1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18 19

20

21

22

23

24

25

A bill to be entitled An act relating to youth in solitary confinement; creating s. 945.425, F.S.; defining terms; prohibiting the Department of Corrections from placing a youth in solitary confinement except under certain circumstances; prohibiting the use of solitary confinement for punitive purposes or as a form of discipline; authorizing a youth to be placed in emergency confinement if certain conditions are met; requiring facility staff to document such placement; requiring that, within a specified timeframe and at specified intervals, a mental health clinician conduct certain evaluations of a youth who is in emergency confinement; limiting the allowable length of time for emergency confinement; requiring specific treatment for a youth who is in emergency confinement; prohibiting the use of emergency confinement for certain purposes; authorizing a youth to be placed in medical confinement under certain circumstances; limiting the allowable length of time for medical confinement; requiring facility staff to document such confinement; requiring that, within a specified timeframe and at specified intervals, a medical professional conduct certain evaluations of a youth who is in medical confinement; prohibiting the use of

Page 1 of 23

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38 39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46 47

48

49 50 medical confinement for certain purposes; requiring the department to review its policies and procedures relating to youth in solitary confinement; requiring the department to certify compliance in a report to the Governor and Legislature by a specified date; requiring the department to adopt policies and procedures; providing applicability; amending 951.23, F.S.; requiring sheriffs and chief correctional officers to adopt model standards relating to youth; creating s. 985.28, F.S.; defining terms; prohibiting the Department of Juvenile Justice from placing a child in solitary confinement except under certain circumstances; prohibiting the use of solitary confinement for punitive purposes or as a form of discipline; authorizing a child to be placed in emergency confinement if certain conditions are met; requiring facility staff to document such placement; requiring that, within a specified timeframe and at specified intervals, a mental health clinician conduct certain evaluations of a child who is in emergency confinement; limiting the allowable length of time for the use of emergency confinement; requiring specific treatment for a child who is in emergency confinement; prohibiting the use of emergency confinement for certain purposes; authorizing a youth to be placed in

Page 2 of 23

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

67

68 69

70

71

72

73

74

75

medical confinement under certain circumstances; limiting the allowable length of time for medical confinement; requiring facility staff to document such placement; requiring that, within a specified timeframe and at specified intervals, a medical professional conduct certain evaluations of a child who is in medical confinement; prohibiting the use of medical confinement for certain purposes; requiring the department and the boards of county commissioners of each county that administers a detention facility to review policies and procedures relating to disciplinary treatment; requiring the department and the boards of county commissioners of each county that administers a detention facility to certify compliance in a report to the Governor and Legislature by a specified date; providing applicability; creating s. 985.4415, F.S.; defining terms; prohibiting facility staff from placing a child in solitary confinement, except under certain circumstances; prohibiting the use of solitary confinement for punitive purposes or as a form of discipline; authorizing a child to be placed in emergency confinement if certain conditions are met; requiring facility staff to document such placement; requiring that, within a specified timeframe and at specified intervals, a mental health

Page 3 of 23

76

77

78

79

80

81

82

83

84

85

86

87

88 89

90

91

92

93

94

95

96

97

98

99

100

clinician conduct certain evaluations of a child who is in emergency confinement; limiting the allowable length of time for emergency confinement; requiring specific treatment for a child who is in emergency confinement; prohibiting the use of emergency confinement for certain purposes; authorizing a youth to be placed in medical confinement under certain circumstances; limiting the allowable length of time for medical confinement; requiring facility staff to document such placement; requiring that, within a specified timeframe and at specified intervals, a medical professional conduct certain evaluations of a child who is in medical confinement; prohibiting the use of medical confinement for certain purposes; requiring the department to review policies and procedures relating to disciplinary treatment; requiring the department to certify compliance in a report to the Governor and Legislature by a specified date; providing applicability; amending s. 944.09, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Corrections to adopt rules; amending s. 985.601, F.S.; requiring the Department of Juvenile Justice to adopt rules; reenacting s. 944.279(1), F.S., relating to disciplinary procedures applicable to a prisoner for filing frivolous or malicious actions or bringing

Page 4 of 23

101	false information before a court, to incorporate the
102	amendment made to s. 944.09, F.S., in a reference
103	thereto; providing an effective date.
104	
105	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
106	
107	Section 1. Section 945.425, Florida Statutes, is created
108	to read:
109	945.425 Youth in solitary confinement.—
110	(1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
111	(a) "Emergency confinement" means a type of solitary
112	confinement that involves the involuntary placement of a youth
113	in an isolated room to separate that youth from the general
114	inmate population and to remove him or her from a situation in
115	which he or she presents an immediate and serious danger to the
116	security or safety of himself or herself or others.
117	(b) "Medical confinement" means a type of solitary
118	confinement that involves the involuntary placement of a youth
119	in an isolated room to separate that youth from the general
120	inmate population to allow him or her to recover from an illness
121	or to prevent the spread of a communicable illness.
122	(c) "Mental health clinician" means a psychiatrist,
123	psychologist, social worker, or nurse practitioner.
124	(d) "Solitary confinement" means the involuntary placement
125	of a youth in an isolated room to separate that youth from the

Page 5 of 23

general inmate population for any period of time.

