

Capitol Update



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Florida Help Me Grow

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, The United Way of Florida, The Children's Movement and The Children's Trust are advocating for \$4,000,000 dollars to expand the Help Me Grow Florida Network. The network expansion will increase the capacity to connect children and families with information, resources, and developmental services to enhance the health, behavior, learning and development of young children.

A \$4 million appropriation this year will enable Help Me Grow (HMG) operations to expand to full capacity to implement the four core components of Help Me Grow programs currently under development. These programs are modeled after and mentored by the founding Florida programs that currently operate in Miami-Dade and Hillsborough Counties.

Last year's funding of \$2,000,000 dollars was used to develop five new affiliate sites, serving twenty-two counties across the state. Funding is needed to assist additional future affiliates who will be joining the network to begin planning and resource building to cultivate the infrastructure for Help Me Grow through the State Coordinating Office. In conjunction with the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council and the Office of Early Learning, Help Me Grow Florida affiliates and partners are moving towards statewide expansion.

With proven results in 10 States and programs recently launched in 12 others, Help Me Grow's successful four core components include;

- a centralized telephone access point for connecting children and their families to services and care coordination
- community outreach to promote awareness and use of system partners
- child health care provider outreach to support early detection, intervention and knowledge of local resources

- data collection to identify gaps and barriers in the service of continuous system quality improvement.

Currently, the House budget has \$2 million dollars for Florida Help Me Grow and the Senate took out the \$2 million dollars they had in their budget for Florida Help Me Grow in the initial budgeting phase.

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council is working with [Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education](#) and the [House Education Appropriations Subcommittee](#) to urge them to fund \$4 million dollars for the continuation and expansion of this valuable program. Please share your opinion on this program with these committee members.

Vocational Rehabilitation Bills Update

[SB 802C1](#) provides for the future repeal of the designation of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation as the administrative unit for purposes of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, subject to legislative review of a required report. The bill also requires the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to initiate, by October 2015, a performance improvement plan designed to achieve specified goals. The bill also requires the division to develop and implement a pilot program to improve the state vocational rehabilitation program.

[HB 1153C1](#) was amended to only require performance measures that are consistent with The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) regulations. HB 1153 no longer has the repeal language or the pilot language. The bills are no longer identical. The Effective Date: 7/1/2015. The Council is monitoring these bills.

[SB 146 - Relating to Autism by Ring, Cosponsor: Sachs](#)

Summary

This bill requires that a physician refer a minor to an appropriate specialist for screening for autism spectrum disorder under certain circumstances and requires that certain insurers and health maintenance organizations provide direct patient access to an appropriate specialist for screening for evaluation or diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. The bill also requires that certain insurance policies and health maintenance organization contracts provide a minimum number of visits per year for screening for or evaluation or diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. Effective Date: July 1, 2015.

The Council voted to support this bill.

Actions

12/12/14 SENATE Referred to Health Policy; Banking and Insurance; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Fiscal Policy

03/26/15 SENATE On Committee agenda - Health Policy, 03/31/15, 10:00 am, 412 K

Similar Bills

[HB 0023 - Relating to Autism by Cruz](#)

12/19/14 HOUSE Now in Health Innovation Subcommittee

[SB 330 - Relating to Missing Persons with Special Needs by Dean CS Sponsors: Criminal Justice](#)

Summary

This bill provides for immunity from civil liability for certain persons who comply with a request to release information concerning missing persons with special needs to appropriate agencies. The bill provides for a presumption that a person recording, reporting, transmitting, displaying, or releasing such information acted in good faith.

