

By Senator Smith

14-1825-04

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the juvenile justice system;
3 amending s. 985.02, F.S.; requiring
4 gender-specific programming within the
5 Department of Juvenile Justice for children in
6 this state; requiring the Office of Program
7 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability
8 to conduct an analysis of gender-specific
9 programs in the Department of Juvenile Justice;
10 providing certain gender-specific information
11 to be included in the analysis; providing an
12 effective date.

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

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16 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 985.02, Florida
17 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (8) is added to that
18 section, to read:

19 985.02 Legislative intent for the juvenile justice
20 system.--

21 (1) GENERAL PROTECTIONS FOR CHILDREN.--It is a purpose
22 of the Legislature that the children of this state be provided
23 with the following protections:

24 (a) Protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

25 (b) A permanent and stable home.

26 (c) A safe and nurturing environment which will
27 preserve a sense of personal dignity and integrity.

28 (d) Adequate nutrition, shelter, and clothing.

29 (e) Effective treatment to address physical, social,
30 and emotional needs, regardless of geographical location.

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1 (f) Equal opportunity and access to quality and
2 effective education, which will meet the individual needs of
3 each child, and to recreation and other community resources to
4 develop individual abilities.

5 (g) Access to preventive services.

6 (h) An independent, trained advocate when intervention
7 is necessary, and a skilled guardian or caretaker in a safe
8 environment when alternative placement is necessary.

9 (i) Gender-specific programming and gender-specific
10 program models and services that comprehensively address the
11 needs of a targeted gender group.

12 (8) GENDER-SPECIFIC PROGRAMMING.--

13 (a) The Legislature finds that the prevention,
14 treatment, and rehabilitation needs of youth served by the
15 juvenile justice system are gender-specific.

16 (b) Gender-specific programming refers to unique
17 program models and services that comprehensively address the
18 needs of a targeted gender group. Gender-specific services
19 require the adherence to the principle of equity to ensure
20 that the different interests of young women and men are
21 recognized and varying needs are met, with equality as the
22 desired outcome. Gender-specific programming focuses on the
23 differences between young women's and young men's roles and
24 responsibilities, positions in society, access to and use of
25 resources, and social codes governing behavior.

26 Gender-specific programs increase the effectiveness of
27 programs by making interventions more appropriate to the
28 specific needs of young women and men and ensuring that these
29 programs do not unknowingly create, maintain, or reinforce
30 gender roles or relations that may be damaging.

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1 (c) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and
2 Government Accountability shall conduct an analysis of
3 programs for girls within the Department of Juvenile Justice.
4 The analysis shall address the nature of girl offenders in
5 this state, the percentage of girls who are incarcerated in
6 the juvenile justice system for status offenses and violations
7 of probation, and whether these girls could be better served
8 in less costly community-based programs. In addition, the
9 review shall analyze whether existing juvenile justice
10 programs are designed to meet the gender-specific needs of
11 girls and an analysis of the true cost of providing
12 gender-specific services to girls.

13 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
14 law.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Requires gender-specific programming for children in the juvenile justice system. Requires the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct an analysis of gender-specific programs in the Department of Juvenile Justice. Provides that certain gender-specific information be included in the analysis.