

<b>Tab 1</b>	<b>SB 560 by Garcia;</b> Compare to H 00763 Child Welfare
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964050	A	S	RCS	CF, Garcia	Delete L.72 - 105:	01/20 11:50 AM
701698	AA	S	RCS	CF, Garcia	Delete L.111 - 130.	01/20 11:50 AM

<b>Tab 2</b>	<b>SB 590 by Bradley;</b> Identical to H 00373 Statute of Limitations Period for Violations Involving Required Reports Concerning Children
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853776	A	S	RCS	CF, Bradley	Delete L.20:	01/20 11:50 AM
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<b>Tab 3</b>	<b>SB 778 by Simon;</b> Similar to H 00569 Forensic Services for Certain Defendants
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<b>Tab 4</b>	<b>SB 1010 by Yarborough;</b> Compare to CS/H 00743 Enforcement of Protections for Minors
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235940	A	S	LRCS	CF, Yarborough	Delete L.48 - 95:	01/20 04:30 PM
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**The Florida Senate**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA**

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND ELDER AFFAIRS**

**Senator Grall, Chair**  
**Senator Garcia, Vice Chair**

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, January 20, 2026

**TIME:** 9:30—11:30 a.m.

**PLACE:** 301 Senate Building

**MEMBERS:** Senator Grall, Chair; Senator Garcia, Vice Chair; Senators Harrell, Rouson, Sharief, and Simon

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	<b>SB 560</b> Garcia (Compare H 763)	Child Welfare; Providing that a new medical report relating to the provision of psychotropic medication to a child in the legal custody of the Department of Children and Families may be required only under certain circumstances; revising qualifications for persons who may serve as qualified evaluators for a certain purpose; requiring a physician to provide to a pharmacy a copy of certain documentation, rather than a signed attestation, with certain prescriptions, etc.  CF      01/20/2026 Fav/CS HP RC	Fav/CS Yeas 6 Nays 0
2	<b>SB 590</b> Bradley (Identical H 373)	Statute of Limitations Period for Violations Involving Required Reports Concerning Children; Providing that the limitations period for offenses concerning specified required reports about children does not begin to run until a law enforcement agency is made aware of the violation, etc.  CJ      01/12/2026 Favorable CF      01/20/2026 Fav/CS RC	Fav/CS Yeas 6 Nays 0
3	<b>SB 778</b> Simon (Similar H 569)	Forensic Services for Certain Defendants; Revising the definition of the term "forensic client" or "client", etc.  CF      01/20/2026 Favorable AHS FP	Favorable Yeas 6 Nays 0

**COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA**

Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 9:30—11:30 a.m.

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
4	<b>SB 1010</b> Yarborough (Compare H 743)	Enforcement of Protections for Minors; Providing criminal penalties for health care practitioners who willfully or actively aid or abet another in a violation of specified provisions; authorizing the Attorney General to conduct investigations of alleged violations of a specified provision and commence a civil action for damages, injunctive relief, and civil penalties upon determining a violation has occurred; creating a cause of action to recover damages against certain public employees and health care practitioners for violations of specified provisions, etc.  CF      01/20/2026 Fav/CS HP RC	Fav/CS Yeas 5 Nays 1

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Other Related Meeting Documents

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By Senator Garcia

36-00652A-26

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to child welfare; amending s. 39.407, F.S.; providing that a new medical report relating to the provision of psychotropic medication to a child in the legal custody of the Department of Children and Families may be required only under certain circumstances; revising qualifications for persons who may serve as qualified evaluators for a certain purpose; amending s. 409.175, F.S.; revising the definition of the terms "personnel" and "placement screening"; amending s. 409.912, F.S.; requiring a physician to provide to a pharmacy a copy of certain documentation, rather than a signed attestation, with certain prescriptions; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) and paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section 39.407, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

39.407 Medical, psychiatric, and psychological examination and treatment of child; physical, mental, or substance abuse examination of person with or requesting child custody.—

(3)

(c) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (e), the department must file a motion seeking the court's authorization to initially provide or continue to provide psychotropic medication to a child in its legal custody. The motion must be supported by a written report prepared by the department which

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describes the efforts made to enable the prescribing physician or psychiatric nurse, as defined in s. 394.455, to obtain express and informed consent for providing the medication to the child and other treatments considered or recommended for the child. In addition, the motion must be supported by the prescribing physician's or psychiatric nurse's signed medical report providing:

1. The name of the child, the name and range of the dosage of the psychotropic medication, and that there is a need to prescribe psychotropic medication to the child based upon a diagnosed condition for which such medication is being prescribed.

2. A statement indicating that the physician or psychiatric nurse, as defined in s. 394.455, has reviewed all medical information concerning the child which has been provided.

3. A statement indicating that the psychotropic medication, at its prescribed dosage, is appropriate for treating the child's diagnosed medical condition, as well as the behaviors and symptoms the medication, at its prescribed dosage, is expected to address.

4. An explanation of the nature and purpose of the treatment; the recognized side effects, risks, and contraindications of the medication; drug-interaction precautions; the possible effects of stopping the medication; and how the treatment will be monitored, followed by a statement indicating that this explanation was provided to the child if age appropriate and to the child's caregiver.

5. Documentation addressing whether the psychotropic medication will replace or supplement any other currently

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59 prescribed medications or treatments; the length of time the  
60 child is expected to be taking the medication; and any  
61 additional medical, mental health, behavioral, counseling, or  
62 other services that the prescribing physician or psychiatric  
63 nurse, as defined in s. 394.455, recommends.

64  
65 A new medical report may be required only when there is a change  
66 in the dosage or dosage range of the medication, the type of  
67 medication prescribed, the manner of administration of the  
68 medication, or the prescribing physician or psychiatric nurse.  
69 For purposes of this paragraph, prescribing physicians and  
70 psychiatric nurses belonging to the same group practice are  
71 considered a single prescriber.

72 (6) Children in the legal custody of the department may be  
73 placed by the department, without prior approval of the court,  
74 in a residential treatment center licensed under s. 394.875 or a  
75 hospital licensed under chapter 395 for residential mental  
76 health treatment only pursuant to this section or may be placed  
77 by the court in accordance with an order of involuntary  
78 examination or involuntary placement entered pursuant to s.  
79 394.463 or s. 394.467. All children placed in a residential  
80 treatment program under this subsection must have a guardian ad  
81 litem appointed.

82 (b) Whenever the department believes that a child in its  
83 legal custody is emotionally disturbed and may need residential  
84 treatment, an examination and suitability assessment must be  
85 conducted by a qualified evaluator appointed by the department.  
86 This suitability assessment must be completed before the  
87 placement of the child in a residential treatment program.

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88       ~~1.~~ The qualified evaluator for placement in a residential  
89 treatment center, ~~other than a~~ therapeutic group home, or a  
90 hospital must be a psychiatrist or a psychologist licensed in  
91 this state who has at least 3 years of experience in the  
92 diagnosis and treatment of serious emotional disturbances in  
93 children and adolescents or a licensed clinical social worker or  
94 licensed marriage and family therapist with comparable  
95 experience. In addition, the qualified evaluator may not have an  
96 ~~and who has no~~ actual or perceived conflict of interest with any  
97 inpatient facility or residential treatment center or program.

98       ~~2.~~ ~~The qualified evaluator for placement in a therapeutic~~  
99 ~~group home must be a psychiatrist licensed under chapter 458 or~~  
100 ~~chapter 459, a psychologist licensed under chapter 490, or a~~  
101 ~~mental health counselor licensed under chapter 491 who has at~~  
102 ~~least 2 years of experience in the diagnosis and treatment of~~  
103 ~~serious emotional or behavioral disturbance in children and~~  
104 ~~adolescents and who has no actual or perceived conflict of~~  
105 ~~interest with any residential treatment center or program.~~

106       Section 2. Paragraphs (j) and (k) of subsection (2) of  
107 section 409.175, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

108       409.175 Licensure of family foster homes, residential  
109 child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies; public  
110 records exemption.—

111       (2) As used in this section, the term:

112       (j) "Personnel" means all owners, operators, employees, and  
113 volunteers working in a child-placing agency or residential  
114 child-caring agency who may be employed by or do volunteer work  
115 for a person, corporation, or agency that holds a license as a  
116 child-placing agency or a residential child-caring agency, but

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the term does not include those who do not work on the premises where child care is furnished and have no direct contact with a child or have no contact with a child outside of the presence of the child's parent or guardian. For purposes of screening, the term includes any member, over the age of 12 years, of the family of the owner or operator or any person other than a client, a child who is found to be dependent as defined in s. 39.01, or a child as defined in s. 39.6251(1), over the age of 12 years, residing with the owner or operator if the agency is located in or adjacent to the home of the owner or operator or if the family member of, or person residing with, the owner or operator has any direct contact with the children. Members of the family of the owner or operator, or persons residing with the owner or operator, who are between the ages of 12 years and 18 years are not required to be fingerprinted, but must be screened for delinquency records. For purposes of screening, the term also includes owners, operators, employees, and volunteers working in summer day camps, or summer 24-hour camps providing care for children. A volunteer who assists on an intermittent basis for less than 10 hours per month shall not be included in the term "personnel" for the purposes of screening if a person who meets the screening requirement of this section is always present and has the volunteer in his or her line of sight.

(k) "Placement screening" means the act of assessing the background of household members in the family foster home and includes, but is not limited to, criminal history records checks as provided in s. 39.0138 using the standards for screening set forth in that section. The term "household member" means a member of the family or a person, other than the child being



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placed, a child who is found to be dependent as defined in s. 39.01, or a child as defined in s. 39.6251(1), over the age of 12 years who resides with the owner who operates the family foster home if such family member or person has any direct contact with the child. Household members who are between the ages of 12 and 18 years are not required to be fingerprinted but must be screened for delinquency records.

Section 3. Subsection (13) of section 409.912, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.912 Cost-effective purchasing of health care.—The agency shall purchase goods and services for Medicaid recipients in the most cost-effective manner consistent with the delivery of quality medical care. To ensure that medical services are effectively utilized, the agency may, in any case, require a confirmation or second physician's opinion of the correct diagnosis for purposes of authorizing future services under the Medicaid program. This section does not restrict access to emergency services or poststabilization care services as defined in 42 C.F.R. s. 438.114. Such confirmation or second opinion shall be rendered in a manner approved by the agency. The agency shall maximize the use of prepaid per capita and prepaid aggregate fixed-sum basis services when appropriate and other alternative service delivery and reimbursement methodologies, including competitive bidding pursuant to s. 287.057, designed to facilitate the cost-effective purchase of a case-managed continuum of care. The agency shall also require providers to minimize the exposure of recipients to the need for acute inpatient, custodial, and other institutional care and the inappropriate or unnecessary use of high-cost services. The

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agency shall contract with a vendor to monitor and evaluate the clinical practice patterns of providers in order to identify trends that are outside the normal practice patterns of a provider's professional peers or the national guidelines of a provider's professional association. The vendor must be able to provide information and counseling to a provider whose practice patterns are outside the norms, in consultation with the agency, to improve patient care and reduce inappropriate utilization. The agency may mandate prior authorization, drug therapy management, or disease management participation for certain populations of Medicaid beneficiaries, certain drug classes, or particular drugs to prevent fraud, abuse, overuse, and possible dangerous drug interactions. The Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee shall make recommendations to the agency on drugs for which prior authorization is required. The agency shall inform the Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee of its decisions regarding drugs subject to prior authorization. The agency is authorized to limit the entities it contracts with or enrolls as Medicaid providers by developing a provider network through provider credentialing. The agency may competitively bid single-source-provider contracts if procurement of goods or services results in demonstrated cost savings to the state without limiting access to care. The agency may limit its network based on the assessment of beneficiary access to care, provider availability, provider quality standards, time and distance standards for access to care, the cultural competence of the provider network, demographic characteristics of Medicaid beneficiaries, practice and provider-to-beneficiary standards, appointment wait times, beneficiary use of services, provider

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turnover, provider profiling, provider licensure history, previous program integrity investigations and findings, peer review, provider Medicaid policy and billing compliance records, clinical and medical record audits, and other factors. Providers are not entitled to enrollment in the Medicaid provider network. The agency shall determine instances in which allowing Medicaid beneficiaries to purchase durable medical equipment and other goods is less expensive to the Medicaid program than long-term rental of the equipment or goods. The agency may establish rules to facilitate purchases in lieu of long-term rentals in order to protect against fraud and abuse in the Medicaid program as defined in s. 409.913. The agency may seek federal waivers necessary to administer these policies.

(13) The agency may not pay for psychotropic medication prescribed for a child in the Medicaid program without the express and informed consent of the child's parent or legal guardian. The physician shall document the consent in the child's medical record and provide a copy of such documentation to the pharmacy ~~with a signed attestation of this documentation~~ with the prescription. The express and informed consent or court authorization for a prescription of psychotropic medication for a child in the custody of the Department of Children and Families shall be obtained pursuant to s. 39.407.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

January 20, 2026

Meeting Date  
Children & Families

The Florida Senate  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

560

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name **Barney Bishop**

Phone **8505109922**

Address **1454 Vieux Carre Drive**  
Street

Email **Barney@BarneyBishop.com**

**Tallahassee**

**FL**

**32308**

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☐ I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

**Florida Smart Justice Alliance**

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

*While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)*

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)



964050

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
01/20/2026	.	
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The Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs (Garcia) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with directory and title amendments)**

Delete lines 72 - 105  
and insert:

Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (e) of subsection (2) and paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 409.1451, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraphs (d) and (e) are added to subsection (6) of that section, to read:

409.1451 The Road-to-Independence Program.—

(2) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SERVICES AND SUPPORT.—



964050

11 (a) A young adult is eligible for services and support  
12 under this subsection if he or she:

13 1. Was living in licensed care on his or her 18th birthday  
14 or is currently living in licensed care; or was at least 14  
15 years of age and was adopted from foster care or placed with a  
16 court-approved dependency guardian after spending at least 6  
17 months in licensed care within the 12 months immediately  
18 preceding such placement or adoption;

19 2. Spent at least 6 months in licensed care before reaching  
20 his or her 18th birthday;

21 3. Earned a standard high school diploma pursuant to s.  
22 1002.3105(5), s. 1003.4281, or s. 1003.4282, or its equivalent  
23 pursuant to s. 1003.435;

24 4. Has been admitted for enrollment as a full-time student  
25 or its equivalent in an eligible postsecondary educational  
26 institution as provided in s. 1009.533. For purposes of this  
27 section, the term "full-time" means 9 credit hours or the  
28 vocational school equivalent. A student may enroll part-time if  
29 he or she has a recognized disability or is faced with another  
30 challenge or circumstance that would prevent full-time  
31 attendance. A student needing to enroll part-time for any reason  
32 other than having a recognized disability must get approval from  
33 his or her academic advisor;

34 5. Has reached 18 years of age but is not yet 26 ~~23~~ years  
35 of age;

36 6. Has applied, with assistance from the young adult's  
37 caregiver and the community-based lead agency, for any other  
38 grants and scholarships for which he or she may qualify;

39 7. Submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid



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which is complete and error free; and

8. Signed an agreement to allow the department and the community-based care lead agency access to school records.

(e)1. The department must advertise the availability of the stipend and must provide notification of the criteria and application procedures for the stipend to children and young adults leaving, or who were formerly in, foster care; caregivers; case managers; guidance and family services counselors; principals or other relevant school administrators; and guardians ad litem.

