

<b>Tab 2</b>	<b>SB 526 by Harrell; Animal Cremation</b>
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**The Florida Senate**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA**

**AGRICULTURE**  
**Senator Rouson, Chair**  
**Senator Bradley, Vice Chair**

**MEETING DATE:** Thursday, February 4, 2021  
**TIME:** 8:30—11:00 a.m.  
**PLACE:** *Toni Jennings Committee Room*, 110 Senate Building

**MEMBERS:** Senator Rouson, Chair; Senator Bradley, Vice Chair; Senators Ausley, Boyd, Burgess, Perry, Polsky, Rodriguez, and Thurston

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TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
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PUBLIC TESTIMONY WILL BE RECIEVED FROM ROOM A1 AT THE DONALD L.  
TUCKER CIVIC CENTER, 505 W PENSACOLA STREET, TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301

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1	Presentation on and Discussion of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families		Presented
2	<b>SB 526</b> Harrell	Animal Cremation; Creating "Sevilla's Law"; requiring a provider of companion animal cremation services to provide certain individuals and entities with a written description of the services that the provider offers; requiring certain entities that make referrals to providers or accept deceased companion animals for cremation through a provider to make the provider's written description of services available to owners or their representatives; providing that certain acts are unlawful; requiring that certain fines collected by the department be paid into the General Inspection Trust Fund, etc.  AG 02/04/2021 Favorable JU AP	Favorable Yeas 8 Nays 0

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Other Related Meeting Documents

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# **Economic Self-Sufficiency**

## **SNAP, TANF, & Care Coordination Overview**

Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Thursday, February 4, 2021

Presented by:  
Taylor Hatch, Assistant Secretary for  
Economic Self-Sufficiency

# Presentation Overview

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- COVID-19 response
- Opportunities

# SNAP Overview

- Federal program administered by DCF on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Services.
- Provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of low-income families.
- Eligibility is based on a calculation that includes the income, expenses, and number of people in the household.
- Participation in work activities is a requirement for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) to receive benefits.

# SNAP: By The Numbers (December 2020)

- Households = 1,994,101
- Persons = 3,504,699
  - Children = 1,331,615
  - Adults = 2,173,084
- Average
  - Household size = 1.8 people
  - Monthly benefit per household = \$335
  - Monthly benefit per person = \$190



# TANF Overview

- TANF is administered by DCF on behalf of United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.
- Provides cash assistance to low-income families.
- Eligibility is based on household composition, income, assets, and expenses.
- Most adult TANF recipients are required to participate in work activities to receive benefits.

# TANF: By The Numbers (December 2020)

- Families/Households = 41,636
- Persons = 72,903
  - Children = 57,630
  - Adults = 15,273
- Average
  - Household size = 1.8 people
  - Monthly benefit per household = \$232
  - Monthly benefit per person = \$133





# How to Apply

- One application for public benefits, covers SNAP and TANF.
- Customers can apply online, using a paper application, or over the phone through DCF's Call Center.
- Applications are processed within 30 days.
  - As of December 2020, DCF was processing cases, on average, within 11 days.
- New Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Cards are issued the next business day after application approval.
  - Delivery generally occurs in 5-7 business days.

# COVID-19 Response

- In collaboration with Governor DeSantis' staff and federal partners, DCF implemented the following changes to provide services to Florida families:
  - Increased Monthly Maximum Allotment
  - Waived Work Requirements
  - Added 15% for SNAP benefits
- By partnering with USDA and the private sector, DCF made online purchasing of groceries available for individuals using an EBT card.
  - Customers are automatically eligible to participate in this program and do not need to apply.
  - As of December 2020, participating retailers include Walmart, Amazon, and ALDI.

# Opportunities

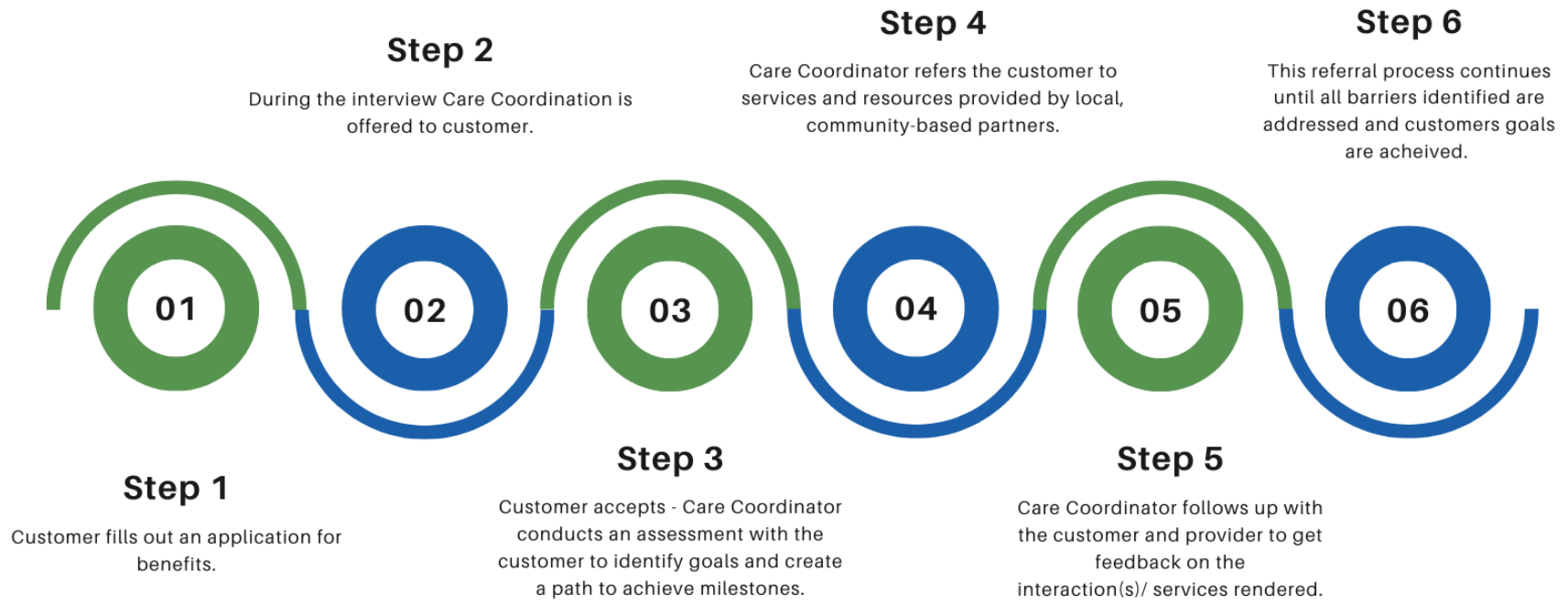
- Transforming DCF into a prevention agency.
- To promote economic self-sufficiency, DCF is shifting from a singular focus of benefit administration toward deepening its impact through person-centered prevention services.
  - Care Coordination
  - Self-Sufficiency Workgroup

