committed by an adult, and one or more of such felony offenses involved the use or possession of a firearm or violence against a person;

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the state attorney shall request the court to transfer and certify the child for prosecution as an adult or shall provide written reasons to the court for not making such request, or proceed under s. 985.557(1). Upon the state attorney's request, the court shall either enter an order transferring the case and certifying the case for trial as if the child were an adult or provide written reasons for not issuing such an order.

Section 9. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 985.565, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (3) of section 985.514, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

985.514 Responsibility for cost of care; fees.-

(3) When the court under s. 985.565 orders any child



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prosecuted as an adult to be supervised by or committed to the department for treatment in any of the department's programs for children, the court shall order the child's parents to pay fees as provided in s. 985.039.

Section 10. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 985.565, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 985.556, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

985.556 Waiver of juvenile court jurisdiction; hearing.-

- (5) EFFECT OF ORDER WAIVING JURISDICTION.
- (a) Once a child has been transferred for criminal prosecution pursuant to an involuntary waiver hearing and has been found to have committed the presenting offense or a lesser included offense, the child shall thereafter be handled in every respect as an adult for any subsequent violation of state law, unless the court imposes juvenile sanctions under s. 985.565.

Section 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.