The bill also required the Department of Law Enforcement, contingent on funding, to provide electronic monitoring devices to certain persons with autism spectrum disorder and other disabilities and required the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to make an annual report concerning such individuals to the department. However these provisions were amended out of the bill and another amendment is being crafted to make these electronic devices available by drawing down federal funding for this purpose. (The bill also had required the Department of Children and Families, contingent on funding, to provide electronic devices.) Effective Date: 7/1/2015

Actions

01/28/15 SENATE Referred to Criminal Justice; Judiciary; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Appropriations

03/02/15 SENATE Favorable with CS by Criminal Justice; 4 Yeas, 0 Nays

03/03/15 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed

03/24/15 SENATE Favorable by Judiciary; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays

03/25/15 SENATE Now in Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

Identical Bills

[HB 0069 - Relating to Missing Persons with Special Needs by Porter](#)

03/24/15 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays

03/25/15 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C2) Filed

[SB 152 - Relating to Disability Awareness by Ring CS Sponsors: Education Pre-K - 12](#)

Summary

This bill requires rather than authorizes, each district school board to provide disability history and awareness instruction in all K-12 public schools beginning in 2016-2017. Presentations by individuals with a disability are to be included in the disability history and awareness instruction; the bill also requires each public school to establish a disability history and awareness advisory council; providing membership on the council; providing responsibilities of the council; providing meeting times for the council. **The Council voted to support the parts of the bills that require rather than authorize, each district school board to provide disability history and awareness instruction in all K-12 public schools beginning in 2016-2017. And the Council voted to add the flexibility of being able to provide this instruction anytime during the school year instead of just the first two weeks of October.**

Actions

SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Similar Bills

[HB 0123 - Relating to Disability Awareness by Cortes \(J\)](#)

01/08/15 HOUSE Now in K-12 Subcommittee

[HB 71 - Relating to Service Animals by Smith \(J\) Cosponsor: Sprowls](#)

Summary

This bill requires a public accommodation to permit use of a service animal by an individual with a disability under certain circumstances. The bill provides conditions for a public accommodation to exclude or remove a service animal. The bill revises penalties for certain persons or entities who interfere with use of a service animal in specified circumstances and the bill provides a penalty for knowing and willful misrepresentation with respect to use or training of a service animal. **The Council voted to support this bill.**

Actions

03/27/15 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 112 Yeas / 0 Nays)

Similar Bills

[SB 0414 - Relating to Service Animals by Altman](#)

03/25/15 SENATE On Committee agenda - Commerce and Tourism, 03/30/15, 4:00 pm, 110 S

[SB 206 - Relating to Financial Literacy Program for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities by Hukill Cosponsors: Detert, Gaetz \(D\), Sachs, Soto, Galvano](#)

Summary

This bill establishes the program within the Department of Financial Services. The bill requires the department to develop and implement the program in consultation with specified stakeholders; providing for the participation of banks, credit unions, savings associations, and savings banks. The bill requires the program to provide information and other offerings on specified issues to individuals with developmental disabilities and employers in this state. The bill requires the department to establish on its website a clearinghouse for information regarding the program and to publish a brochure describing the program. Effective Date: 10/1/2015. **The Council voted to support this bill.**

Actions

03/23/15 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Similar Bills

[HB 7085 - Relating to Financial Literacy Program for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities by Regulatory Affairs Committee](#)

03/27/15 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, 03/31/15, 9:00 am, 17 H

SB 256 - Relating to Identification Cards by Sobel

Summary

This bill requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to issue an identification card(at the request of parent ,guardian or individual with a developmental exhibiting a special designation (a capital D) for a person who is diagnosed by a licensed physician as having a developmental disability. The bill requires payment of an additional fee of \$10 and proof of diagnosis. It authorizes the issuance of a replacement identification card that includes the special designation without payment. Effective Date: 7/1/2015. **After several lengthy discussions, the Council did not take action on this bill and will watch it.**

Actions

01/15/15 SENATE Referred to Transportation; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations
03/23/15 SENATE Now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

Identical Bill

HB 0519 - Relating to Identification Cards by Murphy

02/05/15 HOUSE Now in Highway & Waterway Safety Subcommittee

SB 380 - Relating to Persons with Developmental Disabilities by Bradley

Summary

This bill requires the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to allow an applicant whose parent or guardian is a member of the United States Armed Forces, the Florida National Guard or the United States Reserve Forces to receive Medicaid home and community based waiver program services under certain conditions. Effective Date: 7/1/2015. **The Council voted to support this bill.**

