

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/SB 204 — Task Force on the Monitoring of Children in Out-of-Home Care

by Fiscal Policy and Senators Rouson and Garcia

The bill establishes the Task Force on the Monitoring of Children in Out-of-Home Care (Task Force) adjunct to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). The Task Force is required to identify and counter the root causes of why children go missing while in out-of-home care and to ensure prompt and effective action to address such causes. The Task Force must examine and recommend improvements to current policies, procedures, programs, and initiatives and to ensure that timely and comprehensive steps are taken to find children who are missing for any reason, including, but not limited to, running away, human trafficking, and abduction by or absconding with a parent or an individual who does not have care or custody of the child.

The bill details the composition of the Task Force to be 13 members, including, but not limited to, a member of the Senate, a member of the House of Representatives, and representatives from the FDLE, the Guardian ad Litem program, and the community-based care lead agencies, a licensed foster parent, and a young adult who has aged out of the foster care system. Dates are specified for member appointments and the initial meeting of the Task Force.

The bill requires the Department of Children and Families to submit monthly reports through October 1, 2024, to assist the Task Force in fulfilling its duties and requires the Florida Institute for Child Welfare to conduct focus groups or individual interviews with children in out-of-home care and young adults who have aged out of the foster care system to examine why children leave their out-of-home placements and how to prevent them from leaving.

The bill requires the Task Force to submit a report with findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by October 1, 2024.

The bill includes a date for repeal of the Task Force on June 30, 2025, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 117-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/SB 210 — Substance Abuse Services

by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee and Senator Harrell

The bill modifies requirements for licensed substance abuse service providers offering treatment to individuals living in recovery residences. The bill prohibits the following substances from being used on the premises of a provider licensed by the Department of Children and Families (the DCF):

- Alcohol;
- Marijuana, including marijuana certified by a qualified physician for medical use;
- Illegal drugs; and
- Prescription drugs when used by persons other than for whom the medication is prescribed.

The bill also prohibits referrals from licensed service providers to recovery residences which allow the use of such substances on the premises, and it requires service providers to provide proof of a prohibition on the use of such substances in applications for licensure with the DCF.

Additionally, the bill provides that referrals to a recovery residence include placement into the licensed housing component of a service provider's day or night treatment program, regardless of whether the housing component is affiliated with the service provider. This will ensure that all patients referred to a recovery residence are also referred into licensed community housing as part of treatment.

The bill makes it a second degree misdemeanor for any person discharged from a recovery residence to willfully refuse to depart after being warned by an owner or authorized employee of the residence.

The bill requires the DCF to establish a mechanism for the imposition and collection of fines arising from failed inspections of recovery residences and improper referrals made by licensed service providers no later than January 1, 2024.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 118-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/CS/SB 272 — Children and Young Adults in Out-of-home Care

by Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee; and Senators Garcia, Osgood, Perry, Book, and Berman

The bill is cited as the “Nancy C. Detert Champion for Children Act.” The bill makes several changes to statutes that enhance support for children and young adults who are currently or have formerly been in out-of-home care. The bill requires case managers and other staff to provide children in out-of-home care certain education and information about topics, rights, policies, and procedures related to their protection and safety. The bill also requires the DCF to consult with these youth when creating or revising any print or digital information used to educate and inform these youth to ensure the information is understandable and age-appropriate.

The bill establishes the Office of the Children’s Ombudsman within the DCF and details the role of that office. Additionally, the bill requires case managers and other child welfare professionals to ensure that youth in out-of-home care receive information and education about certain topics related to laws, expectations, and goals of the out-of-home care system.

The bill also expands eligibility for the Keys to Independence program that removes barriers for foster and former foster youth to obtain a driver’s license. The bill removes the criteria for a youth that is in a specified program, to have also been in licensed care upon his or her 18th birthday. This change will allow approximately 450 additional young adults to be eligible to participate in the Keys program.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor’s signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 116-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/CS/HB 299 — Education and Training for Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Form of Dementia

by Health and Human Services Committee; Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; and Reps. Black, Salzman, and others (CS/CS/SB 1182 by Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee; and Senators Simon and Book)

The bill establishes the Florida Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Training Act. The bill establishes universal Alzheimer’s disease and related disorder (ADRD) training requirements to be used by nursing homes, home health agencies, nurse registries, companion or homemaker service providers, health care services pools, assisted living facilities (ALF), adult family-care homes (AFCH), adult day care centers (ADCC), and ADCCs that provide specialized Alzheimer’s services to replace each license type’s individual training requirements on that topic.

The bill defines a number of terms, including “covered provider,” “department,” “employee,” “personal care,” and “regular contact.”

The bill requires that all employees of covered providers receive basic written information about interacting with persons who have ADRD upon beginning employment. Employees of covered providers who provide personal care to or have regular contact with patients, participants, or residents, must also complete one hour of dementia-related training within 30 days of his or her initial employment.

The bill also requires that each employee of a home health agency, nurse registry, or companion or homemaker service provider who provides personal care receive two hours of additional training within the first seven months of employment. Each employee of a nursing home, ALF, AFCH, or ADCC who provides personal care must receive three hours of additional training within the first seven months of employment. Employees of ALFs with a limited mental health license are not required to complete this additional training.

Additionally, an employee of an ALF, AFCH, or ADCC that advertises and provides specialized care for persons with Alzheimer’s disease must also receive the following additional training:

- Three hours of additional training within the first three months of employment, rather than the first seven months as with non-specialized facilities;
- Four hours of dementia-specific training within the first six months of employment; and
- Four hours of continuing education each calendar year through:
 - Contact hours;
 - On-the-job training, limited to a certain amount of credit in each calendar year; or
 - Electronic learning technology.