- (e) "Youth" means a person within the custody of the department who is under the age of 19 years.
- (2) PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.—A youth may not be placed in solitary confinement, except as provided in this section.
- (3) PUNATIVE SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.—A youth may not be placed in solitary confinement for punitive purposes or as a form of discipline for a violation of facility or department rules.
 - (4) PROTECTING YOUTH IN EMERGENCY CONFINEMENT.-
- (a) A youth may be placed in emergency confinement if all of the following conditions are met:
- 1. A nonphysical intervention with the youth would not be effective in preventing harm or danger to the youth or others.
- 2. There is imminent risk of the youth physically harming himself or herself, staff, or others or the youth is engaged in major property destruction that is likely to compromise the security of the program or jeopardize the safety of the youth or others.
 - 3. All less-restrictive means have been exhausted.
- (b) Facility staff shall document the placement of a youth in emergency confinement. The documentation must include justification for the placement, in addition to a description of the less-restrictive options that the facility staff exercised

Page 6 of 23

before the youth was so placed.

- (c) A mental health clinician shall evaluate a youth who is placed in emergency confinement within 1 hour after such placement to ensure that the confinement is not detrimental to the mental or physical health of the youth. Following the initial evaluation, a mental health clinician shall conduct a face-to-face evaluation of the youth every hour thereafter to determine whether the youth should remain in emergency confinement. The mental health clinician shall document each evaluation and provide justification for continued placement in emergency confinement.
- (d) A youth may not be placed in emergency confinement for more than 4 hours unless an extension is sought and obtained by a mental health clinician.
- 1. If a mental health clinician determines that release of the youth would imminently threaten the safety of the youth or others, the mental health clinician may grant a one-time extension of 4 hours for continued placement in emergency confinement.
- 2. If, at the conclusion of the 8-hour period, a mental health clinician determines that it is not safe for the youth to be released from emergency confinement, the facility staff must prepare to transfer the youth to a facility that is able to provide specialized treatment to address the youth's needs.
 - (e) A youth who is placed in emergency confinement must be

Page 7 of 23

provided access to the same meals and drinking water, clothing	g,
medical treatment, contact with parents and legal guardians,	and
legal assistance as provided to youth in the general inmate	
population.	

(f) The use of emergency confinement is strictly prohibited for the purposes of punishment or discipline.

- (5) PROTECTING YOUTH IN MEDICAL CONFINEMENT.—
- (a) A youth may be placed in medical confinement if all of the following conditions are met:
- 1. Isolation from the general inmate population and staff is required to allow the youth to rest and recover from illness or to prevent the spread of a communicable illness.
 - 2. A medical professional deems such placement necessary.
- 3. The use of other less-restrictive means would not be sufficient to allow the youth to recover from illness or to prevent the spread of a communicable illness.
- (b) A youth may be placed in medical confinement for a period of time not to exceed the time that is necessary for the youth to recover from his or her illness or to prevent the spread of a communicable illness to other inmates or staff in the facility.
- (c) Facility staff shall document the placement of a youth in medical confinement. The documentation must include a medical professional's justification for the placement.
 - (d) A medical professional must evaluate a youth who is

Page 8 of 23

201	held in medical confinement face-to-face at least once every 12
202	hours to determine whether the youth should remain in medical
203	confinement. The medical professional shall document each
204	evaluation and provide justification for continued placement in
205	medical confinement.
206	(e) The use of medical confinement is strictly prohibited
207	for the purposes of punishment or discipline.
208	(6) IMPLEMENTATION.—
209	(a) The department shall review its policies and
210	procedures relating to youth in solitary confinement to
211	determine whether its policies and procedures comply with this
212	section.
213	(b) The department shall certify compliance with this
214	section in a report that the department shall submit to the
215	Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
216	House of Representatives by January 1, 2020.
217	(c) The department shall adopt policies and procedures
218	necessary to administer this section.
219	(d) This section does not supersede any law providing
220	greater or additional protections to a youth in this state.
221	Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section
222	951.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
223	951.23 County and municipal detention facilities;
221	definitions, administration, standards and requirements -

Page 9 of 23

STANDARDS FOR SHERIFFS AND CHIEF CORRECTIONAL

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

225

(4)

226 OFFICERS.—

- is established which consists consisting of three persons appointed by the Florida Sheriffs Association and two persons appointed by the Florida Association of Counties to develop model standards for county and municipal detention facilities.