Actions

01/23/15 SENATE Referred to Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Appropriations
02/17/15 SENATE Favorable by Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; 4 Yeas, 0 Nays
03/11/15 SENATE Favorable with CS by Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; 7 Yeas, 0 Nays
03/13/15 SENATE Now in Appropriations

Similar Bills

HB 0177 - Relating to Persons with Developmental Disabilities by Hill

03/16/15 HOUSE Now in Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee

HB 437 - Relating to Guardians for Dependent Children who are Developmentally Disabled or Incapacitated by Adkins Cosponsors: Van Zant CS Sponsors: Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee

Summary

This bill requires continued review of necessity of guardianships for young adults; requires updated case plan developed in face-to-face conference with child, if appropriate, and other specified persons. The bill provides requirements for DCF when court determines there is good faith basis to appoint guardian. The bill provides that probate court has jurisdiction over proceedings for appointment of guardian advocate if petitions are filed for certain minors subject to Ch. 39, F.S., proceedings when such minors have reached specified age; provides that such minor has same due process rights as certain adults and provides that if child is subject to proceedings under Ch. 39, F.S., parents may act as natural guardians unless court finds that it is not in child's best interests or their parental rights have been terminated. Effective Date: July 1, 2015. **The Council is supporting this bill.**

Actions

03/19/15 HOUSE Favorable by Health & Human Services Committee; 14 Yeas, 0 Nays
HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Similar Bills

[SB 0496 - Relating to Guardians by Detert](#)

03/12/15 HOUSE Now in Appropriations

[SB 642 - Relating to Individuals with Disabilities by Benacquisto, Banking and Insurance](#)
[Cosponsors: Sobel CS Sponsors: Banking and Insurance](#)

Summary

General Individuals with Disabilities; Creating the "Florida Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act"; requiring the Florida Prepaid College Board to establish a direct-support organization known as "Florida ABLE, Inc."; authorizing the organization to use certain services, property, and facilities of the Florida Prepaid College Board; providing that specified moneys, assets, and income of a qualified ABLE program, including the Florida ABLE program, are not subject to attachment, levy, garnishment, or certain legal process in favor of certain creditors or claimants, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

Actions

03/26/15 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading
SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/01/15

Compare Bills

[HB 0937 - Relating to Trust Funds/Florida ABLE Trust Fund/State Board of Administration by Rodrigues \(R\)](#)

03/12/15 HOUSE Now in Health & Human Services Committee

[HB 0939 - Relating to Pub. Rec./Florida Prepaid College Board/Florida ABLE, Inc./Florida ABLE Program by Rodrigues \(R\)](#)

03/26/15 HOUSE Now in Health & Human Services Committee

Similar Bills

[HB 0935 - Relating to Individuals with Disabilities by Rodrigues \(R\)](#)

03/12/15 HOUSE Now in Health & Human Services Committee

Linked Bills

[SB 0646 - Relating to Public Records/Information Held by the Florida Prepaid College Board, Florida ABE, Inc., and the Florida ABE program by Benacquisto](#)

03/26/15 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/01/15

[SB 0644 - Relating to Florida ABE Trust Fund/State Board of Administration by Benacquisto](#)

03/26/15 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/01/15

[SB 7030 - Relating to Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities by Higher Education](#)

Summary

This bill creates the "Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Act"; establishing eligibility requirements for enrollment in the Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program. The bill establishes the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities and establishes a Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Scholarship for certain qualified students. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **The Council is supporting this bill.**

Actions

03/26/15 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/01/15

Similar Bills

[HB 7091 - Relating to Postsecondary Options for Students with Disabilities by Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee](#)

03/26/15 HOUSE Now in Education Committee

[SB 848 - Relating to Employment of Individuals With Disabilities by Richter](#)

Summary

This bill would be called the "Employment First Act" and require specified state agencies and organizations from the Executive Order to develop and implement an interagency cooperative agreement. This bill also requires the interagency cooperative agreement to provide the roles, responsibilities, and objectives of state agencies and organizations. This text is also in **SB 7022 (next below)**. Effective Date: 7/1/2015. **The Council wrote this bill.**