Employees of a health care services pool must complete the training that correlates with the training required for the position and facility in which the employee will be working.

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The bill directs the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) to provide the initial one hour of dementia-related training in an online format at no cost. The training must contain information on the following topics:

- Understanding the basics about the most common forms of dementia;
- How to identify the signs and symptoms of dementia; and
- Skills for communicating and interacting with persons with ADRD.

The bill requires the DOEA to make a record of the completion of the one-hour training program available to covered providers. The record must include the training, the name of the employee, and the date of completion. The bill also requires covered providers to maintain a record of each employee's completion of the training and, upon request, provide the employee with a copy of the completion record consistent with the employer's written policies.

Employees hired, contracted, or referred to provide services before July 1, 2023, must complete the training before July 1, 2026. However, proof of completion of equivalent training that has been completed prior to July 1, 2023, may substitute for the training. Employees hired, contracted, or referred to provide services on or after July 1, 2023, may satisfy training requirements by completing current training curricula approved by the DOEA until the effective date of the rules adopted by the DOEA under the bill.

The bill also requires the DOEA to offer education to the general public about ADRD. The education must provide basic information about:

- The most common forms of dementia;
- How to identify the signs and symptoms of dementia;
- Coping skills;
- How to respond to changes;
- Planning for the future; and
- How to access additional resources about dementia.

The bill also repeals s. 400.53, F.S., relating to the Nurse Registry Excellence Program.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 115-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/SB 404 — Public Records/Photograph or Video or Audio Recording of the Killing of a Minor/Autopsy Reports of Minors

by Rules Committee and Senator Perry

The bill creates two new public records exemptions related to the death of minors.

First, the bill makes confidential and exempt from public disclosure the photographs or video or audio recordings that depict the killing of a minor when held by an agency. The bill defines the “killing of a minor” and specifies who may obtain such photographs and recordings and specifies the process for obtaining these materials. The bill provides for retroactive application of the exemption.

The bill amends s. 119.071(2)(p), F.S., to conform to the expanded exemption for photographs or video or audio recordings that depict the killing of a minor. Specifically:

- Certain government entities may access such photographs or video or audio recordings in furtherance of their official duties;
- The court, upon showing of good cause, may issue an order authorizing any person to view or copy such photographs or video or audio recordings;
- The record custodian in control of photographs or video or audio recordings, or his or her designee, must directly supervise anyone who views, copies, or handles such records;
- Any surviving parent must be given reasonable notice of petition to view or copy the photographs or video or audio recordings, a copy of the petition, and reasonable notice of the opportunity to be heard at any hearing; and
- Any custodian of photographs or video or audio recordings that depict the killing of a minor who willfully and knowingly violates the provisions in the section and any person who violates a court order issued pursuant to the section, commits a third degree felony.

The exemption created for photographs or video or audio recordings that depict the killing of a minor must be given retroactive application.

Second, the bill also creates the “Rex and Brody Act” and makes confidential and exempt from public inspection and copying requirements an autopsy report of a minor whose death was related to an act of domestic violence held by a medical examiner. The bill allows for disclosure of the report to the surviving parent who did not commit the act of domestic violence. The bill provides for retroactive application of the exemption.

The bill conforms several provisions in s. 406.135, F.S., to incorporate the expanded exemption for autopsy reports of certain minors. Specifically:

- Certain government entities may access such reports in furtherance of their official duties;
- The custodian of the record, or his or her designee, may not permit any other person, except an authorized designated agent, to view or copy an autopsy report of a minor;
- A court may use its discretion to authorize the disclosure of such reports;

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- Reasonable notice of a petition to view such reports must be given to certain surviving parents; they must also receive a copy of the petition to view or copy such reports; and
- Any person who willfully and knowingly violates a court order regarding the disclosure of these reports, and any custodian who willfully and knowingly discloses these reports in violation of the law, are subject to a third degree felony.

The term “minor” is defined to mean a person younger than 18 years of age who has not had the disability of nonage removed.

The bill makes findings that the new exemptions from public records disclosure for photographs or video or audio recordings that depict the killing of a minor and for an autopsy report of a minor whose death was related to an act of domestic violence are a public necessity as required by the Florida Constitution.

The exemptions are subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and will stand repealed on October 2, 2028, unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor’s signature, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 116-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/CS/SB 538 — Provisional Child Care Licensing

by Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee; and Senator Trumbull

The bill adds a new child care licensing provision which requires the Department of Children and Families or the local licensing agency to issue a provisional license or registration for a family day care home licensed under s. 402.313, .F.S.; large family child care home licensed under s. 402.3131, F.S.; or child care facility licensed under s. 402.305, F.S. The bill requires an applicant for an initial license or registration to have made adequate provisions for the health and safety of the child and provides sufficient evidence that he or she has completed within the previous 6 months:

- Training pursuant to the United States Department of Defense Instruction 6060.02 (Child Development Programs); and
- Background screening pursuant to the designated requirements of the Department of Defense and has received favorable suitability and fitness determination.

The provisional license allows a family day care home, large family child care home, or child care facility operator to provide child care services while simultaneously completing any remaining state licensure requirements.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 118-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/CS/HB 625 — Children’s Initiative Projects

by Health and Human Services Committee; Children, Families and Seniors Subcommittee and Rep. Bracy Davis and others (CS/SB 1578 by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee and Senator Thompson)

The bill makes numerous changes to s. 409.147, F.S., to restructure, streamline, and clarify the requirements and objectives of children’s initiatives in Florida.

