



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
WEEK 5
WEEK ENDING 2/9/2024

SUPPORT

1. The Unborn Child Parent's Survivor Act (Rep. Persons-Mulicka/Sen. Grall) [HB 651/SB 476](#)

Description: This legislation adds an unborn child's parents to the definition of survivor in wrongful death civil lawsuits, further humanizing the unborn baby in state statute.

Status: The House version had previously passed the first of two committees and is waiting for a hearing in its final committee. Meanwhile, on Monday, the Senate version passed the first of three hearings in the Judiciary Committee, 7-2.

2. Adoptive Parent Registry Act (Rep. Abbott/Sen. Harrell) [HB 327/SB 306](#)

Description: This bill seeks to create a potential adoption registry of prospective parents who have been vetted properly and are awaiting adoption opportunities for newborns surrendered for adoption. The goal of the legislation is to create a streamlined process for adoption, in addition to reducing the cost of adoption.

Status: Previously, the Senate bill passed its first committee unanimously and had its second committee assignment removed, which leaves one final committee stop left. The House bill has yet to move.

3. Surrendered Infants Protection Act (Rep. Canady/Sen. Yarborough) [HB 775/SB 790](#)

Description: This expands the window that allows for new mothers to give up their newborn babies and to surrender parental rights to enable the child to be adopted. It also expands the list of individuals with whom babies may be left and the locations where they may be surrendered.

Status: The House version is awaiting a final vote on the full House floor, while on Thursday, the Senate version unanimously passed the final stop, Rules, and now heads to the Senate floor.

4. Pregnancy and Parenting Online Resources Act (Rep. Jacques/Sen. Grall) [HB 415/SB 436](#)

Description: This bill mandates several state agencies create an online portal listing links to numerous public and private pregnancy and parenting resources for new parents, including mothers with unplanned pregnancies. Resources linked will include adoption services, maternal health services, social support, and other pregnancy-related resources to help provide care for new parents.

Status: On Thursday, the House version passed its final committee, Health & Human Services, 14-3, and now heads to the full House floor, while also on Thursday, the Senate version passed the second of three hearings, Appropriations on Health and Human Services, 7-3.

Gender and Sexuality

SUPPORT

1. Anti-Human Trafficking Minimum Age for Adult Entertainment Act (Rep. Amesty/Sen. Yarborough) [HB 1379/SB 1690](#)

Description: This provision seeks to curb the sexual exploitation of young women by restricting adult entertainment strip clubs, entities that are often used to groom young women into sex trafficking, from hiring any employees under 21.

Status: The Senate bill has passed its first of three committees, while on Wednesday, the House bill passed its second committee, Judiciary, 17-2, and has one remaining stop.

2. Defending Biological Sex in Healthcare Act (Rep. Bankson) [HB 1639](#)

Description: The bill requires that any healthcare insurance providers that cover chemical and surgical gender-reassignment procedures to also cover procedures for detransitioning back to one's biological sex. It also mandates that insurance providers must offer insurance plans that do not cover chemical and surgical transgender procedures and are forbidden from denying counseling and mental healthcare services meant to help individuals struggling with gender identity to reaffirm and embrace their biological sex.

Status: The House bill passed the first two hearings and is awaiting the final committee hearing.

3. Prostitution and Human Trafficking Enforcement Act (Rep. Silvers/Sen. Grall) [HB 1385/SB 1590](#)

Description: This proposal strengthens anti-human trafficking laws by prohibiting adults from offering to commit, committing, or engaging in prostitution and related acts; prohibiting the owning, establishing, maintaining, operating, using, letting, or renting of any building, or structure of any kind, with knowledge or reckless disregard that it will be used for the purpose of commercial sex; and prohibiting the receiving, or offering or agreeing to receive or allow a person to remain into a location for the purpose of commercial sexual activity. The house and senate versions do differ; we strongly support and prefer the Senate language.