# What is Care Coordination?

- Prevention model in which DCF teams up with customers to create a pathway for the achievement of their version of economic self-sufficiency by:
  - Developing relationships;
  - Creating short-, medium-, and long-term goals;
  - Identifying barriers; and
  - Reaching milestones.
- Partner with local providers to empower customers, help them build social capital and economic growth.

# CARE COORDINATION

## Customer Journey



# Care Coordination: Key Points

- Launched in August 2020 in the Northwest and Central regions; expanded to the Northeast and Southeast regions in January 2021; will be implemented in all regions by July 2021.
- Since August, two-thousand individuals have volunteered to participate in Care Coordination.
- Goals:
  - Identify gaps in service and opportunities to coordinate resources to address customer needs.
  - Expand Care Coordination throughout DCF operations and across multiple program areas.

# Self-Sufficiency Stakeholder Workgroup

- Convened in Spring 2020 to address the impacts of fiscal cliffs and mitigate generational poverty.
- Participants are key stakeholder organizations who are aligning systems and resources to support Florida's most vulnerable citizens.
- Areas of concentration:
  - Education/workforce development;
  - Human and social services; and
  - Business/economic development.
- As a result, DCF is developing a meaningful pathway for customers to successfully navigate available resources that support economic stability and independence.

Questions?



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT  
OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
[MYFLFAMILIES.COM](http://MYFLFAMILIES.COM)





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RESERVE  
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*of* ATLANTA

## Advancing careers for low-income working families

Brittany Birken

Principal Adviser, Community and Economic Development

[Brittany.Birken@atl.frb.org](mailto:Brittany.Birken@atl.frb.org)

The views presented are not necessarily those of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta or the Federal Reserve System.

# Advancing Careers for Low-Income Families

The Atlanta Fed's Advancing Careers initiative works to improve economic mobility and resilience by:

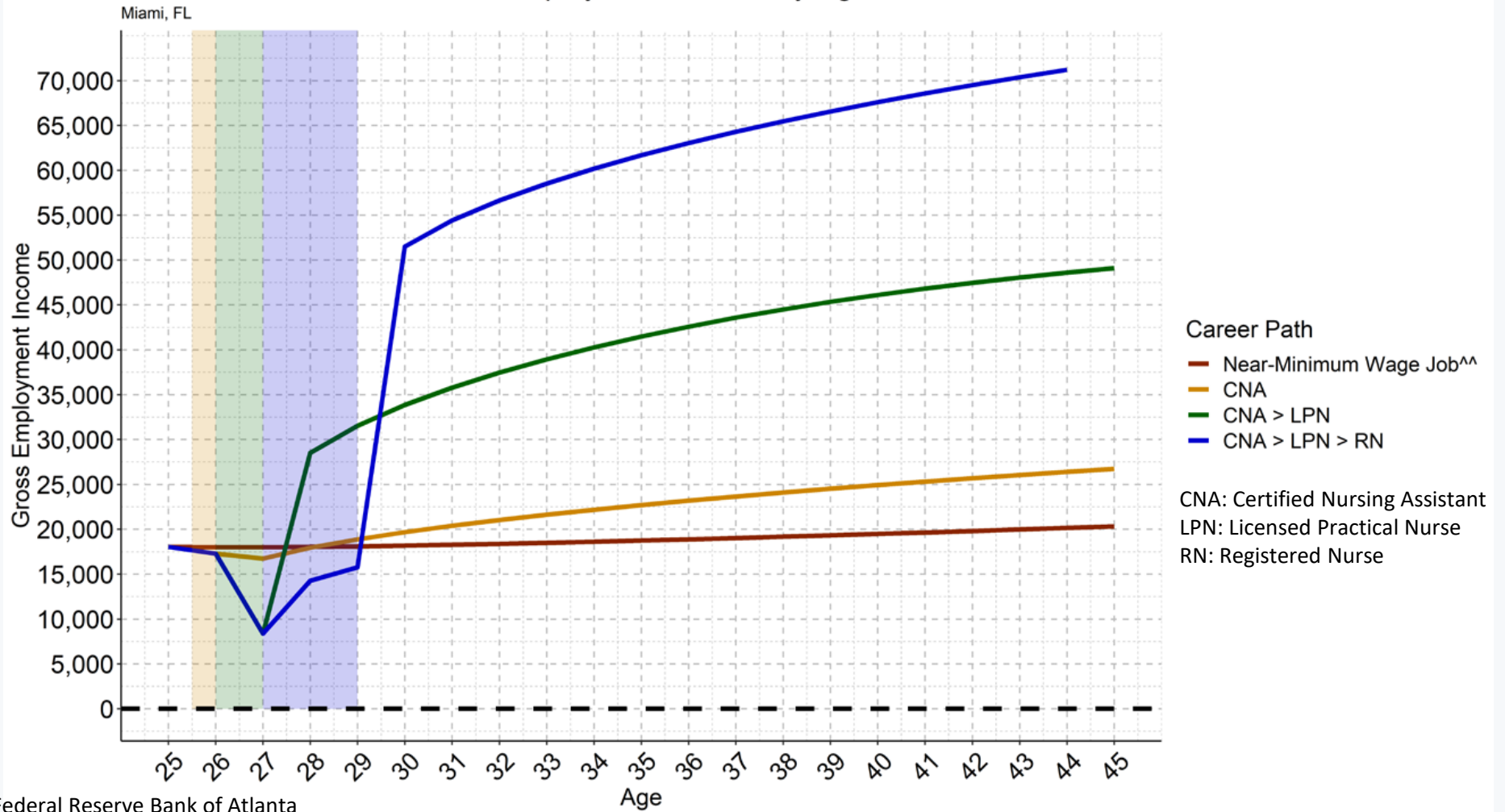
- Identifying how benefits cliffs create financial disincentives to career advancement
- Conducting research, developing tools, and analyzing solutions on mechanisms for reducing barriers to economic mobility and resilience
- Engaging in partnerships to support community and state efforts to improve economic security for families

