



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE  
WEEK 8  
WEEK ENDING 3/1/2024

## Sanctity of Human Life

### SUPPORT

1. 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.

### VICTORY REPORT!

The House and Senate both passed the bill unanimously, and it is officially heading to the governor's desk!

2. 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:** The House version previously passed the full House floor. On Monday, the Senate version passed its final committee, Fiscal Policy, 13-6, and now heads to the full Senate floor for a final vote.

## Gender and Sexuality

### SUPPORT

#### 1. 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:** On Friday, the House bill passed the full House floor, 75-33 and now heads to the Senate, where sadly, moderate GOP Senate President Kathleen Passidomo has indicated she will not allow the bill to be voted on in her chamber.

#### 2. 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:** On Thursday, the Senate version passed the full Senate floor, unanimously, 40-0, while the House awaits a final vote.

## Parental Rights and Children's Safety

### SUPPORT

#### 1. Porn Site Age Verification and Social Media Protection for Minors Act

(Rep. Sirois/Sen. Grall) [HB 1/SB 1788](#)) (amended to include Rep. Tramont and Senator Grall's bills [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. The bill also protects Florida's children from addictive and harmful social media platforms by prohibiting those under the age of 16 from setting up their own personal accounts on select social media and requiring social media platforms to employ age verification methods. Nothing, however, in the bill prevents parents from allowing their minor children from having limited access to social media on accounts created and overseen by the parents.

#### **VICTORY REPORT!**

Previously, the House version passed the full House floor and was delivered to the Senate. The bill was then sent to the Senate, where it was significantly amended, passed, and returned to the House which promptly passed the bill once again and sent to the governor's desk, where it awaits consideration.

#### **2. 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.

#### **VICTORY REPORT!**

The House and Senate have passed the bill, and it now heads to the governor's desk for his signature!

#### **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:** Both the House and the Senate versions are being amended onto other bills and are close to final passage. Stay tuned to next week's Insider's Report for the final details.

## Education and Gaming

### 1. 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 previously passed the full House floor, while on Monday, the Senate version passed its final hearing in the Senate Rules Committee, 14-5, and now heads to the Senate floor.

### 2. Educator Preparation Programs Act (Rep. Snyder/Sen. Ingoglia) [HB 1291/SB 1372](#)

**Description:** This proposal establishes guidelines for educator and leader preparation programs in Florida, focusing on historical accuracy, critical thinking, and competency in program content. Among many provisions, it prohibits teacher and school leader preparation, institutes, and professional learning certification programs from distorting significant historical events or including curriculum that teaches identity politics, or is based on theories of systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege as inherent in U.S. institutions. This legislation focuses on the attempts by the left to target teacher training programs.

**Status:** On Friday, the House version passed the full House floor, 81-31, and is heading to the Senate for a final vote there, while the Senate version awaits a final Senate vote.

### 3. Gaming Control Act (Rep. Salzman/Sen. Martin) [HB 189/SB 1046](#)

**Description:** This proposal enhances penalties for violations related to illegal gaming and slot machine shops across the state by further defining terms related to slot machines, intensifying punishments for certain violations, and outlining notice requirements for violations. It also criminalizes trafficking in slot machines or related parts.

**Status:** On Wednesday, the Senate version passed the full Senate floor, 33-7, while the House version is waiting for a final vote in that chamber.