2. If the award recipient transfers from one eligible institution to another and continues to meet eligibility requirements, the award shall be transferred with the recipient.

3. The department, or an agency under contract with the department, shall evaluate each Road-to-Independence award for renewal eligibility on an annual basis. In order to be eligible for a renewal award for the subsequent year, the young adult must:

a. Be enrolled for or have completed the number of hours, or the equivalent, to be considered a full-time student under subparagraph (a)4., unless the young adult qualifies for an exception under subparagraph (a)4.

b. Maintain standards of academic progress as defined by the education institution, except that if the young adult's progress is insufficient to renew the award at any time during the eligibility period, the young adult may continue to be enrolled for additional terms while attempting to restore eligibility as long as progress towards the required level is maintained.



964050

69        c. Not have exceeded the lifetime limit of 60 months of  
70 financial assistance for services and support provided under  
71 this subsection. The lifetime limit applies without exception  
72 and regardless of whether the award recipient receives the  
73 services and support under this subsection in consecutive or  
74 nonconsecutive months.

75        4. Funds may be terminated during the interim between an  
76 award and the evaluation for a renewal award if the department,  
77 or an agency under contract with the department, determines that  
78 the award recipient is no longer enrolled in an educational  
79 institution as described in subparagraph (a)4. or is no longer a  
80 resident of this state.

81        5. The department, or an agency under contract with the  
82 department, shall notify a recipient who is terminated and  
83 inform the recipient of his or her right to appeal.

84        6. An award recipient who does not qualify for a renewal  
85 award or who chooses not to renew the award may apply for  
86 reinstatement. An application for reinstatement must be made  
87 before the young adult reaches 26 ~~23~~ years of age. In order to  
88 be eligible for reinstatement, the young adult must meet the  
89 eligibility criteria and the criteria for award renewal for the  
90 program.

91        7. The department, or an agency under contract with the  
92 department, shall work with the young adult to create a  
93 financial plan that is guided by the young adult's financial  
94 goals in meeting his or her needs while in postsecondary  
95 education. The financial plan must be included in the transition  
96 plan required under s. 39.6035. The department, or an agency  
97 under contract with the department, shall review and, if





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necessary, update the financial plan with the young adult every 6 months until funding under this subsection is no longer provided.

8. The department, or an agency under contract with the department, shall review with the young adult the transition plan required under s. 39.6035 during the year before the young adult graduates from postsecondary education or the year before the young adult reaches 26 ~~23~~ years of age, whichever occurs first. The transition plan must include an assessment of the young adult's current and future needs and challenges for self-sufficiency and address, at a minimum, how the young adult will meet his or her financial needs and obligations when funding under this subsection is no longer provided.

(3) AFTERCARE SERVICES.—

(a)1. Aftercare services are available to a young adult who has reached 18 years of age but is not yet 26 ~~23~~ years of age and is:

a. Not in foster care.

b. Temporarily not receiving financial assistance under subsection (2) to pursue postsecondary education.

2. Subject to available funding, aftercare services are also available to a young adult who is between the ages of 18 and 25 ~~22~~, and is:

a. Receiving financial assistance under subsection (2), is experiencing an emergency situation, requires services as specified in subparagraph (b)8., and whose resources are insufficient to meet the emergency situation. Such assistance shall be in addition to any amount specified in paragraph (2)(b); or



964050

b. Was placed by a court in out-of-home care pursuant to chapter 39, lived in out-of-home care for at least 6 months after turning 14 years of age, and did not achieve reunification with his or her parent or guardian.

(6) ACCOUNTABILITY.—The department shall develop outcome measures for the program and other performance measures in order to maintain oversight of the program. No later than January 31 of each year, the department shall prepare a report on the outcome measures and the department's oversight activities and submit the report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the committees with jurisdiction over issues relating to children and families in the Senate and the House of Representatives. The report must include:

(d) Specific metrics for postsecondary education services and support provided under subsection (2). Such metrics must be aggregated on a statewide basis and disaggregated by community-based care lead agency, age, race, and postsecondary educational institution type as provided in s. 1009.533. Such metrics must include, but are not limited to, the following information for the preceding state fiscal year:

1. The total number of young adults eligible for services and support under subsection (2).

2. The total number of applicants and the total number of applicants approved for financial assistance under subsection (2).

3. The rate of housing instability or homelessness experienced by award recipients during their enrollment period.

4. The percentage of award recipients described in



964050

subparagraph 3. who also received financial assistance under subsection (3) and the average amount of such assistance.

5. The primary reason for an award recipient's termination, discontinuation, or nonrenewal under the program, including, but not limited to, academic deficiency, voluntary withdrawal, reaching the age limit, or reaching the lifetime limit.

6. The educational achievements of award recipients, including, but not limited to:

a. The postsecondary student retention rate, expressed as a percentage of award recipients who remain continuously enrolled or reenroll for the subsequent academic term.

b. The postsecondary degree, certificate, or vocational program completion rate.

c. The average time in which award recipients complete their program of study.

d. The average unweighted grade point average of award recipients, aggregated on a statewide basis and disaggregated only by postsecondary educational institution type as provided in s. 1009.533.

e. The percentage of award recipients who graduated from a postsecondary educational institution.

(e) Specific metrics for aftercare services provided under subsection (3). Such metrics must be aggregated on a statewide basis and disaggregated by community-based care lead agency, age, race, and postsecondary educational institution type as provided in s. 1009.533. Such metrics must include, but are not limited to, the following information for the preceding state fiscal year:

1. The total number of young adults eligible for the



964050

aftercare services under subsection (3).

2. The total number of young adults who received aftercare services.

3. The average duration of a young adult's participation in the program.

4. The primary reason that a young adult seeks aftercare services.

5. The total number of financial assistance disbursements made under subparagraph (3)(b)7. for necessities or under subparagraph (3)(b)8. for emergency situations.

6. The utilization rate of key aftercare components, including, but not limited to, the percentage of participants who:

a. Receive mentoring or tutoring services.

b. Receive mental health or substance abuse counseling referrals.

c. Complete a life skill class, which may include, but is not limited to, a financial literacy or credit management class.

d. Receive job or career skills training.

e. Report housing stability within 90 days after receiving housing-related assistance, which may include, but is not limited to, security deposits for rent and utilities.

f. Enroll in educational or vocational programs, including, but not limited to, the postsecondary education services and support provided under subsection (2), while receiving at least one aftercare service disbursement.

===== D I R E C T O R Y C L A U S E A M E N D M E N T =====

And the directory clause is amended as follows:



964050

214 Delete lines 18 - 19  
215 and insert:  
216 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section  
217 39.407, Florida Statutes, is  
218  
219 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====  
220 And the title is amended as follows:  
221 Delete lines 7 - 9  
222 and insert:  
223 circumstances; amending s. 409.1451, F.S.; increasing  
224 the maximum age of eligibility for certain  
225 postsecondary education services and support and  
226 aftercare services; revising the requirements for a  
227 renewal award of postsecondary education services and  
228 support; requiring the inclusion of specific metrics  
229 for measuring outcomes and performance of  
230 postsecondary education services and support and  
231 aftercare services in a certain annual report;  
232 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
233 amending s. 409.175, F.S.; revising the



701698

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
01/20/2026	.	
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	.	
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The Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs (Garcia) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment to Amendment (964050) (with directory and title amendments)**

Delete lines 111 - 130.

===== D I R E C T O R Y C L A U S E A M E N D M E N T =====

And the directory clause is amended as follows:

Delete lines 5 - 6

and insert:

Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (e) of subsection (2) of



701698

section 409.1451, Florida

===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 225 - 226

and insert:

postsecondary education services and support; revising  
the requirements for a

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

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BILL: CS/SB 560

INTRODUCER: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee Senator Garcia

SUBJECT: Child Welfare

DATE: January 20, 2025

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Rao	Tuszynski	CF	Fav/CS
2.			HP	
3.			RC	

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**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

PLEASE MAKE SELECTION

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**I. Summary:**

CS/SB 560 streamlines the procedures to provide or continue a psychotropic medication prescription for a child in the legal custody of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The bill clarifies the instances in which a *new* medical report must be filed and considers prescribing physicians and psychiatric nurses that belong to the same group practice as a single prescriber, removing potentially unnecessary and duplicative medical reports.

The bill expands the Postsecondary Education Services and Support (PESS) services available to young adults aging out of the foster care system. Specifically, the bill allows an individual who has not received PESS financial assistance for longer than 60 months to renew PESS services, provided he or she meets the other eligibility requirements. The bill clarifies that the lifetime limit of 60 months applies whether the 60 months were consecutive or nonconsecutive.

The bill creates reporting requirements for the DCF for the PESS program and aftercare services. The metrics must be aggregated on a statewide basis and disaggregated by CBC lead agency, age, race, and postsecondary educational institution type.

The bill excludes dependent children or children in continuing care who have not yet reached 21 years of age from being subject to background screening requirements, to reduce duplicative screenings.



The bill requires physicians that prescribe psychotropic medication to a child in the Medicaid program to provide the pharmacy filling the prescription with a *copy* of the parent or legal guardian's consent, rather than a *signed attestation* of consent.

The bill may have an indeterminate positive fiscal impact on the private sector and an indeterminate negative fiscal impact on the state.

The bill is effective July 1, 2026.

## II. Present Situation:

### Florida's Child Welfare System

Chapter 39, F.S., creates Florida's dependency system charged with protecting children who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected.<sup>1</sup> Florida's child welfare system identifies children and families in need of services through reports to the central abuse hotline and child protective investigations.<sup>2</sup> The Department of Children and Families (DCF) and community-based care (CBC) lead agencies<sup>3</sup> work with those families to address the problems endangering children, if possible. If the problems cannot be addressed, the child welfare system finds safe out-of-home placements for these children.<sup>4</sup>

The department's practice model for child and family well-being is a safety-focused, trauma-informed, and family-centered approach. It is implemented to ensure:

- Permanency. Florida's children should enjoy long-term, secure relationships within strong families and communities.
- Child Well-Being. Florida's children should be physically and emotionally healthy and socially competent.
- Safety. Florida's children should live free from maltreatment.
- Family Well-Being. Florida's families should nurture, protect, and meet the needs of their children, and should be well integrated into their communities.<sup>5</sup>

The department contracts with community-based care (CBC) lead agencies for case management, out-of-home services, and related services for children and families.<sup>6</sup> The outsourced provision of child welfare services is intended to increase local community

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<sup>1</sup> Chapter 39, F.S.

<sup>2</sup> See generally s. 39.101, F.S. (establishing the central abuse hotline and timeframes for initiating investigations).

<sup>3</sup> See s. 409.986(1)(a), F.S. (finding that it is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Children and Families "provide child protection and child welfare services to children through contracting with CBC lead agencies"). A "community-based care lead agency" or "lead agency" means a single entity with which the DCF has a contract for the provision of care for children in the child protection and child welfare system, in a community that is no smaller than a county and no larger than two contiguous judicial circuits. Section 409.986(3)(d), F.S. The secretary of DCF may authorize more than one eligible lead agency within a single county if doing so will result in more effective delivery of services to children. *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> Chapter 39, F.S.

<sup>5</sup> See generally Department of Children and Families (DCF), *Florida's Child Welfare Practice Model*, available at: [https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2022-12/FLCSPPracticeModel\\_0.pdf](https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2022-12/FLCSPPracticeModel_0.pdf) (last visited 1/14/25).

<sup>6</sup> Section 409.986(3)(e), F.S.; see generally Part V, Chapter 409, F.S. (regulating community-based child welfare).

ownership of the services provided and their design. Lead agencies contract with many subcontractors for case management and direct-care services to children and their families.<sup>7</sup> There are 16 lead agencies statewide that serve the states 20 judicial circuits.<sup>8</sup> Ultimately, the DCF remains responsible for the operation of the central abuse hotline and investigations of abuse, abandonment, and neglect.<sup>9</sup> Additionally, the department is responsible for all program oversight and the overall performance of the child welfare system.<sup>10</sup>

### ***Dependency System Process***

In some instances, services may not be enough to maintain a safe environment for a child to live in. When child welfare necessitates that the DCF remove a child from the home to ensure his or her safety, a series of dependency court proceedings must occur to place the child in an out-of-home placement, adjudicate the child dependent, and if necessary, terminate parental rights and free the child for adoption. This process is typically triggered by a report to the central abuse hotline and a child protective investigation that determines the child should not remain in his or her home, notwithstanding services DCF provides. Generally, the dependency process includes, but is not limited to:

- A report to the central abuse hotline.
- A child protective investigation to determine the safety of the child.
- A court finding that the child is dependent.<sup>11</sup>
- Case planning to address the problems that resulted in the child's dependency.
- Reunification with the child's parent or another option, such as adoption, to establish permanency.<sup>12</sup>

A child is found to be dependent if he or she is found by the court to be:<sup>13</sup>

- Abandoned, abused, or neglected by a parent or legal custodian;
- Surrendered to the DCF or a licensed child-placing agency for purpose of adoption;
- Voluntarily placed with a licensed child-caring agency, a licensed child-placing agency, an adult relative, the DCF, or the former Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, after which placement, under the requirements of Ch. 39, F.S., a case plan has expired and the parent or parents or legal custodians have failed to substantially comply with the requirements of the plan;

<sup>7</sup> Department of Children and Families, *About Community-Based Care (CBC)*, available at:

<https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-and-family-well-being/community-based-care/about> (last visited 1/14/25).

<sup>8</sup> Department of Children and Families, *Lead Agency Information*, available at: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-family/child-and-family-well-being/community-based-care/lead-agency-information> (last visited 1/14/25).

<sup>9</sup> Section 39.101, F.S.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> A “child who is found to be dependent” refers to a child who is found by the court: to have been abandoned, abused, or neglected by the child's parents or legal custodians; to have been surrendered to the DCF or licensed child-placing agency for the purpose of adoption; to have parents or legal custodians that failed to substantially comply with the requirements of a case plan for the purpose of reunification; to have been voluntarily placed with a licensed child-placing agency for the purposes of subsequent adoption; to have no parent or legal custodians capable of providing supervision and care; to be at substantial risk of imminent abuse, abandonment, or neglect; or to have been sexually exploited and to have no parent, legal custodian, or responsible adult relative available to provide the necessary and appropriate supervision. Section 39.01(15), F.S.

<sup>12</sup> Office of the State Courts Administrator, The Office of Family Courts, *A Caregiver's Guide to Dependency Court*, available at: <https://flcourts-media.flcourts.gov/content/download/218185/file/Web-Caregivers-Guide-Final-09.pdf> (last visited 1/14/25); see also ch. 39, F.S.

<sup>13</sup> Section 39.01(15), F.S.

- Voluntarily placed with a licensed child-placing agency for the purposes of subsequent adoption, and a parent or parents have signed a consent pursuant to the Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure;
- Have no parent or legal custodian capable of providing supervision and care;
- Are at substantial risk of imminent abuse, abandonment, or neglect by the parent or parents or legal custodians; or
- Have been sexually exploited and have no parent, legal custodian, or responsible adult relative currently known and capable of providing the necessary and appropriate supervision and care.