# Benefits cliffs

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- Many public programs support low-income families with food, housing, child care, and other services.
- These programs have income eligibility requirements.
- Work-related earnings gains are offset by the loss of public programs with income eligibility requirements.
- Low-income workers may be better off financially by not taking a job with either higher pay or more available hours due to the loss of public program benefits.

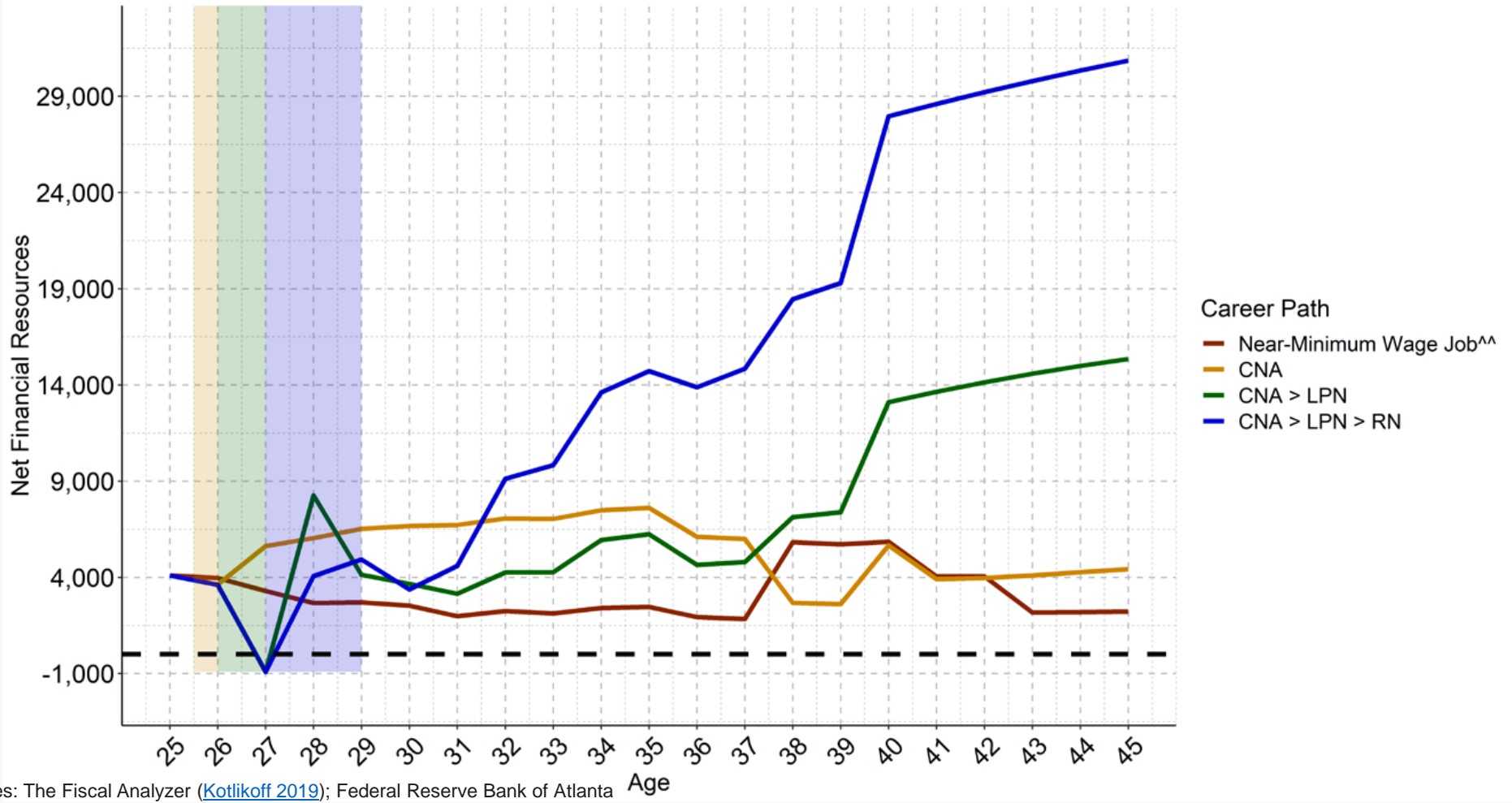
# Gross Employment Income by Age



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

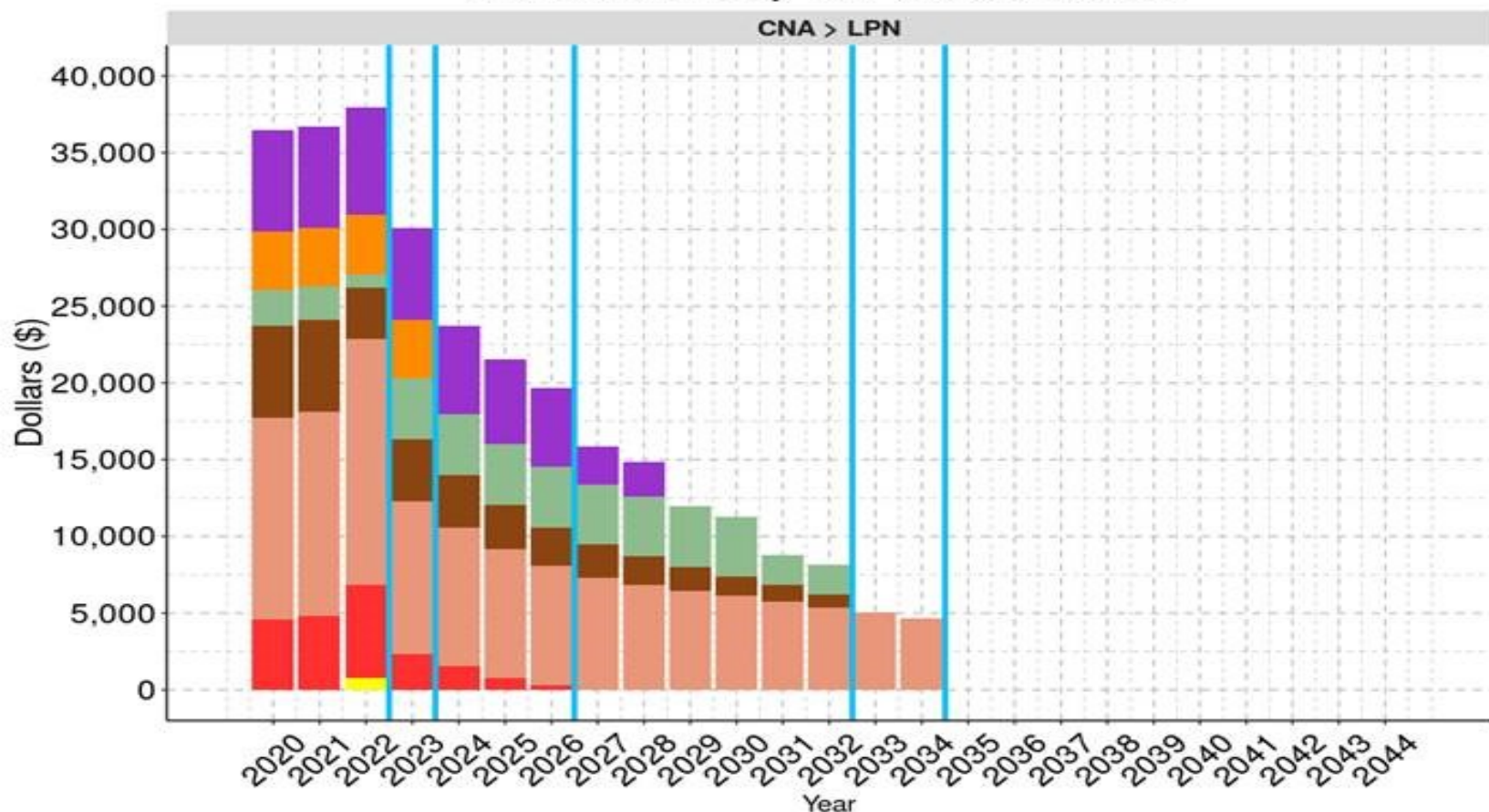
# Annual Net Financial Resources by Age

Miami, FL



Sources: The Fiscal Analyzer ([Kotlikoff 2019](#)); Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

### Public Benefits by Year and Career Path



Benefit: CCDF CTC Housing Voucher TANF  
 CHIP EITC SNAP  
 Indicates when program ends

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

# The CLIFF Dashboard

**Select City**  
Birmingham, AL

**Select Industry**  
Information Technology

**Select Career Path**  
Computer User Support Specialist (CSS)

**Select Family Type**  
Single adult with one child

**Select Public Assistance Package**  
RTC + TANF + Food + Housing + Childcare + Healthcare

**Definitions:**  
RTC: Refundable Tax Credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC)  
TANF: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)  
Food: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)  
Housing: Section 8 Housing Voucher  
Childcare: Child Care Development Fund Subsidies (CCDF)  
Healthcare: Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicare, or Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidy

Introduction **Income and Self-Sufficiency** Net Resources For Policymakers Eligibility by Program

20 / 22

Quality job training for an in-demand career can increase the amount of money you earn and raise your standard of living. Higher income from your new career can put you on a path towards self-sufficiency - the ability to pay all your bills without having to rely on public assistance.

Making an informed choice can be difficult if you are enrolled in public assistance programs. As you earn more money, you may lose some of these programs, but those changes can be difficult to predict. This dashboard can be used to better understand these changes.