 At a minimum By October 1, 1996, each sheriff and chief correctional officer shall adopt, at a minimum, the model standards with reference to:
- 1.a. The construction, equipping, maintenance, and operation of county and municipal detention facilities.
- b. The cleanliness and sanitation of county and municipal detention facilities; the number of county and municipal prisoners who may be housed therein per specified unit of floor space; the quality, quantity, and supply of bedding furnished to such prisoners; the quality, quantity, and diversity of food served to them and the manner in which it is served; the furnishing to them of medical attention and health and comfort items; and the disciplinary treatment that which may be meted out to them.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the otherwise applicable building code, a reduced custody housing area may be occupied by inmates or may be used for sleeping purposes as allowed in subsection (7). The sheriff or chief correctional officer shall

Page 10 of 23

provide that a reduced custody housing area shall be governed by fire and life safety standards which do not interfere with the normal use of the facility and which affect a reasonable degree of compliance with rules of the State Fire Marshal for correctional facilities.

- 2. The confinement of prisoners by classification and providing, whenever possible, for classifications that which separate males from females, juveniles from adults, felons from misdemeanants, and those awaiting trial from those convicted and, in addition, providing for the separation of special risk prisoners, such as the mentally ill, alcohol or narcotic addicts, sex deviates, suicide risks, and any other classification which the local unit may deem necessary for the safety of the prisoners and the operation of the facility pursuant to degree of risk and danger criteria. Nondangerous felons may be housed with misdemeanants.
- 3. The confinement of prisoners by classification on the basis of age and a strict prohibition on the use of solitary confinement for prisoners under the age of 19 years, in compliance with s. 945.425.
- Section 3. Section 985.28, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
 - 985.28 Solitary confinement in detention facilities.-
 - (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
 - (a) "Child" means a person who is in the custody of the

Page 11 of 23

department and who is under the age of 19 years.

- (b) "Emergency confinement" means a type of solitary confinement that involves the involuntary placement of a child in an isolated room to separate that child from other children in the facility and to remove him or her from a situation in which he or she presents an immediate and serious danger to the security or safety of himself or herself or others.
- (c) "Medical confinement" means a type of solitary confinement that involves the involuntary placement of a child in an isolated room to separate that child from other children in the facility to allow the child to recover from illness or to prevent the spread of a communicable illness.
- (d) "Mental health clinician" means a psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, or nurse practitioner.
- (e) "Solitary confinement" means the involuntary placement of a child in an isolated room to separate that child from other children in the facility for any period of time.
- (2) PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.—A child may not be placed in solitary confinement, except as provided in this section.
- (3) PUNATIVE SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.—A youth may not be placed in solitary confinement for punitive purposes or as a form of discipline for a violation of facility or department rules.
 - (4) PROTECTING A CHILD IN EMERGENCY CONFINEMENT.-

Page 12 of 23

(a) A child may be placed in emergency confinement if all of the following conditions are met:

- 1. A nonphysical intervention with the child would not be effective in preventing harm or danger to the child or others.
- 2. There is imminent risk of the child physically harming himself or herself, staff, or others or the child is engaged in major property destruction that is likely to compromise the security of the program or jeopardize the safety of the child or others.
 - 3. All less-restrictive means have been exhausted.
- (b) Facility staff shall document the placement of a child in emergency confinement. The documentation must include justification for the placement of a child in emergency confinement, in addition to a description of the less-restrictive options that the facility staff exercised before the child was so placed.
- (c) A mental health clinician shall evaluate a child who is placed in emergency confinement within 1 hour of such placement to ensure that the confinement is not detrimental to the mental or physical health of the child. Following the initial evaluation, a mental health clinician shall conduct a face-to-face evaluation of the child every hour thereafter to determine whether the child should remain in emergency confinement. The mental health clinician shall document each evaluation and provide justification for continued placement in

Page 13 of 23

emergency confinement.