A petition for dependency may be filed by an attorney for the DCF or another person who has knowledge of the facts alleged or is informed of them and believes they are true.<sup>14</sup>

### ***Florida's Independent Living Services***

The DCF strives to achieve permanency for all children in care before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.<sup>15</sup> However, a child will “age out” of care upon reaching 18 years of age if a permanent placement is not found.<sup>16</sup> From December 2024 to December 2025, there were 823 young adults that aged out of the foster care system.<sup>17</sup>

Florida provides independent living services to young adults to help them transition out of foster care and to prepare them to become self-sufficient adults. In 2013, the Legislature created the extended foster care (EFC) program, which allows young adults who were in licensed foster care upon turning 18 years of age to remain in licensed care if he or she meets certain work or education requirements.<sup>18</sup> Additionally, the Road-to-Independence Program, established in 2013,<sup>19</sup> provides for the Postsecondary Education Services and Support (PESS) Program and Aftercare Services (Aftercare). The following table provides information on the eligibility requirements to participate in Florida's independent living programs and the services provided by each:

<b>Florida's Independent Living Programs</b>		
<b>Program</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>	<b>Services</b>
Extended Foster Care (EFC) <sup>20</sup>	<p>A child living in licensed care on his or her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday who has not achieved permanency and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential;</li> </ul>	Young adults may choose to remain in licensed foster care and receive foster care services until the age of 21

<sup>14</sup> Section 39.501, F.S.

<sup>15</sup> Section 39.01, F.S., Section 39.621, F.S. lists the permanency goals, in order of preference, as: (1) reunification; (2) reunification; (3) adoption, if a petition for termination of parental rights has been or will be filed; (4) permanent guardianship; (5) permanent placement with a fit and willing relative; or (6) placement in another planned permanent living arrangement.

<sup>16</sup> 65C-30.022, F.A.C.

<sup>17</sup> Florida Department of Children and Families, *Office of Child and Family Well-Being Dashboard*, available at: <https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoieYzcZTFjOTktYzg1NC00MjJmLTlhMzgtYzU0Nzg0MDFhMmMzIiwidCI6ImY3MGRiYTO4LWlYODMtNGM1Ny04ODMxLWNiNDExNDQ1YTk0YyJ9> (last visited 1/20/26).

<sup>18</sup> Ch. 2013-178, L.O.F.

<sup>19</sup> Ch. 2013-178, L.O.F.

<sup>20</sup> Section 39.6251, F.S.

Florida's Independent Living Programs		
Program	Eligibility	Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary or vocational education;</li> <li>Participating in a program or activity designed to promote or eliminate barriers to employment;</li> <li>Employed for at least 80 hours per month; or</li> <li>Is unable to participate in the programs or activities listed above due to a physical, intellectual, emotional, or psychiatric condition that limits participation.</li> </ul> <p>To stay in EFC, the young adult must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet with a case manager monthly.</li> <li>Continue to participate in a required activity.</li> </ul> <p>A young adult may remain in EFC until the earliest date the young adult:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reaches 21 years of age, or, in the case of a young adult with a disability, reaches 22 years of age;</li> <li>Leaves care to live in a permanent home consistent with his or her permanency plan; or</li> <li>Knowingly and voluntarily withdraws his or her consent to participate in EFC.</li> </ul>	(or until 22 years of age if the child has a disability).
Postsecondary Education Services and Support (PESS) <sup>21</sup>	<p>Young adults who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turned 18 years of age in foster care or is currently living in foster care; or</li> <li>Was at least 14 years of age and was adopted from foster care or placed with a court-approved dependency guardian after spending at least 6 months in licensed care within the 12 months immediately preceding such placement or adoption; <b>and</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spent at least 6 months in licensed care before reaching his or her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday;</li> <li>Earned a high school diploma or equivalent;</li> <li>Are attending a college or vocational school that is Bright Futures eligible;</li> <li>Has reached 18 years of age but not 23 years of age.</li> <li>Has applied for grants and scholarships;</li> <li>Has submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid; and</li> <li>Signed an agreement to allow the DCF and CBC lead agency access to school records.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	\$1,720 monthly or the monthly room and board rate, depending on the eligibility conditions the child meets.
Aftercare <sup>22</sup>	<p>Young adults who have reached 18 years of age but are not yet 23 and are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not in EFC.</li> <li>Temporarily not receiving PESS.</li> </ul> <p>Subject to available funding, aftercare services are also available to a young adult who is between the ages of 18 and 22, and is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receiving PESS during an emergency situation but lacks the sufficient resources to meet the emergency situation; or</li> </ul>	<p>Services include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mentoring and tutoring.</li> <li>Mental health and substance abuse counseling.</li> <li>Life skills classes.</li> </ul>

<sup>21</sup> Section 409.1451(2), F.S.<sup>22</sup> Section 409.1451(3), F.S.

Florida's Independent Living Programs		
Program	Eligibility	Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Was placed by a court in out-of-home care, lived in out-of-home care for at least 6 months after turning 14 years of age, and did not achieve reunification with his or her parent or guardian.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parenting classes.</li> <li>Job and career skills training.</li> <li>Counselor consultations.</li> <li>Temporary financial assistance.</li> </ul>

### Psychotropic Medications for Children in the Child Welfare System

Psychotropic medication refers to any medication prescribed with the intent to stabilize or improve mood, mental status, behavioral symptomatology, or mental illness that have the effect of altering brain chemistry.<sup>23</sup> The following medications are considered psychotropic medications:<sup>24</sup>

- Antipsychotics;
- Antidepressants;
- Sedative Hypnotics;
- Lithium;
- Stimulants;
- Non-stimulant Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder medication;
- Anti-dementia medications and cognition enhancers; and
- Anticonvulsants.

In the early 2000s, reports began to circulate that children in the child welfare system were being prescribed psychotropic medications at a disproportionate rate when compared to children not in the child welfare system.<sup>25</sup> Thus, states examined the procedures for prescribing children psychotropic medication while in out-of-home care.

In 2005, the Florida Legislature created statutory procedures that allowed the DCF to provide children with psychotropic medications.<sup>26</sup> The Legislature created different sets of procedures for initiating psychotropic medication for children that were not taking psychotropic medication at the time of removal, and children that had a current prescription for psychotropic medication at the time of removal.<sup>27</sup>

As of December 22, 2025, there were 2,036 children in out-of-home care that had one or more current prescriptions for psychotropic medication.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>23</sup> 65C-35.001(22), F.A.C.

<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

<sup>25</sup> National Library of Medicine, *State Variation in Psychotropic Medication Use by Foster Care Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*, doi: 10.1542/peds.2008-3713, available at: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19620187/> (last visited 1/14/25).

<sup>26</sup> Chapter 2005-65, L.O.F.

<sup>27</sup> *Id.*

<sup>28</sup> Florida Department of Children and Families, *Psychotropic Medications Report for Children in Out-of-Home Care with One or More Current Prescriptions for a Psychotropic Medication*, available at:

### Initiating the Prescription of Psychotropic Medications to a Child in Out-of-Home Care

When a child protective investigator (CPI) takes a child into the custody of the DCF, the CPI is required to ascertain if the child is taking psychotropic medications.<sup>29</sup> If the child is not currently on psychotropic medication but an assessment of the child determines the need for such medication, a prescribing physician or psychiatric nurse<sup>30</sup> may prescribe the child psychotropic medications, providing certain conditions are met.<sup>31</sup> The physician or psychiatric nurse is required to consider alternate treatment interventions and assess the child's prior health conditions to determine if the prescription of psychotropic medication is an appropriate treatment.<sup>32</sup> Additionally, the prescribing physician or psychiatric nurse must attempt to obtain express and informed consent<sup>33</sup> from the child's parent or legal guardian before prescribing the psychotropic medication.<sup>34</sup> Child protective staff and the prescribing physician or psychiatric nurse are required to make efforts to involve the parents, legal guardians, the child, and the child's caregiver in out-of-home placement during the treatment of the child.<sup>35</sup>

The DCF may seek court authorization to provide psychotropic medications to a child if the parental rights of the parent have been terminated, the parent's location or identity is unknown and cannot be reasonably ascertained, or the parent declines to give express and informed consent.<sup>36</sup>

### Continuity of Psychotropic Medication Prescription

If a child taken into the custody of the DCF is taking psychotropic medications at the time of removal, the CPI is required to determine the following:<sup>37</sup>

- The purpose of the medication;
- The name and phone number of the prescribing physician or psychiatric nurse;
- The dosage;
- Instructions regarding the administration of the medication (e.g. timing, whether to administer with food); and
- Any other relevant information.

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<https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2025-12/Gabriel%20Myers%20-%20Medication%20Report%20%28December%2023%202025%29.pdf> (last visited 1/12/26).

<sup>29</sup> 65C-35.006, F.A.C.

<sup>30</sup> For use in this section, a "psychiatric nurse" uses the definition in s. 394.455, F.S. to refer to an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under s. 464.012, F.S. who has a master's or doctoral degree in psychiatric nursing and holds a national advanced practice certification as a psychiatric mental health advanced practice nurse, and has one year of post-master's clinical experience under the supervision of a physician. *See* Section 39.407(3)(a)1., F.S.

<sup>31</sup> 65C-35.002, F.A.C. and 65C-35.006, F.A.C.

<sup>32</sup> 65C-35.002, F.A.C.

<sup>33</sup> Express and informed consent refers to consent voluntarily given in writing, by a competent person, after sufficient explanation and disclosure of the subject matter involved to enable the person to make a knowing and willful decision without any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, or other form of constraint or coercion. *See* Section 394.455(16), F.S.

<sup>34</sup> Section 39.407, F.S.

<sup>35</sup> 65C-35.003-65C-35.005, F.A.C. *See also* Section 39.407(3)(a)1., F.S.

<sup>36</sup> Section 39.407(3)(a)1., F.S.

<sup>37</sup> 65C-35.006, F.A.C.

Florida law details the process that the DCF must take to obtain authorization to continue the provision of psychotropic medications to a child removed from his or her home.<sup>38</sup> Additionally, once the DCF has obtained this authorization, the DCF has administrative rules to ensure that children receive timely access to clinically appropriate psychotropic medications.<sup>39</sup> Current law requires these rules to include, but need not be limited to, the following:<sup>40</sup>

- The process for determining which adjunctive services are needed;
- The uniform process for facilitating the prescribing physician's or psychiatric nurse's ability to obtain the express and informed consent of a child's parent or guardian;
- The procedures for obtaining court authorization for the provision of psychotropic medication;
- The frequency of medical monitoring and reporting on the status of the child to the court;
- How the child's parents will be involved in the treatment-planning process if their parental rights have not been terminated;
- How caretakers are to be provided with information contained in the physician's or psychiatric nurse's signed medical report; and
- Uniform forms to be used in requesting court authorization for the use of a psychotropic medication and provide for the integration of each child's treatment plan and case plan.

#### Medical Reports

When the DCF files a motion to seek the court's authorization to initiate or continue the provision of psychotropic medication to a child in legal custody, the motion must include a medical report signed by the prescribing physician or psychiatric nurse.<sup>41</sup> The medical report must include the following:<sup>42</sup>

- The name of the child, the name and range of the dosage of psychotropic medication, and that there is a need to prescribe psychotropic medication to the child based upon a diagnosed condition for which such medication is being prescribed.
- A statement indicating that the physician or psychiatric nurse has reviewed all medical information concerning the child which has been provided.
- A statement indicating that the psychotropic medication, at its prescribed dosage, is appropriate for treating the child's diagnoses medical condition, as well as the behaviors and symptoms the medication, at its prescribed dosage, is expected to address.
- An explanation of the nature and purpose of the treatment; the recognized side effects, risks, and contraindications of the medication; and how the treatment will be monitored, followed by a statement indicating that this explanation was provided to the child if age appropriate and to the child's caregiver.
- Documentation addressing whether the psychotropic medication will replace or supplement any other currently prescribed medications or treatments; the length of time the child is expected to be taking the medication; and any additional medical, mental health, behavioral, counseling, or other services that the prescribing physician or psychiatric nurse recommends.

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<sup>38</sup> Section 39.407, F.S.

<sup>39</sup> Section 39.407(3)(g), F.S.

<sup>40</sup> *Id.*

<sup>41</sup> Section 39.407(3)(c), F.S.

<sup>42</sup> *Id.*



## Medicaid

The Medicaid program is a joint federal-state program that finances health coverage for individuals, including eligible low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults, and persons with disabilities.<sup>43</sup> In Florida, the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) administers Medicaid.<sup>44</sup> AHCA is responsible for purchasing the goods and services Medicaid recipients receive, such as medications and medical equipment, provided the goods and services are cost-effective in a manner that is consistent with the delivery of quality medical care.<sup>45</sup>

If a child is in the Medicaid program and requires psychotropic medications, AHCA is prohibited from paying for such psychotropic medication without the express and informed consent of the child's parent or legal guardian.<sup>46</sup> Current law requires a physician to provide the pharmacy with a signed attestation of the parent or legal guardian's consent when ordering the prescription of psychotropic medication.<sup>47</sup> If the child is in the custody of the DCF, the prescription must include the express and informed consent or court authorization pursuant to the procedures listed in s. 39.407, F.S., to prescribe psychotropic medications to a child in out-of-home care.<sup>48</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

**Section 1** of the bill amends s. 39.407, F.S., which establishes procedures for the provision or continuation of a prescription for psychotropic medication for a child in the legal custody of the DCF. The bill requires a new medical report *only* when there is a change in the following:

- The dosage or dosage range of the medication;
- The type of medication prescribed;
- The manner of medication administration; or
- The prescribing physician or psychiatric nurse.

The bill considers prescribing physicians and psychiatric nurses that belong to the same group practice as a single prescriber; thus, this removes the need for multiple new medical reports if the only change in the youth's circumstance is that he or she sees a different prescribing physician or psychiatric nurse in the same practice. However, a new medical report is still required upon a change in the other aforementioned conditions (such as a change in dosage or medication administration), regardless of the prescribing physician or psychiatric nurse belonging to the same group practice.

**Section 2** of the bill amends s. 409.1451, F.S. to allow an individual who has not received PESS financial assistance for longer than the lifetime limit of 60 months to renew PESS services, provided he or she meets the other eligibility requirements. The bill clarifies that the lifetime limit of 60 months applies whether the 60 months were consecutive or nonconsecutive.

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<sup>43</sup> Medicaid.gov, *Medicaid*, available at: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid> (last visited 1/12/26).

<sup>44</sup> Agency for Health Care Administration, *Medicaid*, available at: <https://ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid> (last visited 1/12/26).

<sup>45</sup> Section 409.912, F.S.

<sup>46</sup> Section 409.912(13), F.S.

<sup>47</sup> *Id.*

<sup>48</sup> *Id.*



The bill requires the DCF to report specific metrics for both PESS and aftercare services. The metrics must be aggregated on a statewide basis and disaggregated by CBC lead agency, age, race, and postsecondary educational institution type.