This dashboard gives you more information about which in-demand careers are likely to help you overcome a loss of public assistance and leave you in a better position financially. The dashboard also shows how long it will take to achieve self-sufficiency on a chosen career path.

## To Get Started:

Use the left-side navigation pane to select a family type most similar to your own and to identify careers of interest to you in various industries.

The tabs above show how much a typical worker in the chosen career can expect to earn locally, pay in taxes, and how much the worker's family can expect to receive in public assistance over time.\*\*

You can customize the results further by selecting different public assistance packages using the dropdown menus in the left-side navigation pane.



\*\* The CLIFF tool is not intended to provide career or financial advice. The calculations provided by this site are summaries to be used for educational and informational purposes only. Do not rely on them as a determination of public assistance. Determination of eligibility and amount of public assistance is made solely by the applicable provider(s). It is possible that persons may be eligible for additional public assistance not covered by this site.

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta [CLIFF Dashboard Demo](#)

# What can be done?

## Mapping Benefits Cliffs

- Awareness of Issue
- Benefits Cliffs Calculators

## Workforce Development

- Student advisement to increase post-secondary educational attainment
- Adult career planning and coaching toward self-sufficiency
- Career pathways design/targeted occupation and industry analysis
- Align wrap-around supports with training plans
- Employer engagement on matching talent needs to skill attainment

## Policy Simulation/Changes

- Change Asset Limits
- Income Disregards
- Alignment of Rules/Services Across Programs
- Tax Credits for Working Families
- Graduated phase-outs

## Cross-system Collaboration

- Asset mapping
- Common definition of economic self-sufficiency
- Identify target populations for services
- Public program intake processes and program requirements
- Data analysis on efficacy of self-sufficiency



## State-level partnerships

### ✓ CareerSource Florida

- Design career pathways and in-demand occupation lists with self-sufficiency as a goal
- Offer benefits cliff information as complement to typical labor market information
- Support for advisement strategies for clients on in-demand career pathways and benefits cliffs