Specifically, the bill:

- Renames s. 409.147, F.S., from “Children’s Initiatives” to “Florida Children’s Initiatives.”
- Renames the “Parramore Kidz Zone” to the “Orlando Kidz Zones” and expands the reach of the initiative to encompass the Orlando neighborhoods of Parramore, Mercy Drive, and Englewood.
- Renames the “Tampa Sulphur Springs Neighborhood of Promise Success Zone” to the “Tampa Sulphur Springs Neighborhood of Promise.”
- Removes the specification that existing children’s initiatives are 10-year projects and makes changes throughout to extend current requirements and exemptions enumerated for children’s initiatives to all Florida Children’s Initiatives, including requirements for public records and meetings and procurement of commodities or contractual services.
- Expands the ways in which a county or municipality must recognize a not-for-profit corporation that will serve as a children’s initiative to allow a county to identify an existing, qualified not-for-profit corporation, as a children’s initiative instead of creating one.
- Grants counties that do not currently have a children’s initiative and are trying to establish an initiative priority for designation as a children’s initiative.
- Expands the youth support objectives of the children’s initiative working group to include increasing “postsecondary enrollment, and postsecondary completion rates among neighborhood youth” not just “increasing high school graduation” and the safety objectives of the working group to “reduce youth incarceration” in addition to the currently required “reduce youth violence, crime, and recidivism.”
- Makes technical and conforming changes throughout to implement the substantive changes of the bill.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor’s signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 115-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/SB 664 — Contracts Entered into by the Department of Children and Families

by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee and Senator Burgess

The bill expands the contract requirements of the Department of Children and Families requiring a lead agency to annually provide and publish operating procedures detailing timelines and procedures to maximize the use of concurrent planning, minimize the time to complete preliminary and final adoptive home studies, streamline data entry into the statewide child welfare information system, and reduce time to permanency.

The bill also requires a lead agency to gather all information required and complete the child specific information section of the unified home study, excluding information related to any prospective caregiver, no later than 90 days after the filing of a petition for termination of parental rights.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 116-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/CS/HB 775 — Shared Parental Responsibility after Establishment of Paternity

by Judiciary Committee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; and Reps. Benjamin, Hawkins, and others (CS/CS/SB 1146 by Judiciary Committee; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee; and Senator Yarborough)

The bill clarifies that after the birth of a child a parent may request a determination of parental responsibility and child support and for the creation of a parenting plan and timesharing schedule pursuant to ch. 61, F.S. Absent such a determination of parental responsibility and child support, a mother retains sole parental responsibility and there is no requirement for timesharing.

The bill requires that any action to establish paternity include a determination of parental responsibility and a parenting plan, establish a timesharing schedule, and child support. The bill attaches determinations of parental responsibility and timesharing to the establishment of paternity for a father under ch. 742, F.S.

The bill also clarifies that an unwed mother and a father who sign a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity or have established paternity through a court judgment are the natural guardians of the child. As such, they are subject to the rights and responsibilities of parents that a married parent would enjoy. If a father has not established paternity, the mother is the natural parent and is entitled to primary residential care and custody of the child.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 114-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

HB 829 — Operation and Administration of the Baker Act

by Rep. Silvers and others (SB 938 by Senator Davis)

The bill directs the Department of Children and Families (the DCF) to update and publish a Baker Act handbook annually and post the updated handbook on the agency's website every year by October 1. The bill also directs the DCF to maintain a repository of frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the agency's website and continually revise and expand the repository, as necessary.

The bill requires the DCF to inform certain stakeholders of their role in the Baker Act process and support their effective implementation of the Act. The DCF must support and facilitate research conducted by public and private agencies, institutions of higher learning, and hospitals in the interest of the elimination and amelioration of mental illness.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 108-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/SB 914 — Suicide Prevention

by Rules Committee and Senators Garcia and Book

The bill modifies statutory provisions governing confidentiality for peer support communications between a first responder and a first responder peer. The bill allows certain first responder organizations to designate first responder peers and clarifies that first responder peers include active, volunteer, and retired first responders. This will ensure that all first responder peers can serve their communities with the same protections as peers designated by an employing agency performing the same services, regardless of the entity that designates him or her as a peer. The bill also permits diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders via telehealth for the purposes of obtaining worker's compensation benefits.

The bill renames the Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse (the Commission), adjunct to the Department of Children and Families, as the Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder, and adds a representative of the statewide Florida 211 network appointed by the Governor to the Commission membership. The bill also directs the Commission to conduct a study examining the following services and programs relating to suicide prevention:

- The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline system (the 988 system);
- Crisis response services;
- Strategies to improve linkages between the 988 system infrastructure and crisis response services;
- Available mental health block grant funds;
- Funding sources available through Medicaid; and
- Strategies to ensure that managing entities work with community stakeholders in furtherance of supporting the 988 system and other crisis response services.

The bill also requires the Commission to evaluate and make recommendations regarding skills-based training that teaches participants about mental health and substance use disorder issues, including, but not limited to, Mental Health First Aid models.