The bill requires the metrics for the reporting of PESS services to include, but not be limited to, the following information for the preceding state fiscal year:

- The total number of young adults eligible for PESS services.
- The total number of applicants and the total number of applicants applied for PESS services.
- The rate of housing instability or homelessness experienced by award recipients during their enrollment period.
- The percentage of award recipients that are experiencing housing instability or homelessness who also receive financial assistance from Aftercare services, including the average amount of such assistance.
- The primary reason for an award recipient's termination, discontinuation, or nonrenewal under the PESS program, including, but not limited to, academic deficiency, voluntary withdrawal, reaching the age limit, or reaching the lifetime limit.
- The educational achievements of award recipients, including, but not limited to:
  - The postsecondary student retention rate, expressed as a percentage of award recipients who remain continuously enrolled or reenroll for the subsequent academic term.
  - The postsecondary degree, certificate, or vocational program completion rate.
  - The average time in which award recipients complete their program of study.
  - The average unweighted grade point average of award recipients, aggregated on a statewide basis and disaggregated only by postsecondary educational institution type.
  - The percentage of award recipients who graduated from a postsecondary educational institution.

The bill requires the metrics for aftercare services to include, but need not be limited to, the following information for the preceding state fiscal year:

- The total number of young adults eligible for aftercare services.
- The total number of young adults who received aftercare services.
- The average duration of a young adult's participation in the aftercare program.
- The primary reason that a young adult seeks aftercare services.
- The total number of temporary financial assistance disbursements made for necessities, including, but not limited to, education supplies, transportation expenses, security deposits for rent and utilities, furnishings, household goods, and other basic living expenses **or** temporary financial assistance to address emergency situations including, but not limited to, automobile repairs or large medical expenses.
- The utilization rate of key aftercare components, including but not limited to, the percentage of participants who:
  - Receive mentoring or tutoring services.
  - Receive mental health or substance abuse counseling referrals.
  - Complete a life skills class, which may include, but is not limited to, a financial literacy or credit management class.
  - Receive job or career skills training.
  - Report housing stability within 90 days after receiving housing-related assistance, which may include, but is not limited to, security deposits for rent and utilities.

- Enroll in educational or vocational programs, including, but not limited to, PESS services, while receiving at least one aftercare service disbursement.

**Section 3** of the bill amends s. 409.175, F.S. to exclude dependent children or children in continuing care who have not yet reached 21 years of age from the definition of “personnel” and “household member.” These changes exclude such children from being subject to background screening requirements such as fingerprinting or criminal history records checks.

**Section 4** of the bill amends s. 409.912, F.S. to require a physician prescribing psychotropic medication to a child in the Medicaid program to provide a *copy* of the parent or legal guardian’s consent to the pharmacy with the prescription, rather than a signed attestation of the parent or guardian’s consent.

**Section 5** of the bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2026.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

#### **V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

There is a potential, indeterminate, likely insignificant positive fiscal impact to the private sector relating to the reduced number of medical reports required for prescriptions of psychotropic medications for children in out-of-home care.

C. **Government Sector Impact:**

There is an indeterminate, likely significant negative fiscal impact to the state due to the expansion of the PESS program.

VI. **Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

VII. **Related Issues:**

None.

VIII. **Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 39.407, 409.1451, 409.175, 409.912

IX. **Additional Information:**

A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**CS by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs on January 20, 2026:**

- Eliminates changes made to the licensure and experience requirements for qualified evaluators of residential treatment programs, therapeutic group homes, and hospitals to maintain current law.
- Changes the renewal eligibility of Postsecondary Education Services and Support (PESS) to allow individuals who have not received PESS financial assistance for longer than 60 months to renew such services. The lifetime limit applies regardless of whether the 60 months of services were consecutive or nonconsecutive.
- Requires the DCF to report on specified metrics for PESS and aftercare services that must be aggregated on a statewide basis and disaggregated by CBC lead agency, age, race, and postsecondary institution type.

B. **Amendments:**

None.

By Senator Bradley

6-00623-26

2026590\_\_

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the statute of limitations period for violations involving required reports concerning children; amending s. 775.15, F.S.; providing that the limitations period for offenses concerning specified required reports about children does not begin to run until a law enforcement agency is made aware of the violation; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (23) is added to section 775.15, Florida Statutes, to read:

775.15 Time limitations; general time limitations; exceptions.—

(23) If the offense is a violation of s. 39.201, the applicable period of limitation does not begin to run until a law enforcement agency or other governmental agency, excluding any institution where the violation occurs, is made aware of the violation.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

January 20, 2026

Meeting Date

Children & Families

Committee

The Florida Senate  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

590

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

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State

Zip

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S-001 (08/10/2021)



853776

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
01/20/2026	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

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The Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs (Bradley) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete line 20  
and insert:  
violation. This subsection applies to any offense that is not  
otherwise barred from prosecution on or before July 1, 2026.

===== T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T =====

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete line 8



853776

11 and insert:  
12 violation; providing applicability; providing an  
13 effective date.

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

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BILL: CS/SB 590

INTRODUCER: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee and Senator Bradley

SUBJECT: Statute of Limitations Period for Violations Involving Required Reports Concerning Children

DATE: January 20, 2026      REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Parker</u>	<u>Stokes</u>	<u>CJ</u>	<b>Favorable</b>
2.	<u>Fiore</u>	<u>Tuszynski</u>	<u>CF</u>	<b>Fav/CS</b>
3.	_____	_____	<u>RC</u>	_____

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**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Technical Changes

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**I. Summary:**

CS/SB 590 amends s. 775.15, F.S., to provide that the statute of limitations is tolled for a violation of an offense of failing to make a mandatory report of known or suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, abandonment, and neglect, until a law enforcement agency or other governmental agency, excluding any institution where the violation occurs, is made aware of the violation. The tolling of the period of limitations shall apply to any offense not otherwise barred from prosecution on or before the effective date of this bill.

Section 39.201, F.S., provides that a person is required to report immediately to the central abuse hotline in writing, through a call to the toll-free telephone number, or through electronic reporting, if he or she knows, or has reason to suspect, that any child abuse has occurred.

The bill may have a positive indeterminate prison bed impact (unquantifiable increase prison bed impact) on the Department of Corrections.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.



## II. Present Situation:

### Department of Children and Families' Central Abuse Hotline

The Florida Abuse Hotline serves as the central reporting center for allegations of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation for all children and vulnerable adults in Florida. The Hotline receives calls, faxes, and web based reports from citizens and professionals with concerns of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children and vulnerable adults in Florida.<sup>1</sup>

### Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse

A provides that a person is required to report immediately to the central abuse hotline in writing, through a call to the toll-free telephone number, or through electronic reporting, if he or she knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect that any of the following has occurred<sup>2</sup>:

- Child abuse, abandonment, or neglect by a parent or caregiver, which includes, but is not limited to, when a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare or when a child is in need of supervision and care and has no parent, legal custodian, or responsible adult relative immediately known and available to provide such supervision and care.<sup>3</sup>
- Child abuse by an adult other than a parent, legal guardian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare. The central abuse hotline must immediately electronically transfer such reports to the appropriate county sheriff's office.<sup>4</sup>

Any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is the victim of sexual abuse or juvenile sexual abuse must report such knowledge or suspicion to the central abuse hotline, including if the alleged incident involves a child who is in the custody of or under the protective supervision of the department.<sup>5</sup>

### Mandatory Reporters

A person from the general public may make a report to the central abuse hotline anonymously if he or she chooses to do so.<sup>6</sup> However, A person making a report to the central abuse hotline whose occupation is in any of the following categories is required to provide his or her name to the central abuse hotline counselors:

- Physician, osteopathic physician, medical examiner, chiropractic physician, nurse, or hospital personnel engaged in the admission, examination, care, or treatment of persons;<sup>7</sup>
- Health care professional or mental health professional;<sup>8</sup>
- Practitioner who relies solely on spiritual means for healing;<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Florida Department of Children and Families, *About the Florida Abuse Hotline*, available at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/abuse-hotline/about> (last visited on January 6, 2026).

<sup>2</sup> Section 39.201, F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Section 39.201(1)(a)1.a., F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Section 39.201(1)(a)1.b., F.S.

<sup>5</sup> Section 39.201(1)2., F.S.

<sup>6</sup> Section 39.201(1)2.(b)1., F.S.

<sup>7</sup> Section 39.201(1)(b)2.a., F.S.

<sup>8</sup> Section 39.201(1)(b)2.b., F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Section 39.201(1)(b)2.c., F.S.

- School teacher or other school official or personnel;<sup>10</sup>
- Social worker, day care center worker, or other professional child care worker, foster care worker, residential worker, or institutional worker;<sup>11</sup>
- Law enforcement officer;<sup>12</sup>
- Judge;<sup>13</sup> or
- Animal control officer.<sup>14</sup>

### ***Failure to Report – Penalties***

A person who knowingly and willfully fails to report to the central abuse hotline known or suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect, or who knowingly and willfully prevents another person from doing so, commits a third degree felony.<sup>15</sup>

Any person, official, or institution participating in good faith in any act authorized or required by this chapter or reporting in good faith any instance of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect to the department or any law enforcement agency, is to be immune from any civil or criminal liability which might otherwise result by reason of such action.<sup>16</sup>

### **Statute of Limitations**

The purpose of a statute of limitations is to limit exposure to criminal prosecution to a certain fixed period of time following the occurrence of those acts the legislature has decided to punish by criminal sanctions. Such a limitation is designed to protect individuals from having to defend themselves against charges when the basic facts may have become obscured by the passage of time and to minimize the danger of official punishment because of acts in the far-distant past.<sup>17</sup>

Courts have held that the statute of limitations affect substantive rights and that the statute of limitations that applies in a criminal case is the one that was in effect at the time of the incidents that gave rise to the charges.<sup>18</sup>

In general, time starts to run on the day after the offense is committed. An offense is committed either when every element has occurred or, if a legislative purpose to prohibit a continuing course of conduct plainly appears, at the time when the course of conduct or the defendant's complicity therein is terminated.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Section 39.201(1)(b)2.d., F.S.

<sup>11</sup> Section 39.201(1)(b)2.e., F.S.

<sup>12</sup> Section 39.201(1)(b)2.f., F.S.

<sup>13</sup> Section 39.201(1)(b)2.g., F.S.

<sup>14</sup> Section 39.201(1)(b)2.h., F.S.

<sup>15</sup> Section 39.205(1), F.S.

<sup>16</sup> Section 39.203(1)(a), F.S.

<sup>17</sup> *Reino v. State*, 352 So.2d 853, 860 (Fla. 1977) (citing *Toussie v. United States*, 397 U.S. 112, 114-15, 90 S.Ct. 858, 25 L.Ed.2d 156 (1970)).

<sup>18</sup> *Torgerson v. State*, 964 So.2d 178, 179 (Fla. 4<sup>th</sup> DCA 2007) (citing *State v. Shamy*, 759 So.2d 728 (Fla. 4<sup>th</sup> DCA 2000)).

<sup>19</sup> Section 775.15(3), F.S.

Prosecution on a charge for which the defendant has previously been arrested or served with a summons is commenced by the filing of an indictment, information, or other charging document.<sup>20</sup>

A prosecution on a charge for which the defendant has not previously been arrested or served with a summons is commenced when either an indictment or information is filed, provided the capias, summons, or other process issued on such indictment or information is executed without unreasonable delay. In determining what is reasonable, inability to locate the defendant after diligent search or the defendant's absence from the state shall be considered. The failure to execute process on or extradite a defendant in another state who has been charged by information or indictment with a crime in this state does not constitute an unreasonable delay.<sup>21</sup>

The period of limitation does not run during any time when the defendant is continuously absent from the state or has no reasonably ascertainable place of abode or work within the state. However, this does not extend the period of limitation otherwise applicable by more than 3 years. This does not limit the prosecution of a defendant who has been timely charged by indictment or information or other charging document and who has not been arrested due to his or her absence from this state or has not been extradited for prosecution from another state.<sup>22</sup>

### ***General Time Limitations***

A prosecution for a capital felony, a life felony, or a felony that resulted in a death may be commenced at any time. If the death penalty is held to be unconstitutional by the Florida Supreme Court or the United States Supreme Court, all crimes designated as capital felonies are be considered life felonies, and prosecution for such crimes may be commenced at any time.

Prosecution for offenses other than capital felony, life felony or a felony that resulted in death are subject to the following periods of limitations:

- A prosecution for a first degree felony must be commenced within 4 years after it is committed.<sup>23</sup>
- A prosecution for any other felony must be commenced within 3 years after it is committed.<sup>24</sup>
- A prosecution for a first degree misdemeanor must be commenced within 2 years after it is committed.<sup>25</sup>
- A prosecution for a second degree misdemeanor or a noncriminal violation must be commenced within 1 years after it is committed.<sup>26</sup>

### **Exceptions – Time Limitations**

The Legislature may create statutory exceptions to otherwise applicable time limitations by delaying when a limitation period begins, extending it, or eliminating it entirely for specific offenses or circumstances.

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<sup>20</sup> Section 775.15(4)(a), F.S.

<sup>21</sup> Section 775.15(4)(b), F.S.

<sup>22</sup> Section 775.15(5), F.S.

<sup>23</sup> Section 775.15(2)(a), F.S.

<sup>24</sup> Section 775.15(2)(b), F.S.

<sup>25</sup> Section 775.15(2)(c), F.S.

<sup>26</sup> Section 775.15(2)(d), F.S.

Some examples of legislative exceptions to time limitations include:

- There is no time limitation for prosecuting a sexual battery committed on or after July 1, 2020, on a victim who is under 18 years of age at the time of the offense.<sup>27</sup>
- Sexual battery offenses involving victims under 16 years of age may be prosecuted at any time, except when prosecution was already barred on or before July 1, 2010.<sup>28</sup>
- For victims aged 16 or older, prosecution may be commenced at any time if reported within 72 hours, or otherwise must be commenced within eight years, subject to statutory exceptions.<sup>29</sup>

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill amends s. 775.15, F.S., to provide that the statute of limitations is tolled for a violation of s. 39.201, F.S., until a law enforcement agency or other governmental agency, excluding any institution where the violation occurs, is made aware of the violation. It provides for retroactive application of the tolling for any offense, not already barred from prosecution, occurring on or before the effective date.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

#### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

The bill does not appear to require cities and counties to expend funds or limit their authority to raise revenue or receive state-shared revenues as specified by Article VII, s. 18, of the State Constitution.

#### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

#### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

#### **D. State Tax or Fee Increases:**

None.

#### **E. Other Constitutional Issues:**

None identified.

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<sup>27</sup> Section 775.15(20), F.S.

<sup>28</sup> Section 775.15(13)(c), F.S.

<sup>29</sup> Section 775.15(14)(a), F.S.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The Criminal Justice Impact Conference, which provides the final official estimate of the prison bed impact, if any, of legislation, has not yet reviewed the bill. The bill tolls the statute of limitations for criminal prosecution of failure to report known or suspected child abuse. The bill may have a positive indeterminate prison bed impact (unquantifiable increase prison bed impact) on the Department of Corrections.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following section 775.15 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**CS by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs on January 20, 2026:**

The CS provides that the tolling of the period of limitations applies to any offense not otherwise barred from prosecution on or before July 1, 2026.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

By Senator Simon

3-00840-26

2026778\_\_

A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to forensic services for certain  
defendants; amending s. 916.106, F.S.; revising the  
definition of the term "forensic client" or "client";  
reenacting s. 402.164(2)(b), F.S., relating to the  
definition of the term "client," to incorporate the  
amendment made to s. 916.106, F.S., in a reference  
thereto; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 916.106, Florida  
Statutes, is amended to read:

916.106 Definitions.—For the purposes of this chapter, the  
term:

(9) "Forensic client" or "client" means any defendant who  
has been committed to the department or agency pursuant to s.  
916.13, s. 916.15, ~~or~~ s. 916.302, or s. 916.303(3).