Status: The Senate version is in its second of three committees. The House version has not moved yet.

4. Retention of Sexual Offense Evidence Act (Rep. Plakon/Sen. Stewart) [HB 607/SB 764](#)

Description: This bill establishes, that in cases where a victim is unwilling or scared to press charges, that minimum timeframes must be set for keeping that specified sexual offense evidence to be used in future cases when victims are willing to call out criminals. It also requires specified protocols for storing that sexual offense evidence for security and consistency.

Status: The House version is awaiting a hearing in the final of three committees, while on Thursday, the Senate version unanimously passed its second of three committees, the Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice, unanimously.

Protecting Parental Rights and Children's Safety

SUPPORT

1. Porn Age Verification Act (Rep. Tramont/Sen. Grall) [HB 3/SB 1792](#)

Description: This legislation seeks to protect minors from blatant pornographic and sexually explicit content online, by requiring comprehensive age verification for access to adult sex and pornographic websites and apps, with significant penalties for the corporations pushing this dangerous content on minors.

Status: Previously, the House version passed the full House floor unanimously and was delivered to the Senate; meanwhile, on Monday, the Senate version unanimously passed its first hearing in the Judiciary Committee with one final stop left.

2. Social Media Protection for Minors Act (Rep. Rayner/Sen. Book) [HB 207/SB 1430](#)

Description: This legislation mandates that social media platforms post extensive disclaimers outlining the dangers of social media. In addition, it forbids Florida school districts from requiring students to have and use social media to participate in school educational activities.

Status: On Wednesday, the House version, unanimously passed the first of two committees, Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee. The Senate version has not moved.

3. School Chaplain Act (Rep. McClain/Sen. Grall) [HB 931/SB 1044](#)

Description: This provision authorizes school districts & charter schools to adopt policies to allow volunteer school chaplains and requires district school boards & charter school governing boards to assign specified duties and roles within the school district to those volunteer school chaplains.

Status: The House version is waiting for a final vote on the House floor. On Tuesday, the Senate version passed the first of three committees, Education Pre-K—12 by a vote of 7-3.

3. Offenses Involving Children Act (Rep. Baker/Sen. Collins) [HB 305/SB 312](#)

Description: This proposal closes a loophole in state law to ensure proper protections for minors from dangerous criminals, and that those criminals are properly charged and designated as sexual predators.

Status: The House version had previously passed the full House floor, while on Thursday, the Senate version passed unanimously out of the Senate Rules Committee and now heads to the Senate floor for a final vote.

4. Lewd or Lascivious Grooming Act (Rep. Yarkosky/Sen. Martin) [HB 1135/SB 1238](#)

Description: This proposal states that a person who engages in the process of preparing or encouraging a child to engage in sexual activity through overtly sexually themed communication with the child or in conduct with or observed by the child for the purpose of encouraging the children to participate in unlawful sexual behavior commits lewd or lascivious grooming and will be subject to criminal charges.

Status: The House version is awaiting its final committee, while the Senate version is awaiting its second of three stops.

7. Child Maintenance Restitution Act (Rep. Amesty/Sen. Burgess) [HB 79/SB 116](#)

Description: This act authorizes courts to order defendants to pay child maintenance restitution to the surviving parent or guardian of minor under certain conditions where the defendant caused the death of a parent of the child. In addition to serving any other criminal penalties, this proposal provides justice and financial restitution to support children who have experienced the horrible loss of one or more parents because of the wrongful actions of others.

Status: On Wednesday, the Senate version unanimously passed its first of three committees, Criminal Justice. The House bill has not moved.

6. Protection of Minors from Marijuana, Vaping, and Alcoholic Beverage Establishments Act (Rep. Amesty) [HB 1053](#)

Description: This act mandates that new medical marijuana centers, retail vape shops, and alcoholic beverage bars must be located at certain minimum distances from religious or educational institutions.

Status: The bill has previously passed its first of three committees.