Actions

02/20/15 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Commerce and Tourism; Appropriations

03/10/15 SENATE Favorable with CS by Governmental Oversight and Accountability; 4 Yeas, 0 Nays

03/12/15 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed

SENATE Now in Commerce and Tourism

Similar Bills

[HB 1083 - Relating to Employment Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities by Rooney](#)

03/26/15 HOUSE Now in Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee

SB 7022 - Relating to Individuals With Disabilities by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Cosponsors: Galvano

Summary

This is a proposed committee bill (PCB) for individuals with disabilities. The bill revises definitions and defines the term "individual who has a disability". The bill revises the state's equal employment opportunity policy to include individuals who have a disability and requires each executive agency to annually report to the Department of Management Services regarding the agency's progress in increasing employment among certain underrepresented groups. The bill requires the department to develop and implement certain programs geared toward individuals who have a disability. Effective Date: 7/1/2015. **The Council is supporting this bill.**

Actions

03/24/15 SENATE Read Second Time; Placed on Third Reading, 04/01/15

SB 1008 - Relating to Seclusion and Restraint on Students with Disabilities in Public Schools by Flores

Summary

This bill requires that manual physical restraint be used only in an emergency when there is an imminent risk of serious injury or death to a student or others. The bill prohibits the use of manual physical restraint by school personnel who are not certified to use district-approved methods for applying restraint techniques. The bill also prohibits school personnel from placing a student in seclusion. The bill requires that parents be notified of a school district's policies regarding the use of manual physical restraint. Effective Date: 7/1/2015. **The Council is supporting this bill.**

Actions

02/18/15 SENATE Filed

02/27/15 SENATE Referred to Education Pre-K - 12; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Rules

SB 802 - Relating to Vocational Rehabilitation by Gaetz (D)

Summary

This bill provides for the future repeal of the designation of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation as the administrative unit for purposes of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, subject to legislative review of a required report. The bill also requires the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to initiate, by a specified date, a performance improvement plan designed to achieve specified goals. The bill requires the division to develop and implement a pilot program to improve the state vocational rehabilitation program. HB 1153 was amended to only include performance measures that are consistent with The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) regulations. HB 1153 no longer has the repeal language or the pilot language. The bills are no longer identical. The Effective Date: 7/1/2015. **The Council is monitoring this bill**

Actions

02/13/15 SENATE Referred to Higher Education; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Appropriations

03/10/15 SENATE Favorable by Higher Education; 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

03/19/15 SENATE Favorable by Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; 7 Yeas, 0 Nays

03/25/15 SENATE Favorable with CS by Appropriations; 16 Yeas, 0 Nays

03/27/15 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed

SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Compare Bills

[**HB 1153 - Relating to Vocational Rehabilitation Services by Ingoglia**](#)

03/26/15 HOUSE Now in Education Committee

[**SB 7048 - Relating to Developmental Disabilities by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs**](#) [**Cosponsors: Detert**](#)

Summary

This bill clarifies when the Agency for Persons with Disabilities will provide services to children with disabilities in foster care. The agency administers the Home and Community Based Services Medicaid waiver to provide services beyond those available under the traditional Medicaid program. The bill revises section 393.065, F.S., which establishes categories of priority groups to be added to the waiver. The waiver program currently has a waiting list and this bill clarifies the priority category 2 relating to children in foster care. The Agency for Persons with Disabilities will provide disability specific services to children in extended foster care, ages 18 to 21. The community-based care agencies, under contract with the Department of Children and Families, will continue to provide room and board to children with disabilities in extended foster care.

The bill would have an estimated fiscal impact of approximately \$3 million on the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Costs for the community-based care agencies would be reduced. The bill is effective July 1, 2015.

Actions

03/09/15 SENATE Filed

SENATE On Committee agenda - Children, Families, and Elder Affairs, 03/12/15, 9:00 am, 301 S

03/12/15 SENATE Submitted as Committee Bill by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

SENATE Committee Bill Text Filed

03/17/15 SENATE Referred to Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Appropriations.