Section 2. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
made by this act to section 916.106, Florida Statutes, in a  
reference thereto, paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section  
402.164, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

402.164 Legislative intent; definitions.—

(2) As used in this section through s. 402.167, the term:

(b) "Client" means a client of the Agency for Persons with  
Disabilities, the Agency for Health Care Administration, the  
Department of Children and Families, or the Department of  
Elderly Affairs, as defined in s. 393.063, s. 394.67, s.  
397.311, or s. 400.960, a forensic client or client as defined

3-00840-26

2026778\_\_

in s. 916.106, a child or youth as defined in s. 39.01, a child as defined in s. 827.01, a family as defined in s. 414.0252, a participant as defined in s. 429.901, a resident as defined in s. 429.02, a Medicaid recipient or recipient as defined in s. 409.901, a child receiving child care as defined in s. 402.302, a disabled adult as defined in s. 410.032 or s. 410.603, or a victim as defined in s. 39.01 or s. 415.102 as each definition applies within its respective chapter.

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

January 20, 2026

Meeting Date

Children & Families

Committee

Name **Barney Bishop**

Name

Address **1454 Vieux Carre Drive**

Address

Street

**Tallahassee**

City

**FL**

State

**32308**

Zip

The Florida Senate

## APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

778

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Phone **8505109922**

Phone

Email **Barney@BarneyBishop.com**

Email

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

### PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

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**Florida Smart Justice Alliance**

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**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

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BILL: SB 778

INTRODUCER: Senator Simon

SUBJECT: Forensic Services for Certain Defendants

DATE: January 16, 2025

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Rao	Tuszynski	CF	<b>Favorable</b>
2.			AHS	
3.			FP	

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## **I. Summary:**

Chapter 916, F.S. requires the state to maintain facilities that house individuals with intellectual disabilities or autism that have had criminal charges against them dropped due to an incompetency to proceed in a criminal proceeding. Additionally, the state is required to maintain facilities to house defendants who are adjudicated not guilty by reason of insanity. Generally, this network of facilities managed by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) is part of the state's larger criminal forensic system, and the APD is not allowed to house forensic clients with non-forensic clients.

SB 778 amends the definition of "forensic client" to include individuals involuntarily committed to the APD that have had their charges dismissed due to an intellectual disability or autism. This allows the APD to house such individuals with other Ch. 916, F.S. residents, which is estimated to reduce duplicative staffing requirements.

The bill has an indeterminate positive fiscal impact on the APD due to the cost savings associated with the reduction of duplicative staffing requirements.

The bill is effective July 1, 2026.

## **II. Present Situation:**

### **Florida's Forensic System**

Chapter 916, F.S., governs the state's forensic system, which is a network of state facilities and programs for individuals who have mental health issues, an intellectual disability, or autism, and

are involved with the criminal justice system.<sup>1</sup> The state considers such individuals “forensic clients” and requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to establish and maintain separate and secure forensic facilities to treat felony defendants found incompetent to proceed<sup>2</sup> in their criminal proceedings due to their intellectual disability or autism, as well as defendants who are adjudicated not guilty by reason of insanity.<sup>3</sup> The following chart displays the different circumstances in which a defendant may be involuntarily committed for treatment based on if they have mental illness or an intellectual disability or autism:

Statute	Type of Defendant	Goal of Involuntary Commitment
Defendants with Mental Illness		
Section 916.13, F.S.	Felony defendant adjudicated incompetent to proceed in a criminal proceeding due to mental illness.	Provides for the involuntary commitment for treatment of mental illness to restore the defendant’s competence.
Section 916.15, F.S.	Defendant found not guilty by reason of insanity.	Provides for the involuntary commitment for treatment to restore the defendant’s competence, or stabilization of the defendant’s mental illness.
Defendants with an Intellectual Disability or Autism		
Section 916.302, F.S.	Felony defendant adjudicated incompetent to proceed due to intellectual disability or autism.	Provides for the involuntary commitment for training of intellectual disability or autism to restore the defendant’s competence.
Section 916.303, F.S.	Defendant that has had his or her charges dismissed due to the defendant’s incompetency to proceed due to intellectual disability or autism.	Provides for the involuntary commitment for the defendant. The goal is not competency restoration, but merely placement in a secure facility for safety and treatment.

Some defendants are dually diagnosed; meaning, they have both an intellectual disability or autism and mental illness. In these circumstances, an evaluation must be conducted to address if the defendant’s incompetency to proceed is primarily affected by the defendant’s mental illness or intellectual disability or autism.<sup>4</sup> The defendant will be referred to the appropriate civil or forensic facility based on such an evaluation.<sup>5</sup>

A circuit court<sup>6</sup> may involuntarily commit the defendant to state civil and forensic treatment facilities, or in lieu of such commitment, may be released on conditional release<sup>7</sup> by the circuit

<sup>1</sup> Section 916.105(1), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> A defendant is “incompetent to proceed” if the “defendant does not have sufficient present ability to consult with his or her lawyer with a reasonable degree of rational understanding or if the defendant has no rational, as well as factual, understanding of the proceedings against her or him.” Section 916.12(1), F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Section 916.105(1), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Section 916.302(3), F.S.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> Section 916.13, 916.15, and 916.302, F.S.

<sup>7</sup> Conditional release refers to release into the community accompanied by outpatient care and treatment. Section 916.17, F.S.

court if the person is not serving a prison sentence.<sup>8</sup> The committing court retains jurisdiction over the defendant while the defendant is under involuntary commitment or conditional release and a defendant may not be released from either commitment or conditional release except by order of the committing court.<sup>9</sup>

### ***Incompetent to Proceed***

An individual is considered “incompetent to proceed” during a criminal proceeding if he or she cannot proceed at any material stage of a criminal proceeding, including the trial, pretrial hearings, entry of a plea, proceedings for violation of probation or community control, sentencing, and hearing.<sup>10</sup> To determine a defendant’s competency to proceed, the court appoints a mental health expert<sup>11</sup> to determine if the defendant has a mental illness, and if he or she has the capacity to:<sup>12</sup>

- Appreciate the charges or allegations against himself or herself.
- Appreciate the range and nature of possible penalties, if applicable, that may be imposed in the proceedings against him or her.
- Understand the adversarial nature of the legal process.
- Disclose to counsel facts pertinent to the proceedings at issue.
- Manifest appropriate courtroom behavior.
- Testify relevantly.

If a defendant is deemed incompetent to proceed and meets the criteria for involuntary commitment, the defendant is committed to the DCF.<sup>13</sup> Through training and education, the DCF aims to restore the defendant’s competency, at which time the defendant would resume the legal proceedings against him or her.<sup>14</sup> If the defendant remains incompetent to proceed for five continuous, uninterrupted years, the charges against the defendant shall be dismissed without prejudice to the state. The court may dismiss charges three years after a determination the defendant’s competency cannot be restored, based on the severity of the offense. The state may refile dismissed charges if the defendant regains competency in the future.<sup>15</sup>

### ***Defendant Found Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity***

Florida law provides for an affirmative defense against criminal prosecution if, at the time of the commission of the acts constituting the offense, the defendant was insane. The law establishes insanity as when:<sup>16</sup>

- The defendant had a mental infirmity, disease, or defect; and
- Because of this condition, the defendant:

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<sup>8</sup> Section 916.17(1), F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Section 916.16(1), F.S.

<sup>10</sup> Section 916.106(11), F.S.

<sup>11</sup> Court-appointed experts must (1) be a psychiatrist, licensed psychologist, or physician; (2) have completed initial and annual forensic evaluator training, provided by the DCF; and (3) if performing juvenile evaluations, have completed initial and annual juvenile forensic competency evaluation training provided by the department. Section 916.115, F.S.

<sup>12</sup> Section 916.12(3), F.S.

<sup>13</sup> Section 916.13, F.S.

<sup>14</sup> Section 916.13, F.S.

<sup>15</sup> Section 916.145, F.S.

<sup>16</sup> Section 775.027, F.S.

- Did not know what he or she was doing or its consequences; or
- Although the defendant knew what he or she was doing and its consequences, the defendant did not know that what he or she was doing was wrong.

To be acquitted of criminal charges by reason of insanity, the defendant must have a mental illness that causes him or her to be manifestly dangerous to himself or herself or others.<sup>17</sup> Upon such an acquittal, the DCF admits the defendant to the appropriate facility for treatment.<sup>18</sup>

### **Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program (DDDP) and Pathways**

The APD operates the Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program (DDDP) and Pathways forensic programs that serve individuals with developmental disabilities that have been charged with a felony crime.<sup>19</sup> At such programs, defendants receive competency training to restore their competency to stand trial and acquire skills to prepare them for future success.<sup>20</sup> The program also serves individuals whose felony charges have been dismissed but still require a secure placement per court order for full time supervision, treatment, and care.<sup>21</sup>

As of November 1, 2025, there were 95 residents at DDDP and 32 residents at Pathways.<sup>22</sup> The DDDP facility in Chattahoochee has a capacity of 146 secure beds and the Pathways facility at the Sunland campus in Marianna has a capacity of 34 secure beds.<sup>23</sup> The average population for DDDP/Pathways between October 2021 and October 2025 was 125.24 residents with a minimum total population of 107 residents and a maximum total number of residents at 149 residents.<sup>24</sup>

### **Forensic and Non-forensic Clients**

The Legislature requires the DCF or APD to serve forensic clients in a “forensic facility” which separately houses persons with mental illness from persons with intellectual disabilities or autism. Additionally, forensic facilities separately house individuals who have been involuntarily committed pursuant to Ch. 916, F.S. from non-forensic residents.<sup>25</sup> Current Florida law defines forensic clients as any defendant who has been committed to the DCF or APD pursuant to the following statutes:<sup>26</sup>

- **Section 916.13, F.S.:** Felony defendant adjudicated incompetent to proceed in a criminal proceeding due to mental illness.
- **Section 916.15, F.S.:** Defendant found not guilty by reason of insanity.

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<sup>17</sup> Section 916.15, F.S.

<sup>18</sup> *Id.*

<sup>19</sup> Agency for Persons with Disabilities, *Developmental Disabilities Defendant Program*, available at: <https://apd.myflorida.com/dddp/index.htm> (last visited 1/15/25).

<sup>20</sup> *Id.*

<sup>21</sup> 2026 Agency Bill Analysis, pg. 2 (on file with the Senate committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs).

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

<sup>23</sup> Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, *Agency for Persons with Disabilities*, available at: <https://oppaga.fl.gov/ProgramSummary/ProgramDetail?programNumber=5060> (last visited 1/15/25).

<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

<sup>25</sup> Section 916.106(10), F.S.

<sup>26</sup> Section 916.106(9), F.S.

- **Section 916.302, F.S.:** Felony defendant adjudicated incompetent to proceed due to intellectual disability or autism.

The definition does not include individuals under s. 916.303(3), F.S., who have had their charges dismissed but remain committed to the APD under the jurisdiction of the committing court.<sup>27</sup> Thus, the APD is required to separate these residents, leading to reports of bed underutilization and a duplication of APD's resources.<sup>28</sup> Further, the APD reports this statute creates safety concerns, as the APD is required to house residents based off of secure orders, rather than individual behavioral needs.<sup>29</sup>

According to the APD, the underutilization of beds is approximately 20% at any given time, due to various requirements to separate residents.<sup>30</sup> If more residents enter the facility, current placement restrictions can pose a challenge for APD staff to determine how to separate residents, due to the inability to combine residents based on behavioral appropriateness.<sup>31</sup>

The number of staff required on the ward is based on the behavioral acuity of the residents placed in the ward. However, the wards have a minimum coverage of at least two staff members, to ensure a staff member is never left alone in a ward for safety purposes.<sup>32</sup> As of December 16, 2025, there are 28 staff required per shift due to the behavioral needs of the residents, as shown below:<sup>33</sup>

Staffing Requirements based on Resident Census 12/16/25				
Male/Female	Commitment Type	Number of Residents 12/16/25	Ward Type	Staffing Requirement for Number of Residents as of 12/16/25
Male	916.302	0	Temporarily Closed	0
Male	916.302	14		3
Male	916.302	12		2
Male	916.302	20		4
Male	916.302	10	Vulnerable	2
Male	916.303(3)	13	Behavioral	4
Male	916.302	13	Honors Ward	2
Female	916.302	13	Female	3
Female	916.303(3)	2	Female	2
Male	916.303(3)	17	Pathways	3
Male	916.303(3)	16	Pathways	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>130</b>		<b>28</b>

<sup>27</sup> 2026 Agency Bill Analysis, pg. 3 (on file with the Senate committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs).

<sup>28</sup> *Id.*

<sup>29</sup> *Id.*

<sup>30</sup> *Id.*

<sup>31</sup> 2026 Agency Bill Analysis, pg. 3 (on file with the Senate committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs).

<sup>32</sup> E-mail with Emily Reeves, Agency for Persons with Disabilities Legislative Affairs Director, on file with the Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs.

<sup>33</sup> E-mail with Emily Reeves, Agency for Persons with Disabilities Legislative Affairs Director, on file with the Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs.

If the DDDP/Pathways program was able to combine individuals under s. 916.303(3), F.S. with other individuals pursuant to Ch. 916, F.S. on the same ward, the APD reports the level of staffing could be lowered to 22 staff members, due to the ability for the Pathways program to house Honors Ward residents, lowering the level of staffing coverage from three staff to two staff per ward per shift. Furthermore, the APD reports an additional ward could be created from the gained bed capacity for the female residents who have been successful or to separate residents that exhibit challenging behavior.<sup>34</sup> The following chart demonstrates the potential staffing requirements if s. 393.303(3) residents are considered forensic clients and can be housed with other Ch. 916, F.S. clients.<sup>35</sup>

<b>Potential Staffing Requirements if s. 393.303(3), F.S. Clients are Considered Forensic</b>				
<b>Male/Female</b>	<b>Commitment Type</b>	<b>Number of Residents 12/16/25</b>	<b>Ward Type</b>	<b>Staffing Requirement for Number of Residents as of 12/16/25</b>
Male	916 Forensic	0	Temporarily Closed	0
Male	916 Forensic	0	Temporarily Closed	0
Female	916 Forensic	15	Female	3
Male	916 Forensic	16	Behavioral	3
Male	916 Forensic	14	Resource	2
Male	916 Forensic	13	Behavioral	4
Male	916 Forensic	15	Honors Ward	2
Male	916 Forensic	15	Honors Ward	2
Male	916 Forensic	8	Vulnerable	2
Male	916 Forensic	17	Honors Ward	2
Male	916 Forensic	17	Honors Ward	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>130</b>		<b>22</b>

The APD estimates that using current resident census numbers, six less staff will be required if s. 916.303(3) are considered forensic clients, due to the ability to combine female wards, create an additional honors ward, and adjust behavioral ward staffing requirements.<sup>36</sup>

### ***Staff Safety***

From September 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, there were 152 reported workers compensation incidents that resulted in 3,531 days of work lost.<sup>37</sup> Of such incidents, 144 incidents were associated with resident involvement; however, none of the incidents occurred in the Honors ward, indicating there are lower workers' compensation claims in resident areas where residents are grouped based on behavioral needs opposed to commitment status.<sup>38</sup>

<sup>34</sup> *Id.*

<sup>35</sup> *Id.*

<sup>36</sup> E-mail with Emily Reeves, Agency for Persons with Disabilities Legislative Affairs Director, on file with the Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs.