### ✓ DCF Stakeholder Workgroup

- Support planning for increased coordination and integrated service delivery across agencies
- Simulate policy changes (e.g., tax credits, modified asset tests, phase-outs)
- Calculate net taxpayer savings from career advancement

# Community engagement partnerships

## ✓ Florida Children's Council

- Partners include local workforce investment board, early learning coalitions, and children's services councils
- Advise clients/students on in-demand career pathways and benefits cliffs
- Advise on use of philanthropic funding and community-based resources to mitigate child care benefit cliffs

## ✓ Broward College

- Advise clients/students on in-demand career pathways and benefits cliffs
- Create self-sufficiency plans for clients/students

## ✓ Prosperity Broward

- Partners include the Greater Ft. Lauderdale Alliance – key community stakeholders
- Data analysis on the intersect of training/educational opportunities, in-demand career pathways, and employers skill needs
- Identification of changes in practices, policies, and system alignment strategies that reduce barriers to economic self-sufficiency

## ✓ Orlando Economic Partnership

- Advise on community planning for in-demand career pathways and benefits cliffs

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## THANK YOU!

- For regular updates on all Community & Economic Development resources email [AtlFedComDev@atl.frb.org](mailto:AtlFedComDev@atl.frb.org) and type SUBSCRIBE in the subject line.
- For weekly updates on all the news from the Atlanta Fed text FRBA to 33777.
- Follow us on 
- You can reach me at [brittany.birken@atl.frb.org](mailto:brittany.birken@atl.frb.org).

YOU MUST PRINT AND DELIVER THIS FORM TO THE ASSIGNED TESTIMONY ROOM

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

2/4/2021

Meeting Date

T/

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Presentation and Discussion of SNAP and TANF

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Taylor Hatch

Job Title DCF Assistant Secretary for Economic Self-Sufficiency

Address 1317 Winewood Blvd

Phone (850) 488-9410

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32399

Email

City

State

Zip

Speaking:  For  Against  Information

Waive Speaking:  In Support  Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Florida Department of Children and Families

Appearing at request of Chair:  Yes  No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature:  Yes  No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

2/4/01

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Benefits Cliff's

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Brittany Birken

Job Title Principal Aduser

Address 7951 Emuystone Dr

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32312

Email bbirken@atl.frb.org

City

State

Zip

Speaking:  For  Against  Information

Waive Speaking:  In Support  Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Appearing at request of Chair:  Yes  No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature:  Yes  No

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This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Agriculture

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BILL: SB 526

INTRODUCER: Senator Harrell

SUBJECT: Animal Cremation

DATE: February 2, 2021

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Becker</u>	<u>Becker</u>	<u>AG</u>	<b>Favorable</b>
2.	_____	_____	<u>JU</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	<u>AP</u>	_____

**I. Summary:**

SB 1282 designates this act as “Sevilla’s Law.” It requires a provider of companion animal cremation to provide a written description of their services to the owner of the deceased animal, the person making cremation arrangements for the owner, veterinarians, pet shops, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (department), and any person, upon request. It prohibits written descriptions of services to contain false or misleading information. The provider must include a certification along with the returned cremation remains. The bill provides criteria for the certification. The bill provides civil penalties for unlawful acts by the provider. It also provides for the powers of the department and authorizes it to adopt rules to carry out the provisions of the act.

**II. Present Situation:**

Pets are important to a family and they want their pet to be treated in a compassionate, dignified manner after its passing. Not only are pet owners faced with the loss of a treasured friend, but they are also faced with the disposition of the pet after their passing. According to a 2012 study by the Pet Loss Professionals Alliance, 99 percent of pets are cremated, of which 28 percent were partitioned cremations, 49 percent were group cremations, and 23 percent were private cremations.<sup>1</sup>

“Sevilla” was cremated before its owners could say their final farewells or attend the private cremation that they had ordered.<sup>2</sup> The owners were concerned and had the University of Florida Maples Center for Forensic Medicine analyze the ashes provided by the funeral home and crematorium. The DNA analysis indicated that the forensic scientists were unable to determine that the ashes were those of a cat, and even more disturbing to the owners was that there was

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<sup>1</sup> Connecting Directors. *Pet Loss Professionals Alliance Releases Findings of Inaugural Professional Survey*. May 12, 2013. <https://connectingdirectors.com/40088-pet-loss-professionals-alliance-releases-findings-of-inaugural-professional-survey> (Last visited February 2, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> <https://sevillaslaw.com/about> (Last visited February 2, 2021).

human DNA in the cremains. Additionally, the microchip in Sevilla was not found by the analysis. This bill would provide additional regulation of pet cremation.

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

**Section 1** creates s. 501.961, F.S., to create the act cited as “Sevilla’s Law.” It provides definitions for the terms “commingling of significant amounts of cremation remains from different animals,” “communal cremation,” “companion animal or animal,” “cremation remains,” “department,” “individually partitioned cremation,” “on a regular basis,” and “provider.”

The bill requires a provider of companion animal cremation services to provide, without charge, to all of the following a written description of the services that the provider offers:

- The owner of each deceased animal for whom the provider agrees to provide cremation services, or the person making cremation arrangements on the owner’s behalf;
- All veterinarian, pet shops, and other persons or entities known to the provider who refer animal owners or bring deceased animals to the provider on a regular basis;
- The department; and
- Any other person, upon request.

The required written description of services:

- May be in the form of a brochure;
- Must be provided in quantities sufficient to allow its distribution to animal owners whose business is being referred or brought to the provider;
- Must include a detailed explanation of each service offered for each type or level of cremation service offered; and
- May not include false or misleading information.

A written description is misleading if it:

- Fails to include a detailed explanation of the cremation services offered or fails to include, for each type or level of cremation service offered, any of the disclosures required;
- Uses the terms “private” or “individual” with respect to any communal cremation procedure or with respect to an individually partitioned cremation procedure that will cremate more than one companion animal at the same time;
- Uses the terms “individually partitioned” or “separate” with respect to a communal cremation process; or
- Includes any text, picture, illustration, or combination thereof, or uses any layout, typography, or color scheme, which reasonably causes confusion about the nature of the services to be provided or obstructs certain parts of the written description of services.