The bill extends the statutory repeal date of the Commission from September 1, 2023, to September 1, 2026. The bill requires the Commission to submit interim reports, beginning January 1, 2023, annually thereafter through January 1, 2025, and a final report due September 1, 2026, to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The bill requires the Commission to include the findings of the suicide prevention study in the final report due September 1, 2026.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 115-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/CS/HB 1045 — Certified Peer Specialist Gateway Pilot Program

by Judiciary Committee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee; and Reps. Hart, Jacques, and others (CS/CS/SB 1012 by Fiscal Policy Committee; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee; and Senator Rouson)

The bill creates the Certified Peer Specialist Gateway Pilot Program (Program) within the Department of Corrections (the DOC). The bill explains the purpose of the Program and specifies that the Program will be used to recruit and enroll qualified graduates of the Program into approved certified peer specialist training programs. The Program will provide the training and on-the-job experience required for peer specialist certification, assist in completion of exams required to become a certified peer specialist, and will assist participants in obtaining employment upon release.

The bill allows inmates at participating facilities to apply to participate in the Program. The bill directs the DOC to develop criteria for selecting qualified applicants for the Program, which may include, but is not limited to, requiring that participants:

- Have the appropriate custody classification;
- Meet certain discipline criteria;
- Have an expected release date within a specified timeframe;
- Be housed at the institution providing training;
- Have served as a positive role model during their incarceration;
- Express a desire to work in the behavioral health treatment field after release; and
- Have not been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, or have been adjudicated delinquent and the record has been sealed or expunged for, any offense that would prohibit them from becoming a certified peer specialist under s. 397.417(4)(e), F.S.

The bill specifies that the Program will assist those that complete the Program in obtaining employment upon release by aiding potential employers to obtain bonds from the U.S. Department of Labor, if applicable, or offering funding for initial hiring and retention costs dependent on securing grant funds.

The bill requires that after a person who has completed the pilot program's requirements has been released, he or she must provide each prospective employer with a copy of his or her incarceration record before the employer may hire the person. The person must also receive a signed informed consent form from any potential client seeking treatment from him or her.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 114-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/CS/CS/SB 1064 — Children Removed from Caregivers

by Fiscal Policy Committee; Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee; and Senator Yarborough

The bill amends s. 39.523, F.S., to integrate a trauma screening into the assessment of a child removed from his or her home.

The bill adds to findings and intent that the timely identification of and response to acute presentation of symptoms indicative of trauma can reduce adverse outcomes for a child, aid in the identification of services to enhance initial placement stability and of supports to caregivers, and reduce placement disruption.

The bill adds a requirement for the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to adopt rules that require the DCF or community-based care lead agency to conduct a trauma screening as soon as practicable after a child's removal but no later than 21 days after the shelter hearing. The bill also requires any indicated trauma assessment, services, or interventions to be provided within 30 days of the shelter hearing. To the extent possible, the screening, assessment, services, or intervention must be integrated into the child's overall behavioral health treatment planning and services.

The bill further requires the DCF or the CBC to provide information and support to a caregiver of a child placed out-of-home to help that caregiver respond to and care for the child in a trauma-informed and therapeutic manner. Support and information may include but need not be limited to, consultation, coaching, training, and referral.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 114-2

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

HB 1087 — Child Support

by Rep. Caruso and others (CS/SB 536 by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee and Senator Garcia)

The bill makes numerous changes to the Child Support Program, which is administered by the Department of Revenue (DOR), Florida's Title IV-D agency. As the state's Title IV-D agency, the DOR is responsible for collecting and enforcing child support. To receive services from the Child Support Program, families either complete an application for services, or are automatically referred because a parent is receiving cash or food assistance.

The bill makes the following changes to the Child Support Program:

- Amends the definition of 'depository' to clarify that the depository required by statute is established by the clerk of the circuit court;
- Expands the circumstances when a payment agreement with a deferred start date may be used to include when an obligor is making a good faith effort to participate in job training;
- Removes existing exceptions to the federal prohibition on treating involuntary incarceration as voluntary unemployment when establishing or modifying a support order;
- Authorizes the DOR to commence an administrative proceeding to determine paternity or paternity and child support based on an affidavit or written declaration completed by a nonparent caregiver of the child who has knowledge of the child's paternity;
- Requires the clerk of court to credit a depository payment account for collections received by another state while enforcing the Florida administrative support order associated with the account;
- Resolves inconsistent statutory provisions concerning the amount of the allocation for operations and maintenance of the Clerk of Court Child Support Collection System (CLERC) system by reorganizing statutes to reflect the current, more efficient practice for collecting, retaining, distributing, accounting for and reporting clerk fees in private child support cases; and
- Requires the clerk of court to credit a depository payment account for collections received by another state while enforcing the Florida administrative support order associated with the accounts. The clerk must apply credit in the amount indicated by a record from another state's Title IV-D agency or court that is provided to the clerk by the DOR and that documents collections made or received by the other state.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023, with the exception of section 4 of the bill, related to nonpayment due to incarceration, which shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 114-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/SB 1190 — Step into Success Workforce Education and Internship Pilot Program

by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee and Senators Garcia, Osgood, Perry, and Rouson

The bill creates s. 409.1455, F.S., cited as the “Step into Success Act,” establishing the Step into Success Workforce Education and Internship Program (program) as a three-year pilot administered by the Department of Children and Families’ (DCF) Office of Continuing Care (OCC). The purpose of the program is to assist foster youth transitioning to adulthood to:

- Develop essential workforce and professional skills;
- Transition from the custody of the DCF to independent living; and
- Become best prepared for an independent and successful future.