<sup>37</sup> 2026 Agency Bill Analysis, pg. 3 (on file with the Senate committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs).

<sup>38</sup> *Id.*

**III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

**Section 1** of the bill amends s. 916.106 F.S. to include individuals ordered to involuntary residential services in a forensic facility pursuant to s. 916.303(3), F.S. to the definition of forensic client, allowing the APD to house residents based on behavioral appropriateness, rather than judicial determination.

**Section 2** of the bill reenacts s. 402.164, F.S., relating to the definition of “client,” to incorporate the amendment made to s. 916.106, F.S., by the bill.

**Section 3** of the bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2026.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:****A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

**B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

**C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

**D. State Tax or Fee Increases:**

None.

**E. Other Constitutional Issues:**

None identified.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The bill is expected to have an indeterminate, positive fiscal impact on the APD due to the cost savings associated with a reduction in staffing across forensic facilities. The APD reports that allowing the APD to house residents based on behavioral needs, rather than

judicial determination, will provide the APD with increased flexibility to manage bed space and staffing ratios.<sup>39</sup>

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 916.106

**IX. Additional Information:**

**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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<sup>39</sup> 2026 Agency Bill Analysis, pg. 5 (on file with the Senate committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs).



By Senator Yarborough

4-01353B-26

20261010\_\_

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to enforcement of protections for minors; amending s. 456.52, F.S.; providing criminal penalties for health care practitioners who willfully or actively aid or abet another in a violation of specified provisions; amending s. 766.318, F.S.; authorizing the Attorney General to conduct investigations of alleged violations of a specified provision and commence a civil action for damages, injunctive relief, and civil penalties upon determining a violation has occurred; providing that damages recovered pursuant to certain civil actions accrue to the benefit of the injured minor; creating s. 1014.07, F.S.; creating a cause of action to recover damages against certain public employees and health care practitioners for violations of specified provisions; authorizing the Attorney General to conduct investigations of alleged violations of specified provisions and commence a civil action for damages, injunctive relief, and civil penalties upon determining a violation has occurred; providing that damages recovered pursuant to certain civil actions accrue to the benefit of the injured minor; providing that certain limitations on punitive damages do not apply to such actions; specifying the timeframe within which such actions may be commenced; providing construction; reenacting s. 456.074(5)(c), F.S., relating to the immediate suspension of license of certain health care practitioners, to incorporate the

4-01353B-26

20261010\_\_

amendment made to s. 456.52, F.S., in a reference  
thereto; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section  
456.52, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

456.52 Sex-reassignment prescriptions and procedures;  
prohibitions; informed consent.—

(5)

(b) Any health care practitioner who willfully or actively  
participates, or aids or abets another, in a violation of  
subsection (1) commits a felony of the third degree, punishable  
as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 2. Section 766.318, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
read:

766.318 Civil liability for provision of sex-reassignment  
prescriptions or procedures to minors.—

(1) A cause of action exists to recover damages for  
personal injury or death resulting from the provision of sex-  
reassignment prescriptions or procedures, as defined in s.  
456.001, to a person younger than 18 years of age which are  
prohibited by s. 456.52(1).

(2) The Attorney General may conduct investigations of  
alleged violations of s. 456.52(1) and, if the Attorney General  
determines that such a violation has occurred, may commence a  
civil action under this section for damages, injunctive relief,  
and civil penalties of up to \$100,000 for each violation.

(3) Any damages recovered pursuant to a civil action

4-01353B-26

20261010\_\_

brought under this section will accrue to the benefit of the injured minor.

~~(4)(2)~~ The limitations on punitive damages in s. 768.73(1) do not apply to actions brought under this section.

~~(5)(3)~~ An action brought under this section:

(a) May be commenced within 20 years after the cessation or completion of the sex-reassignment prescription or procedure.

(b) Is in addition to any other remedy authorized by law.

~~(6)(4)~~ The cause of action created by this section does not apply to:

(a) Treatment with sex-reassignment prescriptions if such treatment is consistent with s. 456.001(9)(a)1. or 2. and was commenced on or before, and is still active on, May 17, 2023.

(b) Sex-reassignment prescriptions or procedures that were ceased or completed on or before May 17, 2023.

Section 3. Section 1014.07, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1014.07 Civil liability.—

(1) A cause of action exists against an employee of the state, any of its political subdivisions, or any other governmental entity who violates any of the parental rights specified in s. 1014.04 or against a health care practitioner who provides, or solicits or arranges to provide, health care services or prescribes medicinal drugs to a minor child without parental consent in violation of s. 1014.06.

(2) The Attorney General may conduct investigations of alleged violations of s. 1014.04 or s. 1014.06 and, if the Attorney General determines that such a violation has occurred, may commence a civil action under this section for damages,

4-01353B-26

20261010\_\_

injunctive relief, and civil penalties of up to \$100,000 for each violation.

(3) Any damages recovered pursuant to a civil action brought under this section will accrue to the benefit of the affected minor.

(4) The limitations on punitive damages in s. 768.73(1) do not apply to actions brought under this section.

(5) An action brought under this section:

(a) May be commenced within 2 years after the violation occurs.

(b) Is in addition to any other remedy authorized by law.

Section 4. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 456.52, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section 456.074, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

456.074 Certain health care practitioners; immediate suspension of license.—

(5) The department shall issue an emergency order suspending the license of any health care practitioner who is arrested for committing or attempting, soliciting, or conspiring to commit any act that would constitute a violation of any of the following criminal offenses in this state or similar offenses in another jurisdiction:

(c) Section 456.52(5)(b), relating to prescribing, administering, or performing sex-reassignment prescriptions or procedures for a patient younger than 18 years of age.

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

SB 1010

Bill Number or Topic

Meeting Date

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Phone

Address

Email

Street

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☐

Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☒

Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒

I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. § 11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

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SB 1010

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Meeting Date

Committee

1/20/2026  
Children Fam & Elder

Name

Phone

Erin Bigalke

Address

Email

PO Box 13184

Street

St Petersburg FL

33733

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☐

Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☒

Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

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I am a registered lobbyist,  
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The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

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Meeting Date

1/20/24

Bill Number or Topic

1010

Committee

children + families

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

JACK Forsyth

Phone

8108753021

Address

PO BOX 13184

Email

jack@equalityflorida.org

Street

City

State

Zip

33713

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☐

Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☒

Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☐

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compensation or sponsorship.

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representing:

☒

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

# APPEARANCE RECORD

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1/20/25

Meeting Date

Children + Families

Committee

1010

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Don Diaz Johnston

Phone

Address

Lucy Street

Email

Street

Tallahassee FL

32308

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For



Against

☐

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support



Against

## PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:



I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)



The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

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1/20/2023  
Meeting Date

Children & Families  
Committee

SB 1010  
Bill Number or Topic

235940  
Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Vance Ahrens Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2909 W New Haven Ave #365 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Street

W Melbourne FL 32904  
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☒ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒ I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

04/20/25

Meeting Date

SB 1010

Bill Number or Topic

Deliver both copies of this form to  
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Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Christian Pfadenhauer

Phone

321-378-6161

Address

310 N. Orange AVE

Email

christianp2103@outlook.com

Street

Orlando

FL

32801

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☒

Against

☐

Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒

I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

1/20/26

Meeting Date

The Florida Senate  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

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SB1010

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Roya O'Leary

Phone

571 209 7659

Address

PO Box 13184

Email

eroy823@gmail.com

Street

St Petersburg FL

33733

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☒

Against

☐

Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒

I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

2/20/26

Meeting Date

SB 1010

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Brandi Cook

Phone

850 570 7905

Address

2015 Gray Birch Way

Email

brandicook24@yahoo.com

Street

Tallahassee FL

32308

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☐

Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☒

Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒

I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022JointRules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](https://www.flsenate.gov/2020-2022JointRules.pdf)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

1-20-26  
Meeting Date

Child, Family & Elder Affairs  
Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

SB 1010  
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Devon Graham Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street

32309  
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☒ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒ I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

volunteer w/  
American Atheists

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

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SB 1010

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

1/20/26  
Meeting Date  
Children and Families  
Committee

Name Ryan Kennedy Phone 239-671-5733  
Address Po Box 697 Email Ryan@90fica.org  
Street  
City Marco Island State FL Zip 34146

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☐ I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:  
Florida Citizens  
Alliance

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

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Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

1-20-21

Meeting Date

Children, Families, Elders

Committee

1010

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Barbara DeVane

Phone

850-251-4280

Address

625 E. Brevard St

Email

barbaradevane1@yahoo.com

Street

City

Tallahassee

State

FL

Zip

32308

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☐

Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☒

Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☐

I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☒

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

FL NOW

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

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Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

1/20/2026  
Meeting Date

Children & Families  
Committee

SB 1010  
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Vance Ahrens Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2909 W New Haven Ave #365 Email addvanceforflorida@gmail.com  
Street

W Melbourne FL 32904  
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☒ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒ I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)



The Florida Senate

# APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

1/20/2026  
Meeting Date

Children Families + Elder Affairs  
Committee

SB1010  
Bill Number or Topic

N/A  
Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Jessica Willson Phone 904 200 8008

Address 5627 Nardella Dr W Email JESSWILL@GMAIL.COM  
Street

Jacksonville FL 32244  
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☒ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

## PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☒ I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

Deliver both copies of this form to  
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SB 1010

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

1/20/2024  
Meeting Date  
Children's Family  
Committee

Name ANDREA JONES

Phone 850 8032002

Address P.O. Box 13184  
Street

Email jonesandrea@ee9fl.org  
ee9fl.org

ST PETE FL 33733  
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☒ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒ I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received  
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(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

1/20/26

SB 1010

Meeting Date

Children, Families, Elder Affairs

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

JONATHAN Webber

Phone

954 - 593-4441

Address

P.O. Box 1018

Email

JONATHAN.Webber@sp/center.org

Street

Tallahassee

State

FL

Zip

32304

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☐

Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☒

Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☐

I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☒

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

Southern Poverty Law Center

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

SB1010

Meeting Date

1/20/2026

Deliver both copies of this form to

Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Children, Families & Elders

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Noelle Delacruz

Phone

813 434 0670

Address

PO Box 13184

Email

nond345@hotmail.com

Street

Tampa

FL

33233

City

St. Petersburg

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐ For

☐ Against

☐ Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐ In Support

☒ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**



I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.



I am a registered lobbyist, representing:



I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

1/20/26

Meeting Date

The Florida Senate  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

SB 1010

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Barbara Myers

Phone

850 443-4127

Address

8172 Wenona Ct

Email

Street

Tallahassee, F 32311

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☒ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒ I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

01/20/26

Meeting Date

Children & families

Committee

1010

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Accra D. Haywood Jr.

Phone (904) 962-4524

Address 929 Peninsular PL  
Street

Email ahaywood@jasmyn.org

Jacksonville

FL

32204

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☒ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒ I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

1-20-26

1010

Meeting Date

Children Family + Elder

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Stratton Pollitzer

Phone

954-686-6094

Address

3050 SW 37th Ave

Email

stratton@EQFL.ORG

Street

MIAMI

City

FL

State

33133

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☒

Against

☐

Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☐

I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☒

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. § 11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

1/20/26

Meeting Date

513 1010

Bill Number or Topic

Children, family + elder

Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Jennifer Solomon

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address PO BOX 13184

Street

Email Jennifer@equalityflorida.org

St. Petersburg FL

City

State

33733

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☒ Against ☐ Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒ I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)



The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

1/20/26  
Meeting Date

Children, Families & Elder Affairs  
Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

1010  
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name John Labriola

Phone 954-515-2084

Address PO Box 650216  
Street

Email John.Labriola@cfcfloida.net

Miami FL 33265  
City State Zip

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☐ I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

Christian Family Coalition Florida

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

01/20/2026

Meeting Date

Children, Families + Elder Affairs

Committee

SB 1010

Bill Number or Topic

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Matthew Johnson

Phone

Address

PO Box 13184

Street

Email

St. Petersburg FL 33733

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☒

Against

☐

Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒

I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

# APPEARANCE RECORD

1-20-26

SB 1010

Meeting Date

Children, Families and Elders

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Robin Hauser Affairs

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Phone

813-758-0853

Address

PO Box 1318A

Email

Street

St. Petersburg

FL

33733

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For



Against

☐

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

## PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:



I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

1/20/26

Meeting Date

Children family & Elder

Committee

SB1010

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Juan Dominguez

Phone

305-608-9140

Address

Street

P.O Box 13184

Email

jdominguez11@gmail.com

City

S+ Petersburg FL

State

Zip

33733

Speaking:

☐ For

☒ Against

☐ Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐ In Support

☐ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**



I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.



I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:



I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

01-2020

Meeting Date

5 B 1010

Bill Number or Topic

Children, Family & Elder

Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Dr. Luisa Montoya

Phone 720-261-3820

Address P.O. Box 13184

Email luisafmontoya@yahoo.com

Street

St Petersburg FL

City

State

33733

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☒ Against ☐ Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒ I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

Jan 20, 2026

Meeting Date

The Florida Senate  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

SB ~~624~~ 1010

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Kathleen Murray

Phone 757 438 6790

Address 11674 Gran Orique Ct N  
Street

Email kmurray@ccdfusa.com

Tax FL 32223  
City State Zip

Speaking:



For



Against



Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:



In Support



Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**



I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.