The bill requires entities that make referrals to providers or accepts deceased companion animals for cremation through a provider to make the provider’s written description of services available to owners or their representatives. It requires providers to include a certification with the returned animal’s remains and provides requirements for such certification. It provides that the following acts are unlawful and come with civil penalties:

- For a provider to prepare or distribute a written description of services that the provider knows or should know to be false or misleading.

- To intentionally fail to prepare or distribute a written description of services as required by this section.
- To knowingly make a false certification concerning persons referring or bringing business to a provider.

The bill provides circumstances under which a person commits an unfair or deceptive act or practice or engages in an unfair method of competition in violation of certain provisions. It provides that a person who is injured by a violation of this act may bring a civil action to recover damages or punitive damages, including costs, court costs, and attorney fees. The bill provides for the powers of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and authorizes the department to adopt rules to implement the act.

**Section 2** provides that this act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

#### **V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

There could be a burden on providers to create and share detailed list of services offered.



**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services estimates the bill will have an impact on the department of \$256,179 in fiscal year 2021-2022, \$198,502 in fiscal year 2022-2023, and \$198.502 in fiscal year 2023-2024.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill creates section 501.961 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

By Senator Harrell

25-00485-21

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1 A bill to be entitled  
 2 An act relating to animal cremation; creating s.  
 3 501.961, F.S.; providing a short title; defining  
 4 terms; requiring a provider of companion animal  
 5 cremation services to provide certain individuals and  
 6 entities with a written description of the services  
 7 that the provider offers; requiring the written  
 8 description to include a detailed explanation of each  
 9 service offered; providing that the written  
 10 description may not contain false or misleading  
 11 information; requiring certain entities that make  
 12 referrals to providers or accept deceased companion  
 13 animals for cremation through a provider to make the  
 14 provider's written description of services available  
 15 to owners or their representatives; requiring certain  
 16 providers to include a certification with the returned  
 17 animal's cremation remains; providing requirements for  
 18 the certification; providing that certain acts are  
 19 unlawful; providing civil penalties for initial and  
 20 subsequent offenses; providing circumstances under  
 21 which a person commits an unfair or deceptive act or  
 22 practice or engages in an unfair method of competition  
 23 in violation of certain provisions; providing for a  
 24 private right of action; providing powers of the  
 25 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;  
 26 requiring that certain fines collected by the  
 27 department be paid into the General Inspection Trust  
 28 Fund; authorizing the department to adopt rules;  
 29 providing an effective date.

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

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30  
 31 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
 32  
 33 Section 1. Section 501.961, Florida Statutes, is created to  
 34 read:  
 35 501.961 Animal cremation.—  
 36 (1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as "Sevilla's  
 37 Law."  
 38 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:  
 39 (a) "Commingling of significant amounts of cremation  
 40 remains from different animals" means the commingling of remains  
 41 such that specific cremation remains cannot be attributed to a  
 42 particular animal or the cremation remains attributed to one  
 43 companion animal contain more than 1 percent by weight of  
 44 cremation remains from one or more other companion animals. The  
 45 term does not include the presence, in the cremation remains of  
 46 a companion animal, of the remains of any creature that was on  
 47 or contained within the body of that animal at the time of  
 48 cremation, including parasites, insects, food, or creatures  
 49 eaten by that companion animal.  
 50 (b) "Communal cremation" means a cremation process in which  
 51 companion animals are cremated together without effective  
 52 partitions or separation during the cremation process such that  
 53 the commingling of significant amounts of cremation remains from  
 54 different companion animals is likely or certain to occur.  
 55 (c) "Companion animal" or "animal" means a deceased animal  
 56 that had a companion relationship or a pet relationship with its  
 57 owner at the time of the animal's death.  
 58 (d) "Cremation remains" means the material remaining after

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

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59 the cremation of an animal, which may include ashes, skeletal  
 60 remains, and other residue resulting from the incineration  
 61 process, and which may be pulverized or otherwise processed by  
 62 the provider of cremation services.

63 (e) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture and  
 64 Consumer Services.

65 (f) "Individually partitioned cremation" means a cremation  
 66 process in which the commingling of significant amounts of  
 67 cremation remains from different companion animals is unlikely  
 68 to occur and:

69 1. Only one companion animal at a time is cremated in the  
 70 incinerator; or

71 2. More than one companion animal is cremated in the  
 72 incinerator at the same time, but each of the animals is  
 73 completely separated from the others by partitions during the  
 74 cremation process.

75 (g) "On a regular basis" means that the person or business  
 76 entity referring animal owners or bringing business to a  
 77 provider:

78 1. Has an ongoing contractual or agency relationship with  
 79 the provider relating to the cremation of companion animals;

80 2. Regularly receives compensation or consideration from  
 81 the provider or animal owners relating to the cremation of  
 82 companion animals by the provider; or

83 3. Refers or brings to the provider the business of more  
 84 than five animal owners in an average month.

85 (h) "Provider" means a person, company, or other entity  
 86 engaging in the business of cremating deceased companion animals  
 87 in this state.

25-00485-21 2021526\_\_

88 (3) WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES.—

89 (a) A provider of companion animal cremation services shall  
 90 provide, without charge, to all of the following a written  
 91 description of the services that the provider offers:

92 1. The owner of each deceased animal for whom the provider  
 93 agrees to provide cremation services, or the person making  
 94 cremation arrangements on the owner's behalf.

95 2. All veterinarians, pet shops, and other persons or  
 96 entities known to the provider who refer animal owners or bring  
 97 deceased animals to the provider on a regular basis.

98 3. The department.

99 4. Any other person, upon request.

