1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to the Parent Education and Family
3	Stabilization Course; amending s. 61.21, F.S.;
4	providing legislative findings; revising course topics
5	for the Parent Education and Family Stabilization
6	Course; requiring certain parties to complete a
7	tailored Parent Education and Family Stabilization
8	Course; authorizing the court to require additional
9	education courses for certain persons; providing an
10	effective date.
11	
12	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
13	
14	Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section
15	61.21, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (e),
16	paragraph (c) of subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection
17	(2), and subsection (4) of that section are amended, a new
18	paragraph (d) is added to subsection (1) of that section and a
19	new subsection (12) is added to that section, to read:
20	61.21 Parenting course authorized; fees; required
21	attendance authorized; contempt
22	(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; PURPOSEIt is the finding of
23	the Legislature that:
24	(c) It <u>is</u> has been found to be beneficial to parents who
25	are separating or divorcing to have available an educational
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program that will provide general information regarding: 26 The issues and legal procedures for resolving time-27 1. 28 sharing and child support disputes. 29 2. The emotional experiences and problems of divorcing 30 adults. 31 3. The family problems and the emotional concerns and 32 needs of the children. 33 4. The availability of community services and resources. It is also beneficial to parents of children who have 34 (d) 35 special needs or emotional concerns who are divorcing or separating to have available an educational program that will 36 37 provide information tailored to children who have special needs 38 and emotional concerns. 39 The Department of Children and Families shall approve (2) a parenting course which must shall be a course of a minimum of 40 4 hours and designed to educate, train, and assist divorcing 41 parents in regard to the consequences of divorce on parents and 42 43 children. 44 The parenting course referred to in this section is (a) 45 shall be named the Parent Education and Family Stabilization Course and may include, but need not be limited to, the 46 following topics as they relate to court actions between parents 47 48 involving custody, care, time-sharing, and support of a child or children: 49 50 1. Legal aspects of deciding child-related issues between

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51 parents. 52 Emotional aspects of separation and divorce on adults. 2. 53 3. Emotional aspects of separation and divorce on 54 children. 55 4. Family relationships and family dynamics. 56 5. Financial responsibilities to a child or children. 57 6. Issues regarding spousal or child abuse and neglect. 58 7. Skill-based relationship education that may be generalized to parenting, workplace, school, neighborhood, and 59 civic relationships. 60 8. Particularized needs of children who have identified 61 62 special needs or emotional concerns. (4) (a) All parties to a dissolution of marriage proceeding 63 64 with minor children or a paternity action that involves issues 65 of parental responsibility are shall be required to complete the 66 Parent Education and Family Stabilization Course before prior to 67 the entry by the court of a final judgment. If the parties have children who have identified special needs or emotional 68 69 concerns, the parties must select a Parent Education and Family 70 Stabilization Course that is tailored to education relating to children who have special needs and emotional concerns. 71 72 The court may excuse a party from attending the (b) parenting course, or from completing the course within the 73 74 required time, for good cause. 75 The court may, in its discretion, require a parent to (12)

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76	attend additional educational courses relating to children who	
77	have special needs and emotional concerns than what is required	d
78	under this section.	

79 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

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