I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:



I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

CDF

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

1/20/26

Meeting Date

Children, Family and elder

Committee

SB 1010

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name David Porter

Phone 410-459-1626

Address PO Box 13184  
Street

Email davidp@gopflgov.org

St. Petersburg  
City

FL  
State

33733  
Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☒ Against ☐ Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒ I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

1/20/26

Meeting Date

1010

Bill Number or Topic

Children, Families, & Elder Affairs

Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Jen Couch

Phone 401-788-4062

Address P.O. Box 13184

Street

Email jtc@gmail.com

St. Petersburg, FL 33733

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☒ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒ I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)



The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

SB 1010

Meeting Date

Bill Number or Topic

1/20/2026  
Children families & Elders

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Phone

Address

Email

Street

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☐

Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☒

Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒

I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

# APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

SB 1010

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Meeting Date

Committee

1/20/2026  
Children Fam & Elder

Name

Phone

Address

Email

Street

City

State

Zip

PO Box 13184  
St Petersburg FL 33733

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☐

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☒

Against

## PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☒

I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

## APPEARANCE RECORD

## children & Families

Bill Number or Topic

JACK Forbysen

810875302

PO BOX 13184

jack@equalityflorida.org

33713

Zip

Against

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Meeting Date

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Phone

Address

Email

Street

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☒

Against

☐

Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☒

Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒

I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

1/20/2023  
Meeting Date

Children & Families  
Committee

SB 1010  
Bill Number or Topic  
235940  
Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Vance Ahrens Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2909 W New Haven Ave #365 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Street

W Melbourne FL 32904  
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☒ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒ I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

04/20/25

Meeting Date

SB 1010

Bill Number or Topic

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Christian Pfadenhauer

Phone

321-378-6161

Address

310 N. Orange AVE

Email

christianp2103@outlook.com

Street

Orlando

FL

32801

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☒

Against

☐

Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒

I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

1/20/26

Meeting Date

The Florida Senate  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

SB1010

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Roya O'Leary

Phone

571 209 7659

Address

PO Box 13184

Email

eroy823@gmail.com

Street

St Petersburg FL

33733

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☒

Against

☐

Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒

I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

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2/20/26

Meeting Date

SB 1010

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Brandi Cook

Phone

850 570 7905

Address

2015 Gray Birch Way

Email

brandicook24@yahoo.com

Street

Tallahassee FL

32308

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☐

Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☒

Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒

I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)



The Florida Senate  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

1-20-26  
Meeting Date

Child, Family & Elder Affairs  
Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to  
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SB 1010  
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Devon Graham Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street

32309  
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☒ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒ I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

volunteer w/  
American Atheists

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

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SB 1010

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

1/20/26  
Meeting Date  
Children and Families  
Committee

Name Ryan Kennedy Phone 239-671-5733  
Address Po Box 697 Email Ryan@90fica.org  
Street  
City Marco Island State FL Zip 34146

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☐ I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:  
Florida Citizens  
Alliance

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

# APPEARANCE RECORD

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1-20-21

Meeting Date

Children, Families, Elders

Committee

1010

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Barbara DeVane

Phone

850-251-4280

Address

625 E. Brevard St

Email

barbaradevane1@yahoo.com

Street

City

Tallahassee

State

FL

Zip

32308

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☐

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☒

Against

## PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐

I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☒

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

FL NOW

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

1/20/2026  
Meeting Date

Children & Families  
Committee

SB 1010  
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Vance Ahrens Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2909 W New Haven Ave #365 Email addvanceforflorida@gmail.com  
Street

W Melbourne FL 32904  
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☒ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒ I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

1/20/2026  
Meeting Date

Children Families + Elder Affairs  
Committee

SB1010  
Bill Number or Topic

N/A  
Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name JESSICA WILLSON

Phone 904 200 8008

Address 5627 Nardella Dr W  
Street

Email JESSWILL@GMAIL.COM

Jacksonville FL  
City State

32244  
Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☒

Against

☐

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☒

I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

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Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

SB 1010

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

1/20/2024  
Meeting Date  
Children's Family  
Committee

Name ANDREA JONES

Phone 850 5032002

Address P.O. Box 13184  
Street

Email jonesandrea@ee9fl.org  
ee9fl.org

ST PETE FL 33733  
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☒ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒ I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)



235940

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
01/20/2026	.	
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The Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs  
(Yarborough) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete lines 48 - 95  
and insert:

(1) A private cause of action exists to recover damages for personal injury or death resulting from the provision of sex-reassignment prescriptions or procedures, as defined in s. 456.001, to a person younger than 18 years of age which are prohibited by s. 456.52(1). An individual may recover all economic and non-economic damages for injuries he or she



235940

sustained before or after age 18 that are the result of sex-reassignment prescriptions or procedures provided in violation of s. 456.52(1).

(2) The Attorney General may conduct investigations of alleged violations of s. 456.52(1) and, if the Attorney General determines that such a violation has occurred, may commence a civil action under this subsection for damages, injunctive relief, and civil penalties of up to \$100,000 for each violation. Any damages recovered pursuant to a civil action brought under this subsection must accrue to the benefit of the individual injured as the result of sex-reassignment prescriptions or procedures provided in violation of s. 456.52(1).

(3)~~(2)~~ The limitations on punitive damages in s. 768.73(1) do not apply to actions brought under this section.

(4)~~(3)~~ An action brought under this section:

(a) May be commenced within 20 years after the cessation or completion of the sex-reassignment prescription or procedure.

(b) Is in addition to any other remedy authorized by law.

(5)~~(4)~~ The cause of action created by this section does not apply to:

(a) Treatment with sex-reassignment prescriptions if such treatment is consistent with s. 456.001(9)(a)1. or 2. and was commenced on or before, and is still active on, May 17, 2023.

(b) Sex-reassignment prescriptions or procedures that were ceased or completed on or before May 17, 2023.

Section 3. Section 1014.07, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1014.07 Civil liability.—





235940

(1) A private cause of action exists against an employee of the state, any of its political subdivisions, or any other governmental entity who violates any of the parental rights specified in s. 1014.04 or against a health care practitioner who provides, solicits or arranges to provide, or aids or abets another to provide, health care services or prescription of medicinal drugs to a minor child without parental consent in violation of s. 1014.06. An individual may recover all economic and non-economic damages resulting from a violation of s. 1014.04 or s. 1014.06. All damages recovered pursuant to a civil action brought under this subsection must accrue to the benefit of the affected minor.

(2) The Attorney General may conduct investigations of alleged violations of s. 1014.04 or s. 1014.06 and, if the Attorney General determines that such a violation has occurred, may commence a civil action under this subsection for damages, injunctive relief, and civil penalties of up to \$100,000 for each violation. All damages recovered pursuant to a civil action brought under this subsection must accrue to the benefit of the affected minor.

(3) The limitations on punitive damages in s. 768.73(1) do not apply to actions brought under this section.

(4) An action brought under this section:

===== T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T =====  
And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 7 - 23

and insert:

clarifying that a private cause of action exists to



235940

recover damages for personal injury or death resulting from a violation of a specified provision; providing that an individual may recover economic and non-economic damages for injuries sustained before or after age 18 that result from such violation; authorizing the Attorney General to conduct investigations of alleged violations of a specified provision and commence a separate civil action for damages, injunctive relief, and civil penalties upon determining a violation has occurred; providing that damages recovered pursuant to such civil actions accrue to the benefit of the injured individual; creating s. 1014.07, F.S.; creating a private cause of action to recover damages against certain public employees and health care practitioners for violations of specified provisions; providing that an individual may recover economic and non-economic damages that result from such violations; providing that damages recovered pursuant to such civil actions accrue to the benefit of the affected minor; authorizing the Attorney General to conduct investigations of alleged violations of specified provisions and commence a civil action for damages, injunctive relief, and civil penalties upon determining a violation has occurred; providing that damages recovered pursuant to such civil actions accrue to the benefit of the affected minor; providing

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

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BILL: CS/SB 1010

INTRODUCER: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee and Senator Yarborough

SUBJECT: Enforcement of Protections for Minors

DATE: January 20, 2026

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Fiore	Tuszynski	CF	<b>Fav/Cs</b>
2.			HP	
3.			RC	

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**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

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**I. Summary:**

CS/SB 1010 strengthens enforcement mechanisms pertaining to statutory prohibitions on sex-reassignment prescriptions and procedures for minors under Florida law, and parental rights in health care decision-making. The bill amends s. 456.52, Florida Statutes (F.S.), to add criminal penalties for health care practitioners who willfully or actively aid or abet a minor in obtaining sex-reassignment prescriptions or procedures. It also amends s. 766.318, F.S., to provide an individual the ability to recover both economic and non-economic damages for injuries he or she sustained before or after age 18 as a result receiving sex-reassignment prescriptions and procedures as a minor. The Attorney General is authorized to investigate alleged violations relating to sex-reassignment for minors and commence a civil action for damages, injunctive relief, and civil penalties of up to \$100,000 per violation for the benefit of the injured individual.

The bill creates s. 1014.07, F.S., to provide a cause of action within 2 years of the occurrence to recover damages against certain public employees and health care practitioners for violations of any parental rights under s. 1014.04, F.S. and provisions of health services or drugs to minors without parental consent under s. 1014.06, F.S., respectively. It provides that an individual may recover for the benefit of the affected minor both economic and non-economic damages that result from a violation of those sections of statute. The bill authorizes the Attorney General to investigate alleged violations and commence a civil action for damages, injunctive relief, and civil penalties of up to \$100,000 per violation for the benefit of the affected minor.

The bill has no anticipated fiscal impact.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2026.

## **II. Present Situation:**

### **Sex-Reassignment Prescriptions and Procedures for Minors**

In 2023, the Legislature passed SB 254, which was signed into law and took effect on May 17, 2023.<sup>1</sup> Under this law, sex-reassignment prescriptions and procedures for patients under 18 years of age were prohibited, subject to a grandfather provision allowing minors who were already receiving this care to continue do so.<sup>2</sup> “Sex-reassignment prescriptions and procedures” are defined as puberty blockers, hormones, or medical or surgical procedures used to affirm a person’s perceived sex when it differs from their biological sex, but exclude good-faith treatment of medically verifiable disorders of sexual development, care for conditions caused by such procedures, and medically necessary treatment to prevent imminent death or serious bodily impairment.<sup>3</sup> Rules adopted by the Boards of Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine further implement standards and consent requirements.<sup>4</sup>

### ***Health Care Practitioners***

Florida law defines a health care practitioner as any person licensed under a broad range of health-related professional regulations. The definition covers practitioners licensed under statutes regulating physicians, nurses, pharmacists, mental health professionals, and other medical providers.<sup>5</sup>

Health care practitioners include, but are not limited to:

- Medical doctors and osteopathic physicians (Chapters 458 and 459, F.S.).
- Chiropractic physicians and podiatrists (Chapters 460 and 461, F.S.).
- Optometrists and pharmacists (Chapters 463 and 465, F.S.).
- Nurses, including advanced practice registered nurses (Chapter 464, F.S.).
- Dentists and midwives (Chapters 466 and 467, F.S.).
- Physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists (Chapters 468 and 486, F.S.).
- Psychologists, clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and mental health counselors (Chapters 490 and 491, F.S.).

Health care practitioners who “willfully or actively participate” in violating prohibitions on sex-reassignment prescriptions and procedures for minors are to be charged with a third-degree

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<sup>1</sup> Ch. 2023-90, Laws of Florida; *See also*, CS/SB 254: Treatments for Sex Reassignment at <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/254>.

<sup>2</sup> Section 456.52(1), F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Section 456.001(9), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> 64B8-9.019, F.A.C.; 64B15-14.014, F.A.C.; 64B8-ER23-7, F.A.C.; and 64B15-ER2-9, F.A.C.; *see also* Patient Information and Informed Parental Consent and Assent for Minor Form at <https://flboardofmedicine.gov/forms/Puberty-Suppression-Treatment-for-Patients-with-Gender-Dysphoria-Patient-Information-and-Parental-Consent-and-Assent-for-Minors.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> Section 456.001(4), F.S.

felony; carrying potential penalties under Florida law of up to five years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$5,000, and, if applicable, enhanced sentencing for habitual felony offenders as provided in ss. 775.082, 775.083, and 775.084, F.S.<sup>6</sup> In addition, violation of this provision is grounds for terminating a healthcare practitioner's license.<sup>7</sup>

There is also a civil cause of action for personal injury or death resulting from providing prohibited sex-reassignment prescriptions or procedures to minors; punitive damage limits do not apply.<sup>8</sup> Such actions may be commenced no later than 20 years after the cessation or completion of the prescription or procedure; however, the cause of action shall not apply to prescriptions or procedures that ceased or completed on or before May 17, 2023, nor to treatments with puberty blockers, hormones, or hormone antagonists if the treatments were commenced before, and were still active on, May 17, 2023.<sup>9</sup>

### ***Legal Challenge***

Florida was one of a handful of states, alongside Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama, Kentucky, and Idaho, that saw challenges to the constitutionality of laws passed by state legislatures seeking to restrict sex-reassignment prescriptions or procedures (also referred to as “gender-affirming care”) for minors.<sup>10</sup> The federal district courts in these states adopted the plaintiffs' equal-protection position, nearly unanimously holding the bans unconstitutional. Some federal district courts determined that the interests asserted by the states were pretextual, with certain courts further concluding that the bans were driven by animus toward transgender individuals.<sup>11</sup> States defended their bans by contending that the effectiveness of gender-affirming care is unproven,<sup>12</sup> that such treatment involves risks,<sup>13</sup> that gender dysphoria may naturally resolve over time,<sup>14</sup> that minors could later regret irreversible interventions,<sup>15</sup> and that patients may receive care without adequate informed consent.<sup>16</sup> The Florida district court rejected these arguments, finding that gender-affirming care is supported by substantial research and endorsed by leading medical organizations, and observing that its risks are comparable to those of other medical treatments excluded from the scope of the ban.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Section 456.52(5)(b), F.S.

<sup>7</sup> Section 456.52(5)(a), F.S.

<sup>8</sup> Section 766.318(1)-(2), F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Section 766.318(3)-(4), F.S.

<sup>10</sup> Doe v. Ladapo, 737 F. Supp. 3d 1240 (N.D. Fla. 2024); *see also* L.W. ex rel. Williams v. Skrmetti, 679 F. Supp. 3d 677 (M.D. Tenn. 2023); Brandt v. Rutledge, 677 F. Supp. 3d 877 (E.D. Ark. 2023); Eknes-Tucker v. Marshall, 603 F. Supp. 3d 1131 (M.D. Ala. 2022); Doe 1 v. Thornbury, 679 F. Supp. 3d 576 (W.D. Ky. 2023); and Poe by & through Poe v. Labrador, 709 F. Supp. 3d 1169 (D. Idaho 2023).

<sup>11</sup> Doe v. Ladapo, 737 F. Supp. 3d 1240, 1273-75 (N.D. Fla. 2024).

<sup>12</sup> Poe, 709 F. Supp. 3d at 1193.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* at 1193-94.

<sup>14</sup> Eknes-Tucker, 603 F. Supp. 3d at 1142-43.

<sup>15</sup> Doe, 737 F. Supp. 3d at 1291-92.

<sup>16</sup> *Id.* at 1287.

<sup>17</sup> *Id.* at 1258-59.

On appeal, the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits issued opinions lifting the preliminary injunctions against the bans in Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, and Florida.<sup>18</sup> These courts rejected claims that the bans merit heightened scrutiny, instead subjecting them only to rational-basis review and dismissed the plaintiffs' equal-protection challenges to the bans. In reviewing the Florida district court specifically, the Eleventh Circuit concluded that the district court likely erred by finding Florida's law was motivated by discriminatory animus, holding instead that binding circuit precedent requires a presumption of legislative good faith. The court found the State showed a strong likelihood of success on the merits and that the remaining stay factors—irreparable harm to the State, limited harm to plaintiffs, and the public interest in protecting children and enforcing duly enacted laws—favored Florida. Accordingly, the court stayed the district court's injunction.<sup>19</sup>

Moreover, the United States Supreme Court upheld Tennessee's statewide ban on prescribing puberty blockers and hormone therapy for the treatment of gender dysphoria, concluding under rational basis review that the law does not violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.<sup>20</sup>

### **Parental Rights in Florida**

Chapter 1014, F.S., known as the “Parents’ Bill of Rights,” affirms that parents have a fundamental right to direct the upbringing, education, and health care of their minor children.<sup>21</sup> Parents have the right to direct the education and care of their minor child.<sup>22</sup> Parents may choose the type of schooling for their child, including public, private, religious, or home education programs;<sup>23</sup> and access and review all school records related to their minor child.<sup>24</sup> Parents also have the right to direct the moral or religious upbringing of their child.<sup>25</sup>

Schools must promptly notify parents if a school employee suspects a criminal offense has been committed against their child, unless notification interferes with a law enforcement or child protective investigation.<sup>26</sup>

Parents have the right to make health care decisions for their minor children, including access to medical records and control over medical services and personal health data.<sup>27</sup> Except where otherwise authorized by law, health care practitioners must obtain parental consent before providing medical services to a minor.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> L.W. ex rel. Williams v. Skrmetti, 73 F.4th 408, 413 (6th Cir. 2023); Doe v. Thornbury, 75 F.4th 655, 657 (6th Cir. 2023); Eknes-Tucker v. Governor of Ala., 80 F.4th 1205, 1231 (11th Cir. 2023); and Doe v. Surgeon Gen., No. 24-11996, 2024 WL 4132455 (11th Cir. Aug. 26, 2024).