- (d) A child may not be placed in emergency confinement for more than 4 hours unless an extension is sought and obtained by a mental health clinician.
- 1. If a mental health clinician determines that release of the child would imminently threaten the safety of the child or others, the mental health clinician may grant a one-time extension of 4 hours for continued placement in emergency confinement.
- 2. If, at the conclusion of the 8-hour period, a mental health clinician determines that it is not safe for the child to be released from emergency confinement, the facility staff must prepare to transfer the child to a facility that is able to provide specialized treatment to address the child's needs.
- (e) A child who is placed in emergency confinement must be provided access to the same meals and drinking water, clothing, medical treatment, contact with parents and legal guardians, and legal assistance as provided to children in the facility.
- (f) The use of emergency confinement is strictly prohibited for the purposes of punishment or discipline.
 - (5) PROTECTING A CHILD IN MEDICAL CONFINEMENT.—
- (a) A child may be placed in medical confinement if all of the following conditions are met:
- 1. Isolation from staff and other children in the facility is required to allow the child to rest and recover from illness

Page 14 of 23

or to prevent the spread of a communicable illness.

- 2. A medical professional deems such placement necessary.
- 3. The use of other less-restrictive means would not be sufficient to allow the child to recover from illness or to prevent the spread of a communicable illness.
- (b) A child may be placed in medical confinement for a period of time not to exceed the time that is necessary for the child to recover from his or her illness or to prevent the spread of a communicable illness to other children or staff in the facility.
- (c) Facility staff shall document the placement of a child in medical confinement. The documentation must include a medical professional's justification for the placement.
- (d) A medical professional must conduct a face-to-face evaluation of a child who is held in medical confinement at least once every 12 hours to determine whether the child should remain in medical confinement. The medical professional shall document each evaluation and provide justification for continued placement in medical confinement.
- (e) The use of medical confinement is strictly prohibited for the purposes of punishment or discipline.
 - (6) IMPLEMENTATION.—
- (a) The department and the board of county commissioners of each county that administers a detention facility shall review their policies and procedures relating to disciplinary

Page 15 of 23

treatme	nt to	dete	ermine	whether	their	policies	and	procedures
comply	with	this	sectio	on.				

- (b) The department and the board of county commissioners of each county that administers a detention facility shall certify compliance with this section in a report that the department and the commission shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2020.
- (c) This section does not supersede any law providing greater or additional protections to a child in this state.
- Section 4. Section 985.4415, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
 - 985.4415 Solitary confinement in residential facilities.
 - (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Child" means a person within the custody of the department who is under the age of 19 years.
- (b) "Emergency confinement" means a type of solitary confinement that involves the involuntary placement of a child in an isolated room to separate that child from other children in the facility and to remove him or her from a situation in which he or she presents an immediate and serious danger to the security or safety of himself or herself or others.
- (c) "Medical confinement" means a type of solitary confinement that involves the involuntary placement of a child in an isolated room to separate that child from the other

Page 16 of 23

children in the facility and to allow him or her to recover from illness or to prevent the spread of a communicable illness.

(d) "Mental health clinician" means a psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, or nurse practitioner.

- (e) "Solitary confinement" means the involuntary placement of a child in an isolated room to separate that child from the other children in the facility for any period of time.
- (2) PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.—A child may not be placed in solitary confinement, except as provided in this section.
- (3) PUNATIVE SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.-A youth may not be placed in solitary confinement for punitive purposes or as a form of discipline for a violation of facility or department rules.
 - (4) PROTECTING A CHILD IN EMERGENCY CONFINEMENT.-
- (a) A child may be placed in emergency confinement if all of the following conditions are met:
- 1. A nonphysical intervention with the child would not be effective in preventing harm or danger to the child or others.
- 2. There is imminent risk of the child physically harming himself or herself, staff, or others or the child is engaged in major property destruction that is likely to compromise the security of the program or jeopardize the safety of the child or others.
 - 3. All less-restrictive means have been exhausted.

Page 17 of 23

(b) Facility staff shall document the placement of a chi	.ld
in emergency confinement. The documentation must include	
justification for the placement of a child in emergency	
confinement, in addition to a description of the other less-	
restrictive options that the facility staff exercised before t	:he
child was so placed.	

- (c) A mental health clinician shall evaluate a child who is placed in emergency confinement within 1 hour of such placement to ensure that the confinement is not detrimental to the mental or physical health of the child. Following the initial evaluation, a mental health clinician shall conduct a face-to-face evaluation of the child every hour thereafter to determine whether the child should remain in emergency confinement. The mental health clinician shall document each evaluation and provide justification for continued placement in emergency confinement.
- (d) A child may not be placed in emergency confinement for more than 4 hours unless an extension is sought and obtained by a mental health clinician.
- 1. If a mental health clinician determines that release of the child would imminently threaten the safety of the child or others, the mental health clinician may grant a one-time extension of 4 hours for continued placement in emergency confinement.
 - 2. If, at the conclusion of the 8-hour period, a mental

Page 18 of 23

health clinician determines that it is not safe for the child t	C
be released from emergency confinement, the facility staff must	
prepare to transfer the child to a facility that is able to	
provide specialized treatment to address the child's needs.	