The program must consist of an independent living professionalism and workforce education component and, for youth that complete that component, an onsite workforce training internship component that uses employees of participating organizations as mentors. The bill details numerous requirements for the operation of each component of the program as well as for participating organizations, mentors, and foster and former foster youth who participate. Some of the specific requirements are:

- The program is available to foster and former foster youth between the ages of 16 and 25 who are currently or were previously in foster care. A foster youth may participate in the education component at age 16 years of age or older, but may not begin the internship portion until turning 18 years of age.
- The internship component matches mentors in participating organizations with participating youth and are provided a \$1,200 per year payment with a limitation on the number of interns a mentor may be paired with in a given year.
- The DCF is required to include specific information about the program and recommendations for improvement in an annual report.

The bill provides a monthly financial assistance payment of \$1,517 to former foster youth participating in the internship component and ensures that the payment does not count toward income in the determination of federal and state benefit eligibility. Further, the bill provides a specified increase in the stipend payment amount if the youth does have a loss or reduction of any benefits.

The bill also requires the Board of Governors and State Board of Education to adopt rules and regulations to award postsecondary credit or career education clock hours to program participants.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor’s signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 117-0

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2023 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

SB 1210 — Public Records/Human Trafficking Victims

by Senator Burgess

The bill creates a new exemption from public records disclosure under s. 119.07(1), F.S., and Art. I, s. 246(a), State Constitution for any petition filed by a human trafficking victim to expunge a criminal history record and all pleadings and documents related to the petition.

The bill makes findings that the new exemption from public records disclosure is a public necessity as required by the State Constitution.

The exemption in the bill is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and will be repealed on October 2, 2028 in accordance with s. 119.15, F.S., unless the Legislature reviews and renews the exemptions before that date.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 116-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/HB 1275 — Persons with Disabilities Registry

by Health and Human Services Committee and Rep. Plasencia and others (CS/SB 784 by Criminal Justice Committee and Senator Burgess)

The bill, known as the “Protect Our Loved Ones” Act, authorizes a local law enforcement agency to develop and maintain a database, known as a “Persons with Disabilities Registry,” of persons who may have certain developmental, psychological, or other disabilities or conditions, including but not limited to, autism spectrum disorder, Alzheimer’s disease or a related dementia disorder, and Down syndrome, that may be relevant to interactions with law enforcement.

An adult with a disability may enroll himself or herself in a registry. If a person with a disability has been declared incapacitated, a parent or legal guardian of the person may enroll him or her in a registry. Parents and guardians may voluntarily enroll minors and incapacitated individuals in the registry. The registry may include:

- An enrollee’s demographic and contact information, and information related to the enrollee’s disability or condition;
- Contact information of persons who have enrolled individuals on the registry; and
- Certification of the disability or condition.

Confirmation of a disability or condition must be certified by a licensed physician or licensed physician assistant or a licensed advanced practice registered nurse. Confirmation of a psychological condition must be certified by a licensed psychologist, licensed mental health counselor, or a psychiatrist.

The bill requires that proof of parentage, guardianship, or other legal authority be provided to local law enforcement at the time of registration of a minor or ward, which may include, but need not be limited to, proof of parentage or guardianship, as applicable:

- A birth certificate as described in s. 382.013, F.S.;
- A power of attorney, as defined in s. 709.2102(9), F.S.;
- A court order establishing parental rights or guardianship; or
- Letters of guardianship as described in s. 744.345, F.S.

An incapacitated adult enrolled onto the registry by another person must be notified of that enrollment by the local law enforcement agency in writing at his or her address of record within five business days after such enrollment. A minor enrolled onto the registry must be notified of that enrollment by the local law enforcement agency in writing at his or her address of record within five business days after his or her 18th birthday.

A registration is valid until the person is removed from the registry. A minor or an incapacitated individual may be removed from the registry by his or her parent or legal guardian. A competent person who is 18 years old may remove himself or herself from the registry. A competent person who has reached 18 years of age may also choose to have his or her name removed from the registry. Upon a verbal or written request for removal of a person from the registry, a local law

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enforcement agency must remove an individual's information from the registry within five business days after the request is made.

The bill authorizes local law enforcement agencies to provide information from the registry to law enforcement officers to assist in performance of their official duties.

The information provided to law enforcement officers under the bill may assist officers in their official duties by preparing them to respectfully and appropriately interact with an individual enrolled in the registry who has a relevant disability or condition.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect January 1, 2024.

Vote: Senate 35-2; House 115-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/HB 1277 — Public Records/Persons with Disabilities Registry

by Health and Human Services Committee and Rep. Plasencia (CS/SB 786 by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee and Senator Burgess)

The bill creates an exemption from the public records requirements of s. 119.07(1), F.S., and Art. I, s. 24(a), State Constitution for the following information relating to the enrollment of individuals on the Persons with Disabilities Registry:

- Records;
- Data;
- Information;
- Correspondence; and
- Communications.

The bill also applies the exemption to any locally maintained registry that is substantially similar to the Persons with Disabilities Registry and that is held by a local law enforcement agency before, on, or after the effective date of the bill.

The bill specifies that such information may be disclosed upon a showing of good cause before a court of competent jurisdiction, or in furtherance of the official duties and responsibilities of the agency holding the information, to:

- A law enforcement agency;
- A county emergency management agency;
- A local fire department; or
- Another local, state, or federal agency.

