

2017 BILLS FOR FLORIDA ADVOCACY DAYS (*Abridged versions*)

CS/SB 196

CS/SB 196 (in Summary) requires a law enforcement officer to issue a civil citation or require the juvenile's participation in a similar diversion program when the juvenile admits to committing one of the following first-time misdemeanor offenses:

- Possession of alcoholic beverages by a person under age 21 (s. 562.111, F.S.);
- Battery (s. 784.03(1), F.S.);
- Criminal Mischief (s. 806.13, F.S.);
- Trespass (ss. 810.08, and 810.09, F.S.);
- Theft (ss. 812.04(2)(c) and (3)(a), F.S.);
- Retail and farm theft (s. 812.015(2), F.S.);
- Loitering and prowling (s. 856.021, F.S.);
- Affrays and riots (s. 870.01(1), F.S.);
- Disorderly conduct (s. 877.03, F.S.);
- Possession of 20 grams or less of cannabis (s. 893.13(6)(b), F.S.);
- Use, possession, manufacture, delivery, transportation, advertisement, or retail sale of drug paraphernalia (s. 893.147, F.S.); or
- Resisting an officer without violence (s. 843.02, F.S.).

REVISED:

The bill permits a law enforcement officer to issue a civil citation or require the juvenile's participation in a similar diversion program when the juvenile admits to committing:

- A misdemeanor offense not enumerated in the bill; or
- A second-time or third-time misdemeanor offense not enumerated in the bill.

A law enforcement officer must provide written documentation articulating why an arrest is warranted when he or she has the discretion to issue a civil citation but instead chooses to arrest the juvenile.

The bill specifies that the option of the issuance of a civil citation or referral to a similar diversion program does not apply to:

- A juvenile who is alleged to have committed, is currently charged with, or has plead or has been convicted of a felony; or
- A misdemeanor offense arising out of an episode in which the juvenile is also alleged to have committed a felony.

The bill could have positive fiscal impact to state and local governments because an increase in civil citation or similar diversion programs could lead to juveniles being diverted from the costlier juvenile justice system.

SB 60/HB 217- "KEYS TO SUCCESS"

SB 60/HB 217. In 2014, a pilot project was created to help foster youth get driver licenses, giving them an opportunity to engage in normal age-appropriate activities and be better equipped to live independently. Called "Keys to Independence,"

the program helps youth with the process of getting a permit, license, or insurance, and reimburses related expenses. So far, the program has enrolled nearly 1000 children and young adults and the number of foster youth with licenses has tripled. Youth report that the program has allowed them to:

- *Finish High School and obtain GEDs
- *Get jobs and vocational training
- *Stay in the same school after changing placement
- *Live independently Participate in extra-curricular activities

SB 60/HB 217 make this successful program permanent and improve it using pilot project data. The bill allows all kids in out-of-home care - not just those in licensed foster care - to apply, and youth who start the program get six months to finish it if their placement changes or they age-out of foster care.

SB 852 – HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SB 852. This bill requires DCF or a sheriff's office to conduct a multidisciplinary staffing on child victims of commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC) to determine the child's service and placement needs, to create a service plan, and to follow up on all victims within a certain time frame. The bill clarifies the definition of CSEC and requires more data to be collected on this population. The bill also has a few provisions addressing traffickers, such as the admissibility of their statements and pre-trial detention.