- (e) A child who is placed in emergency confinement must be provided access to the same meals and drinking water, clothing, medical treatment, contact with parents and legal guardians, and legal assistance as provided to children in the facility.
- (f) The use of emergency confinement is strictly prohibited for the purposes of punishment or discipline.
 - (5) PROTECTING A CHILD IN MEDICAL CONFINEMENT.-
- (a) A child may be placed in medical confinement if all of the following conditions are met:
- 1. Isolation from other children and staff in the facility is required to allow a child to rest and recover from illness or to prevent the spread of a communicable illness.
 - 2. A medical professional deems such placement necessary.
- 3. The use of other less-restrictive means would not be sufficient to allow the child to recover from illness or to prevent the spread of a communicable illness.
- (b) A child may be placed in medical confinement for a period of time not to exceed the time that is necessary for the child to recover from his or her illness or to prevent the spread of a communicable illness to other children or staff in the facility.

Page 19 of 23

	(C)	Facility	staff	shal	ll do	ocume	nt t	he p	lacemen	t of	а	child
in	medical	l confiner	ment.	The o	docun	nenta	tion	mus	t inclu	.de a	me	edical
pro	ofession	nal's just	tifica	tion	for	the	plac	emen	t.			

- evaluation of a child who is held in medical confinement at least once every 12 hours to determine whether the child should remain in medical confinement. The medical professional shall document each evaluation and provide justification for continued placement in medical confinement.
- (e) The use of medical confinement is strictly prohibited for the purposes of punishment or discipline.
 - (6) IMPLEMENTATION.—

- (a) The department shall review its policies and procedures relating to disciplinary treatment in residential facilities to determine whether their policies and procedures comply with this section.
- (b) The department shall certify compliance with this section in a report that the department shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2020.
- (c) This section does not supersede any law providing greater or additional protections to a child in this state.
- Section 5. Paragraph (s) is added to subsection (1) of section 944.09, Florida Statutes, to read:
 - 944.09 Rules of the department; offenders, probationers,

Page 20 of 23

HB 755 2019

501	and parolees.—
502	(1) The department has authority to adopt rules pursuant
503	to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement its statutory
504	authority. The rules must include rules relating to:
505	(s) Youth in solitary confinement in compliance with s.
506	<u>945.425.</u>
507	Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (9) of section
508	985.601, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
509	985.601 Administering the juvenile justice continuum
510	(9)(b) The department shall adopt rules prescribing
511	standards and requirements with reference to:
512	1. The construction, equipping, maintenance, staffing,
513	programming, and operation of detention facilities;
514	2. The treatment, training, and education of children
515	confined in detention facilities;
516	3. The cleanliness and sanitation of detention facilities;
517	4. The number of children who may be housed in detention
518	facilities per specified unit of floor space;
519	5. The quality, quantity, and supply of bedding furnished
520	to children housed in detention facilities;
521	6. The quality, quantity, and diversity of food served in
522	detention facilities and the manner in which it is served;
523	7. The furnishing of medical attention and health and
524	comfort items in detention facilities; and
525	8. The disciplinary treatment administered in detention

Page 21 of 23

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

525

and residential facilities; and-

9. The strict prohibition on the use of solitary confinement on children under the age of 19 years in compliance with ss. 985.28 and 985.4415.

Section 7. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 944.09, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 944.279, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

944.279 Disciplinary procedures applicable to prisoner for filing frivolous or malicious actions or bringing false information before court.—

(1) At any time, and upon its own motion or on motion of a party, a court may conduct an inquiry into whether any action or appeal brought by a prisoner was brought in good faith. A prisoner who is found by a court to have brought a frivolous or malicious suit, action, claim, proceeding, or appeal in any court of this state or in any federal court, which is filed after June 30, 1996, or to have brought a frivolous or malicious collateral criminal proceeding, which is filed after September 30, 2004, or who knowingly or with reckless disregard for the truth brought false information or evidence before the court, is subject to disciplinary procedures pursuant to the rules of the Department of Corrections. The court shall issue a written finding and direct that a certified copy be forwarded to the appropriate institution or facility for disciplinary procedures

pursuant to the rules of the department as provided in s. 944.09.

Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.

Page 23 of 23