



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Rick Scott, Governor

Wansley Walters, Secretary

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## 2014 Legislative Initiatives

### **1. Chapter 985 General Revision Bill (Sen. Bradley SB700/ Rep. Pilon HB7005)**

- The proposal will make a number of revisions to chapter 985 F.S., the principal statutes governing DJJ. The revisions will bring statutes in line with current practice and incorporate best practices into law as we continue our reform efforts. Some revisions include:
  - Creating an individual statute to place importance on “prevention”
  - Follows grand jury recommendations to create criminal penalty for abuse/neglect of youth of any age in DJJ custody
  - Allows for the department to provide transition services to more youth exiting residential commitments
  - Allows for youth who have multiple arrests in short time to be placed in secure detention, regardless of detention risk assessment score
  - Places accountability and measurements on DJJ

### **2. DJJ Education (Sen Bean SB 598 / Rep. Adkins HB173)**

- Contents the same as HB441 (2013) which passed the House.
- Data shows that youth engaged and attending school are much more likely to succeed both prior and upon exiting the Juvenile Justice System. Our education proposal does 4 key things for youth in DJJ education programs:
  - Facilitates successful re-entry by enhancing transition services to include career and technical education
  - Provides increased opportunities for youth by requiring residential programs to offer CTE courses that lead to vocational or industry certification
  - Ensures quality education in DJJ programs by requiring accountability and performance measurements
  - Ensures every child has a quality teacher by requiring standardized qualifications.

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*The mission of the Department of Juvenile Justice is to increase public safety by reducing juvenile delinquency through effective prevention, intervention, and treatment services that strengthen families and turn around the lives of troubled youth.*