The bill requires the entities or persons receiving such information to maintain the exempt status of the information. The bill also provides for an Open Government Sunset Review, and contains a statement of public necessity as required by the State Constitution.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect on the same date that HB 1275 or similar legislation takes effect.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 114-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/SB 1278 — Direct-support Organizations

by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee and Senators Simon and Rouson

The bill authorizes the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to create a Direct Support Organization (DSO) for the purpose of supporting the DCF in carrying out its purposes and responsibilities. Specifically, the bill:

- Details the requirements of and certain purposes for which to operate the DSO under written contract with the DCF.
- Provides for the use of certain property and services of the DCF by the DSO.
- Requires the Secretary of the DCF to appoint the board of directors according to the DSO's bylaws.
- Requires the DCF to adopt rules to operate the DSO.
- Allows the DSO to collect, expend, and provide funds for certain purposes and provide an annual financial audit in accordance with s. 215.981, F.S.
- Provides that the DSO is repealed on October 1, 2028, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.

The bill also authorizes district school boards to contract with a DSO for personal services or operations. The bill requires a retiree of the Florida Retirement System (FRS) employed to provide services under a contract with the school district to first satisfy the requirements of termination prior to providing such services and is subject to the reemployment restrictions relating to the FRS. The bill increases the threshold of expenditures and expenses that requires a DSO to provide for a financial audit to \$250,000 from \$100,000 and authorizes district school boards to contract with a vendor for an annual financial audit of a DSO.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 116-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/HB 1301 — Parenting and Time-sharing of Minor Children

by Judiciary Committee and Rep. Persons-Mulicka and others (CS/CS/SB 1292 by Rules Committee; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee; and Senators Jones and Pizzo)

The bill amends s. 61.13, F.S., related to parenting and time-sharing plans to create a rebuttable presumption that equal time-sharing with minor children is in the best interests of a child and provides that a parent moving to a residence within 50 miles of the primary residence of a child may be considered a substantial and material change in circumstances.

The bill also provides that to rebut the presumption, the party in opposition to equal time-sharing must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that equal time-sharing is not in the best interests of the minor child who is common to the parties.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 34-3; House 105-7

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/CS/SB 1322 — Adoption

by Rules Committee; Judiciary Committee; and Senator Grall

The bill provides that a parent's right to intervene in a ch. 39, F.S., dependency proceeding and change the prospective adoptive parents of a dependent child becomes increasingly limited as a dependency case proceeds closer to the termination of the parent's rights. The bill provides legislative findings and intent to reduce the disruption of stable and bonded long-term placements that have been identified as prospective adoptive placements.

The bill limits a dependency-involved parent's ability to execute a valid and binding consent to adoption with an adoption entity to the pendency of the ch. 39, F.S., proceeding up to and including the 30th day after the filing of the petition for termination of parental rights.

The bill creates a rebuttable presumption that a placement is stable and it is in the best interests of a child to remain in that placement if the child has been placed with the prospective adoptive parents for at least 9 continuous months, or 15 of the last 24 months. To rebut the presumption, an intervenor must show by clear and convincing evidence that it is in the best interests of the child to disrupt the current stable placement. The court must make this determination by evaluating the best interest factors enumerated in the statute.

The bill updates the factors a court must consider when making a determination of best interests for a child to align with practice and conform with the substantive changes of the bill.

The bill requires a reasonable time for transition in accordance with a transition plan developed by the DCF and other stakeholders if a change of placement is found to be in the best interests of the child.

The bill makes multiple changes in other sections of ch. 63, F.S., to conform statutes to practice and clean up terminology and citations. Specifically, the bill:

- Amends s. 63.087(3), F.S., to revise the clerk of court's responsibilities in adoption proceedings by requiring the clerk to issue a separate case number and also maintain a court file for a petition for adoption that is separate from the termination of the parental rights file. This strengthens the confidentiality of the adoption proceeding by ensuring that the adoption information is not available to a parent who has had his or her parental rights terminated. To conform with this substantive change, the bill also requires that the petition for adoption include a copy of the original birth certificate of the child before the final hearing is held to terminate parental rights. Currently, there is no requirement for this filing and it will ensure the court is aware of any fathers whose rights may be addressed in the ch. 63, F.S., adoption proceeding.
- Amends s. 63.122(2), F.S., to require notice for an adoption proceeding under ch. 63, F.S., be provided as prescribed by the Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, not the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, to conform with current practice.

- Amends s. 63.212(1)(c), F.S., to delete the “medical needs” limiting language referring to certain expenses that are payable to a mother within 6 weeks after the birth of the child. Currently, to pay for certain expenses to a mother for up to 6 weeks after the birth of the child, the law required medical need to require such support.

Finally, the bill creates an unnumbered section of law requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to update a certain report and include an analysis of time to permanency by adoption; provide a general overview of adoptions; conduct a national comparative analysis of state processes that allow private adoption entities to intervene or participate in dependency cases and requires the DCF and licensed child-caring and child-placing agencies to provide OPPAGA with certain data by dates certain. The analysis and report is due to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2024.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor’s signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 116-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

HB 1349 — Mental Health Treatment

by Rep. Melo and others (CS/SB 1412 by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee and Senators Bradley and Davis)

The bill authorizes the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to issue conditional designations for Baker Act receiving and treatment facilities as an alternative to the suspension or withdrawal of a standard facility designation as a result of a violation of licensure requirements. This will result in the facility continuing to be able to operate while taking corrective action to cure the basis of the violation.

