



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE  
WEEK 7  
WEEK ENDING 2/23/2024

**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:** On Wednesday, the House version passed its final committee, Judiciary, 15-7, and heads to the House floor for a final vote. Meanwhile, the Senate version has been scheduled for its final hearing in the Senate Rules Committee on Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 pm in Room 412 in the Knott Building!

2. 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 version previously passed the full House floor, 117-0, while on Wednesday, the Senate passed the bill unanimously, 35-0, and is officially heading to the governor's desk!

3. 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, while the Senate version is awaiting the final committee stop hearing.

## 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:** Both the House and Senate bills have one remaining stop each.

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:** On Thursday, the House bill passed the final committee stop, 15-9 and heads to the House floor for a final vote.

#### **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:** On Wednesday, the House version unanimously passed its final committee, Judiciary, and heads to the full House floor for a final vote. Meanwhile, on Thursday, the Senate version also unanimously passed its final committee, Fiscal Policy, and heads to the full Senate floor for a final vote.

## **Protecting Parental Rights and Children's Safety**

### **SUPPORT**

#### **I. 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 Thursday, the Senate version, which was significantly amended to add a separate bill on prohibiting minors from being able to set up social media accounts, passed the full Senate, 23-14, and must return to the House for yet another vote on the full House floor. Several GOP senators voted against the bill due to the unrelated social media amendment that had initially supported the original Porn Age Verification Act.

**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 Thursday, the House version passed its final House Committee Commerce 19-0, and now heads to the full House floor. 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:** On Thursday, the House version passed the full House floor, 89-26, with two Democrats joining in support of the bill, and now heads to the Senate. On Wednesday, the Senate version passed its second committee stop, Appropriations Committee on Education, 4-1. Additionally, the Senate version has been scheduled for its final hearing in the Senate Rules Committee on Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 pm in Room 412 in the Knott Building!

**4. 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 version had previously passed the full House floor, while on Wednesday, the Senate version passed the full Senate floor, 38-0, and now heads to the governor's desk for his signature!

**5. 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:** On Wednesday, the House version passed its final committee, Judiciary, 21-0, and heads to the House floor for a final vote, while the Senate version is awaiting its second of three stops.