100 (b) The written description of services:

101 1. May be in the form of a brochure;

102 2. Must be provided in quantities sufficient to allow its  
 103 distribution to animal owners whose business is being referred  
 104 or brought to the provider;

105 3. Must include a detailed explanation of each service  
 106 offered for each type or level of cremation service offered. If  
 107 any part of the deceased companion animal will be removed, used,  
 108 or sold by the provider before or after the cremation, the  
 109 written description of services must disclose that fact; and

110 4. May not include false or misleading information. A  
 111 written description of services is misleading if it:

112 a. Fails to include a detailed explanation of the cremation  
 113 services offered or fails to include, for each type or level of  
 114 cremation service offered, any of the disclosures required under  
 115 this subsection;

116 b. Uses the terms "private" or "individual" with respect to

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117 any communal cremation procedure or with respect to an  
 118 individually partitioned cremation procedure that will cremate  
 119 more than one companion animal at the same time;  
 120 c. Uses the terms "individually partitioned" or "separate"  
 121 with respect to a communal cremation process; or  
 122 d. Includes any text, picture, illustration, or combination  
 123 thereof, or uses any layout, typography, or color scheme, which  
 124 reasonably causes confusion about the nature of the services to  
 125 be provided or obstructs certain parts of the written  
 126 description of services.  
 127 (4) PERSONS REFERRING OR BRINGING BUSINESS TO A PROVIDER.—  
 128 (a) A veterinarian, pet shop, or other person who refers  
 129 owners of deceased animals, or persons making arrangements on an  
 130 owner's behalf, to a provider on a regular basis shall, at the  
 131 time of the referral, make a copy of the provider's written  
 132 description of services available to such person.  
 133 (b) A veterinarian, pet shop, or other person or business  
 134 entity that accepts, on a regular basis, deceased companion  
 135 animals for cremation through services obtained from a provider  
 136 shall make a copy of the provider's written description of  
 137 services available to each animal owner, or person making  
 138 arrangements on the owner's behalf, from whom a deceased  
 139 companion animal is accepted.  
 140 (c) A copy of the written description of services may be  
 141 given to the animal owner, or the person making arrangements on  
 142 the owner's behalf, at the time the services are offered.  
 143 (d) For purposes of this subsection, publishing or  
 144 otherwise disseminating advertising for a provider of companion  
 145 animal cremation services does not, in and of itself, constitute

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

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146 referring or bringing business to that provider.  
 147 (5) CERTIFICATION; PENALTY FOR FALSE CERTIFICATION.—If a  
 148 provider's services include the return of the cremation remains  
 149 of the cremated animal, the provider must include a  
 150 certification along with the returned cremation remains. The  
 151 certification must declare, to the best of the provider's  
 152 knowledge and belief, that, except as otherwise specifically  
 153 indicated on the certificate, the cremation and any other  
 154 services specified were provided in accordance with the  
 155 representations of the provider in the applicable portions of  
 156 the provider's written description of services.  
 157 (6) UNLAWFUL ACTS.—It is unlawful:  
 158 (a) For a provider to prepare or distribute a written  
 159 description of services which the provider knows or should know  
 160 to be false or misleading. A first offense is punishable by a  
 161 fine of at least \$1,001 but not more than \$1,500, and each  
 162 subsequent offense is punishable by a fine of at least \$2,000  
 163 but not more than \$2,500.  
 164 (b) To intentionally fail to prepare or distribute a  
 165 written description of services as required by this section. A  
 166 first offense is punishable by a fine of at least \$1,001 but not  
 167 more than \$1,500, and each subsequent offense is punishable by a  
 168 fine of at least \$2,000 but not more than \$2,500.  
 169 (c) To knowingly make a false certification under  
 170 subsection (4). A first offense is punishable by a fine of at  
 171 least \$1,001 but not more than \$1,500, and each subsequent  
 172 offense is punishable by a fine of at least \$2,000 but not more  
 173 than \$2,500.  
 174 (7) VIOLATION AS A DECEPTIVE ACT OR PRACTICE OR UNFAIR

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175 TRADE PRACTICE.—A person who commits an act or a practice  
 176 declared to be unlawful under subsection (6) or who violates  
 177 this section commits an unfair or deceptive act or practice or  
 178 unfair method of competition in violation of part II of chapter  
 179 501 and is subject to the penalties and remedies provided  
 180 therein.

181 (8) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—In addition to any other  
 182 penalties or remedies provided by law, a person who is injured  
 183 by a violation of this act may bring a civil action to recover  
 184 damages or punitive damages, including costs, court costs, and  
 185 attorney fees. This act may not be construed to limit any right  
 186 or remedy provided under law.

187 (9) POWERS OF THE DEPARTMENT.—

188 (a) The department may conduct an investigation of any  
 189 person or provider if there is an appearance, either upon  
 190 complaint or otherwise, that a violation of this section or of  
 191 any rule adopted or order issued pursuant to this section has  
 192 been committed or is about to be committed.

193 (b) The department may issue and serve subpoenas and  
 194 subpoenas duces tecum to compel the attendance of witnesses and  
 195 the production of all books, accounts, records, and other  
 196 documents and materials relevant to an examination or  
 197 investigation. The department, or its duly authorized  
 198 representative, may administer oaths and affirmations to any  
 199 person.

200 (c) The department may enter an order imposing one or more  
 201 of the penalties set forth in subsection (6) if the department  
 202 finds that a provider or a person or business entity that  
 203 regularly refers animal owners to a provider, or an agent, a

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204 servant, or an employee thereof, has:

205 1. Violated or is operating in violation of this section or  
 206 department rule or order;

207 2. Refused or failed, or any of its principal officers has  
 208 refused or failed, after notice, to produce any records of such  
 209 organization or to disclose any information required to be  
 210 disclosed under this section or department rules; or

211 3. Made a material false statement in response to any  
 212 department request or investigation.

213 (d) Upon a finding as set forth in paragraph (c), the  
 214 department may enter an order that does one or more of the  
 215 following:

216 1. Issues a notice of noncompliance pursuant to s. 120.695.

217 2. Issues a cease and desist order that directs that the  
 218 person cease and desist specified activities.

219 3. Imposes an administrative fine in the Class II category  
 220 pursuant to s. 570.971 for each act or omission.

221 4. Imposes an administrative fine in the Class III category  
 222 pursuant to s. 570.971 for each act or omission that involves  
 223 fraud or deception.