The bill also modifies ch. 916, F.S., regarding competency determination, treatment options, and restoration by:

- Requiring local sheriffs or the DCF to administer psychotropic medications to forensic clients in jails prior to their admission to forensic facilities if clinically indicated;
- Requiring expert evaluators and courts to consider alternative, community-based treatment options before ordering the placement of a defendant to a forensic facility;
- Requiring administrators of forensic facilities to provide notification to courts no more than 60 days, rather than six months as in current law, from the time a defendant is competent to proceed or no longer meets commitment criteria;
- Reducing the maximum amount of time patients may wait to be transported from a forensic facility to the committing jurisdiction once they are competent to proceed or no longer meet commitment criteria, from 30 days to 7 days;
- Requiring competency determinations to be made at a competency hearing within 30 days of notification from forensic facilities that patients have gained competency or no longer meet commitment criteria;
- Requiring forensic facilities to transfer defendants back to the committing jurisdiction with up to 30 days of medication and assist in discharge planning with medical teams at the receiving county jail; and
- Reenacting and making conforming changes to several existing sections of statute.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 116-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

SB 1396 — Department of Elderly Affairs

by Senator Garcia

The bill makes several changes to certain programs operated within the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA). Specifically, the bill:

- Permits Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program staff employed in the state office of the Program to become certified as ombudsmen;
- Deletes obsolete language relating to the DOEA joining the Background Screening Clearinghouse within the Agency for Health Care Administration (the AHCA), and includes certain persons within the definition of ‘direct service provider’ who require a level 2 background screening;
- Revises the duties of the executive director of the Office of Public and Professional Guardianship (the OPPG) to include offering and making certain information about alternatives to and types of guardianship available for dissemination by the Area Agencies on Aging and Aging Resource Centers throughout the state;
- Increases the number of continuing education hours of professional guardians from 16 to 30 hours every two years and requires certain additional topics for such training;
- Reorganizes language for clarity and requires the OPPG to notify complainants no later than 10 business days after the OPPG determines that a complaint is not legally sufficient;
- Revises the number of days within which the OPPG must complete and provide any initial investigative findings and recommendations to both the guardian and the complainant from 60 to 45 days;
- Requires the OPPG to provide both the guardian and the complainant with a written statement specifying any finding of a violation of a standard of practice by a professional guardian and any actions taken or specifying that no such violation was found within 10 business days after completing an investigation; and
- Requires the Clerks of the Circuit Court (Clerks) to report sanctions imposed by the court on a professional guardian to the OPPG within a specified time frame.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor’s signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 110-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/CS/HB 1517 — Agency for Persons with Disabilities

by Health and Human Services Committee; Children, Families, and Seniors Subcommittee; and Rep. Plakon and others (CS/CS/SB 1594 by Fiscal Policy Committee; Health Policy Committee; and Senators Brodeur and Garcia)

The bill requires adult day training (ADT) programs serving individuals with developmental disabilities to be licensed by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD). The bill also repeals provisions related to comprehensive transitional educational programs (CTEPs), thereby prohibiting the licensure of such facilities in Florida. The bill also modifies the eligibility criteria for, and operation of, Florida’s Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Waiver administered by the APD.

Specifically, the bill:

- Clarifies the definitions of “adult day training”;
- Adds a definition for “licensee,” which is the same definition as used in s. 408.803(9), F.S., relating to health care licensing by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) and the same, in part, as used in s. 400.023(2)(a), F.S., relating to nursing homes;
- Requires the licensing and regulation of ADT programs by the APD;
- Allows the APD to deny licenses for residential facilities and ADT programs when there is evidence that the applicant is unqualified due to lack of good moral character;
- Allows the APD to take disciplinary actions due to the noncompliance of ADT programs;
- Clarifies the circumstances for which the APD can take disciplinary action related to verified findings of abuse, neglect, or abandonment of a child or vulnerable adult being served by an APD licensed facility or ADT program;
- Removes obsolete language regarding CTEPs that no longer operate within the state;
- Requires APD-licensed facilities and ADT programs to allow local emergency management agencies to examine the approved emergency management plans and review and approve plans for facilities and programs serving individuals with a complex medical condition;
- Clarifies language that, beginning October 1, 2024, the APD must not authorize funds or services to an unlicensed facility or ADT program that requires a license;
- Clarifies the timeframes within which the APD must process applications for the HCBS Waiver;
- Identifies timeframes for processing an application for crisis waiver enrollment from an applicant who is not currently an APD client;
- Clarifies that eligibility for admissions to Intermediate Care Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled (ICF/DDs) are to be completed by the APD; and
- Clarifies that the level of care criteria for eligibility for the HCBS Waiver program is the same as that required by federal law.

Additionally, the bill requires the APD to convene an interagency workgroup to create a continuum of guidance and information for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, including guidance and information across the lifespan of such individuals related to their education, workforce skills, daily living skills, and supportive services for greater independence.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 109-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/SB 1540 — Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Fatality Review Teams

by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee and Senator Garcia

The bill expands the scope of the existing Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams to include vulnerable adults and changes the name of such teams to the “Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Fatality Review Teams” (EV-FRTs). The bill provides that the specified purpose of the EV-FRTs is learning how to prevent certain abuse and abuse-related deaths and improve the system response of such instances. The bill also expands the scope of the teams to include incidents which are the result of exploitation and expands the membership. The bill also provides a definition for the terms “vulnerable adult,” “disabled adult,” and “elderly person.”

The bill allows the following persons or entities to initiate an EV-FRT:

- A state attorney;
- A law enforcement agency;
- The Department of Children and Families;
- The Office of the Attorney General; and
- The Agency for Persons with Disabilities.

The bill expands the records that may be reviewed by the team to include open and closed cases from entities other than a state attorney by removing the provision that restricted teams to review only closed cases referred and redacted by a state attorney. The bill also requires EV-FRTs to appoint one co-chair and elect a second co-chair, both serving 2-year terms.

