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Senator Barbara Sharief and Rep. Bartleman Files Bill to Strengthen Child Protective Investigations

Davie, FL – Florida State Senator Barbara Sharief (District 35) has filed SB 42/HB 47 alongside Representative Robin Bartleman, legislation aimed at improving child protective investigations. The bill provides exceptions to certain reporting requirements, ensures child protective investigators inform subjects of specific duties, and requires Child Protection Teams to consult with licensed physicians or advanced practice nurses when evaluating certain medical reports.

The bill also allows a parent or legal custodian, under specified circumstances, to request medical examinations of a child, with costs covered by the requesting parent, insurance, or Medicaid.

“This bill ensures that child protective investigations are thorough, guided by medical expertise, and conducted with respect for children and families, while also helping to reunite families more quickly when abuse allegations are proven false,” said Senator Sharief.

Representative Bartleman said, “This bill aligns with successful legislation in other states and ensures that child abuse investigations are thorough and based on accurate medical evidence, we protect both children and families, ensuring that wrongful accusations are avoided while legitimate cases are addressed.”

If passed, SB 42/HB 47 will take effect July 1, 2026

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