224 (e) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the  
 225 administrative proceedings that could result in the entry of an  
 226 order imposing any of the penalties specified in paragraph (d)  
 227 are governed by chapter 120.

228 (f) All fines collected by the department under paragraph  
 229 (d) must be paid into the General Inspection Trust Fund.

230 (10) RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.—The department may adopt rules  
 231 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this section.

232 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.



## THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

### COMMITTEES:

Agriculture  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture,  
Environment, and General Government  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Tourism, and Economic Development  
Environment and Natural Resources

### SELECT COMMITTEE:

Select Committee on Pandemic  
Preparedness and Response

### JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Administrative Procedures Committee

### SENATOR LORANNE AUSLEY

3rd District

January 25, 2021

The Honorable Darryl Rouson  
Chair, Agriculture Committee  
Florida Senate  
404 S Monroe ST  
335 Knott Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Chair Rouson:

I would respectfully request to be excused from your Agriculture Committee on Thursday, February 4, 2021. Unfortunately, I tested positive for COVID-19 and am currently following CDC and Senate protocols for testing and quarantining.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorraine Ausley".

Lorraine Ausley  
Senate District 3

cc: Katherine Becker, Staff Director  
Laureen Zaugg, Committee Administrative Assistant

#### REPLY TO:

- 20 East Washington Street, Suite D, Quincy, Florida 32351 (850) 627-0474
- 202 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5003

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

**WILTON SIMPSON**  
President of the Senate

**AARON BEAN**  
President Pro Tempore

# CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: EL 110  
Caption: Senate Agriculture

Case No.:  
Judge:

Type:

Started: 2/4/2021 8:30:57 AM  
Ends: 2/4/2021 9:47:33 AM Length: 01:16:37

8:30:56 AM Call to Order  
8:31:01 AM Roll Call  
8:31:25 AM Quorum present  
8:31:45 AM Pledge of Alligence  
8:32:16 AM Senator Ausley is excused  
8:32:35 AM Chair remarks  
8:33:20 AM Take up Tab 2 - SB 526 by Senator Harrell--Animal Cremation  
8:33:43 AM Senator Harrell for an explanation  
8:38:49 AM The bill will be named Sevilla's Law after a constitutents pet cat  
8:38:51 AM Reading of a letter from a constituent on Sevilla's Law  
8:42:07 AM Questions?  
8:42:10 AM Senator Boyd  
8:42:35 AM Senator Harrell for a response  
8:43:03 AM Follow up  
8:43:53 AM Senator Harrell for response  
8:44:05 AM Senator Polsky  
8:44:23 AM Senator Harrell for a response  
8:45:30 AM Appearance forms?  
8:45:36 AM Debate?  
8:45:52 AM Senator Harrell to close  
8:46:12 AM Roll Call on SB 526  
8:46:24 AM Reported Favorably  
8:46:52 AM Chair remarks on the next presentations  
8:47:45 AM Taylor Hatch is recognized for a presentation on SNAP  
8:48:26 AM Highlevel overview of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
8:48:54 AM Overview of SNAP within DCF  
8:50:30 AM Who participates in SNAP by numbers  
8:51:11 AM DCF administers Temporary Assistance for Needy Families  
8:51:45 AM Who qualifies?  
8:52:26 AM Capped at 48 months to receive benefits  
8:52:50 AM Number of people enrolled in the program TANF  
8:53:22 AM How to Apply?  
8:54:43 AM Process applications is within 30 days  
8:55:34 AM The impact of COVID19 on families  
8:56:06 AM Over 800,000 new benefit recipents because of COVID 19  
8:56:45 AM The Governor and Secretary of DCF removed barriers to have benefits delivered quickly  
8:57:43 AM Secretary wants to transfer the agency to a prevention agency  
8:58:50 AM What is Care Coordination?  
9:00:06 AM Customers set goals and the agency helps to achieve short term goals  
9:01:25 AM Partnerships with local agencies and communities  
9:02:16 AM How the Care Coordination program works  
9:03:02 AM Key Points on the Care Coordination Program  
9:05:06 AM Self-Sufficiency Stakeholder Workgroup  
9:06:28 AM Partners in helping participants to ultimately be no longer dependent of SNAP or TANF  
9:07:58 AM Call to Order  
9:08:06 AM Senator Thurston for comment  
9:08:40 AM Taylor Hatch for response  
9:08:52 AM Senator Thurston for a series of questions  
9:09:07 AM Taylor Hatch for response  
9:09:21 AM Vice Chair Bradley for a question  
9:09:49 AM Taylor Hatch for response  
9:10:06 AM Chair Rouson for a series of questions

9:10:22 AM Taylor Hatch for response  
9:17:00 AM Next, Brittany Birken, Advisor for Community and Economic Development  
9:17:59 AM Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta  
9:18:20 AM How to advance careers for low income families  
9:19:26 AM Benefits cliffs - what are they?  
9:22:00 AM Types of career paths available to customers  
9:23:02 AM What happens with loss of benefits when career path improves?  
9:24:28 AM Example of moving from a CNA to Registered Nurse and the gradual loss of benefits  
9:28:33 AM What can be done?  
9:30:09 AM State level partnerships  
9:32:00 AM Community engagement partnerships  
9:34:02 AM Questions?  
9:34:36 AM Senator Boyd  
9:35:33 AM Ms. Birken for a response  
9:36:20 AM Senator Thurston  
9:37:53 AM Ms. Birken for a response  
9:40:49 AM Senator Thurston for a series of questions  
9:41:33 AM Ms. Birken for a response  
9:43:57 AM Senator Perry  
9:44:05 AM Senator Rouson  
9:44:15 AM Ms. Birken for a response  
9:45:11 AM Any Questions or comments?  
9:45:32 AM Conclusion  
9:45:46 AM Chair Rouson for closing comments  
9:46:33 AM Any member wanting to be recorded on a vote  
9:46:56 AM Senator Rodrigues votes in affirmative on SB 526  
9:47:08 AM Senator Burgess also votes in the affirmative on SB 526  
9:47:13 AM Senator Thurston moves we adjourn  
9:47:20 AM Adjourned