<sup>19</sup> Doe v. Surgeon Gen., No. 24-11996, 2024 WL 4132455, at \*3-4 (11th Cir. Aug. 26, 2024).

<sup>20</sup> United States v. Skrmetti, 605 U.S. 495 (2025).

<sup>21</sup> Section 1014.04(1), F.S.

<sup>22</sup> Section 1014.04(1)(a), F.S.

<sup>23</sup> Section 1014.04(1)(c), F.S.

<sup>24</sup> Section 1014.04(1)(d), F.S.

<sup>25</sup> Section 1014.04(1)(b), F.S.

<sup>26</sup> Section 1014.04(1)(j), F.S.

<sup>27</sup> Section 1014.04(1)(e)-(f), F.S.

<sup>28</sup> Section 1014.06(1), F.S.

Parents also retain the right to access and review all medical records, unless the parent is under investigation for a crime against the child and law enforcement has requested records not be released;<sup>29</sup> and provide written consent before any biometric scan or DNA sample is taken, stored, or shared.<sup>30</sup>

Additionally, written parental consent is required before video or voice recording of a minor child is created by a government entity, except for purposes such as classroom instruction, security monitoring, or forensic investigations.<sup>31</sup>

Examples of exceptions to the written parental consent requirement include circumstances involving criminal or juvenile justice processing, such as DNA collection upon arrest or during a sexual offense investigation.<sup>32</sup>

### ***Exceptions to Parental Consent***

Under current law, minors may independently consent to certain health care services without parental approval. These exceptions include:

- Treatment for Sexually Transmissible Diseases (STDs) – A minor may consent to examination and treatment for STDs without parental involvement.<sup>33</sup>
- Emergency Medical Treatment – A minor may receive emergency medical care if parental consent is unavailable.<sup>34</sup>
- Emergency Behavioral Health Care – A minor may be taken into custody and receive emergency mental health or substance abuse evaluation and treatment under the Baker Act<sup>35</sup> or Marchman Act<sup>36</sup> without parental consent.
- Mental Health Services – A minor aged 13 or older may consent to diagnostic and evaluative mental health services. However, parental consent is required for therapeutic services beyond two visits within a one-week period.<sup>37</sup>
- Blood Donation – A minor who is at least 17 years old may donate blood, provided there is no written objection from the parent or guardian.<sup>38</sup>
- Pregnancy-Related Care – An unwed, pregnant minor may consent to medical or surgical care related to her pregnancy. However, this does not include medical care unrelated to pregnancy.<sup>39</sup>
- Substance Abuse Treatment – A minor may consent to substance abuse treatment without parental approval.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Section 1014.04(1)(f), F.S.

<sup>30</sup> Section 1014.04(1)(g)-(h), F.S.

<sup>31</sup> Section 1014.04(1)(i), F.S.

<sup>32</sup> Sections 943.325 and 943.326, F.S.

<sup>33</sup> Section 384.30, F.S.

<sup>34</sup> Section 743.064, F.S.

<sup>35</sup> Section 394.463, F.S.

<sup>36</sup> Section 397.675, F.S.

<sup>37</sup> Section 394.4784, F.S.

<sup>38</sup> Section 743.06, F.S.

<sup>39</sup> Section 743.065, F.S.

<sup>40</sup> Section 397.601, F.S.

- When the disability of nonage has been removed pursuant to specific statutes in chapter 743, F.S.
- Substitute Consent – If a parent or legal guardian is unavailable and cannot be contacted after reasonable attempts, certain relatives—including stepparents, grandparents, adult siblings, or adult aunts and uncles—may provide consent for the minor’s medical treatment.<sup>41</sup>

### ***When a Parent is Prohibited by Law from Making Health Care Decisions***

In certain circumstances, a parent may be legally prohibited from making health care decisions for their minor child, including:

- Termination or Restriction of Parental Rights – A parent loses medical decision-making authority if a court terminates their rights due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment. In such cases, a legal guardian, foster parent, or the Department of Children and Families assumes this role.<sup>42</sup>
- Court Orders for Abuse, Neglect, or Domestic Violence – A court may issue a protective order restricting a parent’s ability to make medical decisions.<sup>43</sup>
- Incapacity or Unfitness of the Parent – A parent deemed legally incapacitated, such as due to severe mental illness or substance abuse, may lose decision-making authority, which transfers to a court-appointed guardian.<sup>44</sup>
- Court-Ordered Medical Treatment – A court may override parental consent if a parent refuses life-saving or medically necessary treatment for their child.<sup>45</sup>

### ***Disciplinary Actions for Violations of Parental Consent Requirements***

Florida law subjects health care practitioners to disciplinary action for violations of professional standards or statutory requirements.<sup>46</sup> Failure to comply with parental consent requirements is a disciplinary violation, and practitioners may face penalties for providing services to a minor without obtaining required parental consent.<sup>47</sup>

### ***Enforcement and Legal Actions***

Florida law establishes enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with health care regulations. These include:

- Assessment of investigative and prosecution costs against the practitioner if disciplinary action is taken.<sup>48</sup>
- An injunction or writ of mandamus to prohibit continued violations of the regulations.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Section 743.0645, F.S.

<sup>42</sup> Section 39.806, F.S.

<sup>43</sup> Section 741.30, F.S.

<sup>44</sup> Section 744.3215, F.S.

<sup>45</sup> Section 39.407(2), F.S.

<sup>46</sup> Section 456.072(1), F.S.

<sup>47</sup> Section 456.072(1)(rr), F.S.

<sup>48</sup> Section 456.072(4), F.S.

<sup>49</sup> Section 456.072(5), F.S.



- Permanent revocation of a license for severe violations, with limited options for reapplication.<sup>50</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

**Section 1** amends s. 456.52(5)(b), F.S., to establish that a health care practitioner who aids or abets another in violating prohibitions on sex-reassignment prescriptions or procedures for minors commits a third-degree felony. This explicitly extends criminal liability to accomplices, not only direct actors.

**Section 2** amends s. 766.318, F.S., to clarify that a private cause of action exists for personal injury or death resulting from a violation of the prohibition on sex-reassignment prescriptions and procedures for minors pursuant to s. 456.52(1), F.S. It also provides that an individual may recover both economic and non-economic damages for injuries he or she sustained before or after age 18 that result from such violation.

The section authorizes the Attorney General to investigate alleged violations of s. 456.52(1), F.S., and commence civil actions for damages, injunctive relief, and civil penalties up to \$100,000 per violation. It requires that damages recovered pursuant to such action accrue to benefit the injured individual. The section maintains existing provisions related to limitations periods, exceptions for certain ongoing treatments, and punitive damages considerations.

**Section 3** creates s. 1014.07, F.S., to establish a civil cause of action against: a state or local government employee who violates parental rights under s. 1014.04, F.S.; or health care practitioner who provides, solicits or arranges to provide, or aids or abets another to provide, health care services or prescriptions of medicinal drugs to a minor without parental consent in violation of s. 1014.06, F.S. It also provides that an individual may recover both economic and non-economic damages that result from a violation of those sections of statute. It requires that damages recovered pursuant to such action accrue to benefit the affected minor.

The section authorizes the Attorney General to investigate alleged violations of ss. 1014.04 or 1014.06, F.S., and commence civil actions for damages, injunctive relief, and civil penalties up to \$100,000 per violation. It requires that damages recovered pursuant to such action accrue to benefit the affected minor. It also specifies that punitive damages caps do not apply and establishes a two-year statute of limitations.

**Section 4** reenacts s. 456.074(5)(c), F.S., to incorporate the substantive changes in the bill relating to emergency licensure suspension authority for practitioners upon arrest for relevant violations.

**Section 5** provides an effective date of July 1, 2026.

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<sup>50</sup> Section 456.072(6), F.S.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:****A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

**B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

**C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

**D. State Tax or Fee Increases:**

None.

**E. Other Constitutional Issues:**

None identified.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

None.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 456.52, 766.318, 456.074.

This bill creates the following section of the Florida Statutes: 1014.07.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**CS by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs on January 20, 2026:**

In s. 456.52, F.S., related to the prohibition against sex-reassignment prescriptions and procedures for minors, the CS:

- Clarifies that a private cause of action exists for personal injury or death resulting from a violation of the prohibition; and
- Provides that an individual may recover both economic and non-economic damages for injuries he or she sustained before or after age 18 that result from such violation.

In s. 1014.07, F.S., relating to the parental rights and consent requirements contained within sections 1014.04 and 1014.06, the CS:

- Clarifies that a private cause of action exists for violation of rights and consent requirements arising from those sections of statute;
- Expands the cause of action against health care practitioners to those who aid or abet another to provide health care services or prescriptions to minors without parental consent; and
- Provides that an individual may recover both economic and non-economic damages that result from a violation of those sections of statute.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

# CourtSmart Tag Report

**Room:** SB 301  
**Caption:** Senate Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee

**Case No.:**

**Type:**  
**Judge:**

**Started:** 1/20/2026 9:30:04 AM

**Ends:** 1/20/2026 11:15:06 AM

**Length:** 01:45:02

9:30:08 AM Chair Grall calls the meeting to order  
9:30:10 AM Roll Call  
9:30:31 AM Chair Grall makes opening remarks  
9:30:44 AM Tab 2; SB 590 by Senator Bradley, Statute of Limitations Period for Violations Involving Required Reports Concerning Children  
9:30:53 AM Senator Bradley explains the bill  
9:32:00 AM Amendment #853776  
9:32:06 AM Senator Bradley explains the amendment  
9:32:38 AM Chair Grall recognizes public testimony  
9:32:58 AM Back on bill as amended  
9:33:03 AM Debate:  
9:33:14 AM Senator Sharief  
9:33:43 AM Senator Bradley makes closing remarks  
9:35:06 AM Roll Call  
9:35:21 AM Tab 3; SB 778 by Senator Simon, Forensic Services for Certain Defendants  
9:35:27 AM Senator Simon explains the bill  
9:36:30 AM Chair Grall recognizes public testimony  
9:36:35 AM Senator Simon Waives close  
9:36:37 AM Roll Call  
9:36:55 AM Tab 1; SB 560 by Senator Garcia, Child Welfare  
9:37:01 AM Senator Garcia explains the bill  
9:39:03 AM Barcode #964050  
9:39:10 AM Senator Garcia explains the amendment  
9:40:05 AM Questions on the amendment:  
9:40:11 AM Senator Harrell  
9:40:41 AM Senator Garcia  
9:41:40 AM Senator Harrell  
9:42:08 AM Senator Garcia  
9:42:51 AM Senator Garcia waives close on the amendment  
9:43:12 AM Amendment #701698  
9:43:23 AM Senator Garcia explains the amendment  
9:43:53 AM Senator Garcia waives close on the amendment  
9:44:07 AM Back on the bill as amended  
9:44:18 AM Chair Simon recognizes public testimony  
9:44:33 AM Debate:  
9:44:37 AM Senator Sharief  
9:45:19 AM Senator Garcia makes closing remarks and waives close on the bill  
9:45:50 AM Roll call  
9:46:14 AM Chair Simon calls for recess  
9:46:17 AM Recording Paused  
10:30:52 AM Recording Resumed  
10:30:56 AM Chair Grall calls the meeting back to order  
10:31:02 AM Tab 4; SB 1010 by Senator Yarborough, Enforcement of Protections for Minors  
10:31:10 AM Senator Yarborough explains the bill  
10:32:17 AM Amendment #235940  
10:32:25 AM Senator Yarborough explains the amendment  
10:32:56 AM Questions on the amendment:  
10:32:59 AM Senator Rouson  
10:33:16 AM Senator Yarborough  
10:33:49 AM Senator Rouson  
10:33:59 AM Senator Yarborough  
10:34:15 AM Chair Grall recognizes public appearances

10:34:23 AM Speaking:  
10:34:28 AM Vance Ahrens  
10:36:06 AM Senator Yarborough makes closing remarks and waives close on the amendment  
10:36:51 AM Back on the bill as amended  
10:36:54 AM Questions:  
10:36:57 AM Senator Harrell  
10:37:29 AM Senator Yarborough  
10:38:18 AM Senator Harrell  
10:38:48 AM Senator Yarborough  
10:38:54 AM Senator Harrell  
10:39:16 AM Senator Yarborough  
10:39:21 AM Senator Harrell  
10:39:44 AM Senator Yarborough  
10:40:24 AM Senator Harrell  
10:40:58 AM Senator Yarborough  
10:41:21 AM Senator Sharief  
10:41:39 AM Senator Yarborough  
10:42:36 AM Senator Sharief  
10:43:19 AM Senator Yarborough  
10:44:45 AM Senator Sharief  
10:47:24 AM Senator Yarborough  
10:48:55 AM Senator Garcia  
10:49:18 AM Chair Grall recognizes that the vote on SB 1010 be taken at 11:25  
10:49:33 AM Chair Grall recognizes public testimony  
10:49:36 AM Speaking:  
10:49:42 AM Christian Pfadenhauer  
10:50:41 AM Roya O'leary  
10:51:52 AM Ryan Kennedy  
10:52:10 AM Vance Ahrens  
10:53:12 AM Jessica Willson  
10:54:11 AM Andrea Jones  
10:54:59 AM Stratton Pollitzer  
10:55:47 AM Jennifer Solomon  
10:56:39 AM John Labriola  
10:57:32 AM Matthew Johnson  
10:58:14 AM Robin Hauser  
10:59:00 AM Juan Dominguez  
10:59:38 AM Dr. Luiso Montoya  
11:00:26 AM Kathleen Murray  
11:01:04 AM David Porter  
11:01:34 AM Jen Couch  
11:02:22 AM Isabella Rodriguez  
11:03:12 AM Melisa Franklin  
11:04:00 AM Kathryn Belina  
11:04:45 AM Lisa Lloyd  
11:04:55 AM Quinn Diaz  
11:05:39 AM Kurt Micel  
11:06:17 AM Christina Woodhouse  
11:06:31 AM Nicole Dillon  
11:08:23 AM Debate:  
11:08:27 AM Senator Harrell  
11:10:41 AM Senator Sharief  
11:12:03 AM Senator Rouson  
11:12:58 AM Chair Grall  
11:13:50 AM Senator Yarborough makes closing remarks and waives close on the bill  
11:14:18 AM Roll call  
11:14:51 AM Chair Grall recognizes Senators wishing to record votes  
11:14:52 AM Chair Grall records vote  
11:14:57 AM Senator Garcia moves to adjourn the meeting  
11:15:00 AM Meeting adjourned