The bill requires all members of an EV-FRT to sign a written acknowledgement stating that members are required to protect from unauthorized disclosure of any confidential and exempt oral or written communications, information, or records produced or acquired by the review team. The bill also requires the written acknowledgement to reference any applicable criminal penalties for disclosing certain information produced or acquired by an EV-FRT.

The bill creates provisions to protect individuals interviewed and information collected by EV-FRTs from being used in a civil or criminal trial or administrative or disciplinary proceeding. However, the bill provides that information, documents, and records otherwise available from other sources are not immune from discovery or introduction into evidence solely because such information was presented to or reviewed by an EV-FRT.

The bill makes conforming changes in the remainder of s. 415.1103, F.S., to align with the changes relating to the scope of the EV-FRTs, and limits the circumstances under which members of a team may directly contact members of a deceased elder’s family.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor’s signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 119-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/SB 1542 — Public Records/Elder Abuse and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Fatality Review Teams

by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee and Senator Garcia

The bill creates public record and public meeting exemptions related to elder and vulnerable adult fatality review teams (EV-FRTs). Specifically, the bill requires that any information obtained by an EV-FRT for the purposes of conducting a case review which is exempt or confidential and exempt from public records requirements retains its exempt or confidential and exempt status when held by an EV-FRT. The bill also creates a public record exemption for records created or held by an EV-FRT which reveals the identity of a victim, the identity of persons responsible for the welfare of the victim, and such information is confidential and exempt under the bill.

Any information that is maintained as exempt or confidential and exempt within ch. 415, F.S., related to adult protective services, retains its exempt or confidential and exempt status when held by the review team.

The bill creates a public meeting exemption for portions of an EV-FRT meeting in which the identity of the victim, the identity of the person responsible for the welfare of the victim, or otherwise exempt or confidential and exempt information is discussed. Records created by an EV-FRT during such portions of meetings are also exempt from public disclosure.

The bill includes a public necessity statement and states that the public record and public meeting exemptions are subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and will stand repealed on October 2, 2028, unless saved from repeal by reenactment by the Legislature.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect on the same date that SB 1540 or similar legislation takes effect.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 117-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

CS/CS/CS/SB 1690 — Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking

by Fiscal Policy Committee; Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee; and Senator Ingoglia

The bill requires the Services and Resources Committee of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking to conduct a study and make recommendations regarding the regulation of adult safe houses. The study must:

- Survey operators of existing adult safe houses regarding operation and certain information.
- Identify and review standards recommended by national organizations or experts specializing in adult safe house service provision or shelter or housing for adult survivors of human trafficking.
- Obtain recommendations from adult survivors of human trafficking and law enforcement agencies regarding regulation of adult safe homes.
- Recommend regulations for adult safe houses in Florida based on, at a minimum, the information obtained by the committee.

The bill requires the DCF to, after the completion of the study, initiate rulemaking to establish minimum standards for certification of adult safe houses to serve survivors of any form of human trafficking, such as labor trafficking and sex trafficking. The rules must include minimum standards regarding certain topics.

After rules are adopted, all adult safe houses must be certified and adult safe houses in operation as of the rules' effective date are granted six months to become certified. Adult safe houses must gain recertification every two years. The DCF must inspect adult safe houses no less than annually to ensure compliance with the requirements. The DCF may subject the adult safe house to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, requiring a corrective action plan; imposing administrative fines; or denying, suspending, or revoking the certification of the adult safe house.

The bill allows adult safe houses to give the DCF a list of the names of the human trafficking advocates who are employed or who volunteer at the adult safe house who may claim a confidential communication privilege.

The bill also requires the following:

- Age-appropriate educational programming for children to include information regarding the signs and dangers of, and how to report, human trafficking.
- Security for safe houses and safe foster homes to provide for, at a minimum, the detection of possible trafficking activity, coordination with law enforcement, and be part of the emergency response to search for absent or missing children. Appropriate security for a safe house requires either the employment of or a contract with at least one individual with law enforcement, investigative, or similar training or the execution of a contract or memorandum of understanding with a law enforcement agency to perform the security functions.

The bill requires residential treatment centers for children and adolescents under s. 394.875, F.S., and facilities maintained by child-caring agencies under s. 409.175, F.S., to display signs warning youth of the dangers of human trafficking and to encourage the reporting of individuals observed attempting to engage in human trafficking activity.

The bill also shortens the time that a public lodging establishment has to correct training deficiencies from 90 to 45 days and makes the establishment ineligible for any correction period for a second or subsequent violation of the training and awareness requirements if the violation occurred after July 1, 2023.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 34-0; House 119-0

Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

SB 7000 — OGSR/Current and Former Public Guardians

by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee

The bill saves from repeal the current public records exemption in s. 744.21031, F.S., by maintaining certain provisions of the exemption as in current law and narrowing the exemption by allowing certain information that is currently exempt to become available for public disclosure. Specifically, the bill continues the exemptions from public disclosure for certain identifying and location information held by an agency pertaining to:

- Current and former public guardians;
- Employees with fiduciary responsibility; and
- Spouses and children of current and former public guardians and employees with fiduciary responsibility.

The bill expands public access to information by removing the exempt status of photographs of current public guardians. The bill also removes the exempt status of places of employment of current or former public guardians, current or former employees with fiduciary duty, and the spouses and children of such persons.

The public records exemption stands repealed on October 2, 2023, unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature under the Open Government Sunset Review Act. The bill removes the scheduled repeal of the exemption to continue exempt status of the information.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect October 1, 2023.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 117-0