

By Representative Wilson

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the state correctional  
3           system; creating s. 944.6125, F.S.; providing  
4           that certain women who are confined by the  
5           Department of Corrections must be placed in a  
6           correctional facility located within a  
7           reasonable distance from the residence of the  
8           minor child of the confined woman; providing  
9           for a child-friendly environment; providing for  
10          the application of the act; providing an  
11          effective date.

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13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15           Section 1. Section 944.6125, Florida Statutes, is  
16          created to read:

17           944.6125 Imprisoned women; location of women with  
18          children.--

19           (1) When at all possible, women who are confined by  
20          the Florida Department of Corrections for nonviolent offenses,  
21          and who have minor children, must be placed in a correctional  
22          facility that is within a reasonable distance from the minor  
23          child's place of residence.

24           (2) Once the mother who is being confined by the  
25          department is placed at a correctional facility near the  
26          residence of the minor child, the facility must provide a  
27          child-friendly environment in which the mother and child may  
28          continue the bonding process even in the harsh reality of a  
29          prison setting.

30           (3) The mandates of this section in no way require a  
31          minor child to visit an incarcerated parent. The provisions

1 of this section are only applicable with respect to a child  
2 whose mother is incarcerated and whose family unit has made  
3 the decision to allow the child to visit the incarcerated  
4 parent.

5 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 1999.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

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10 Provides that when at all possible, women who are  
11 confined by the Department of Corrections for nonviolent  
12 offenses and who have minor children, must be placed at a  
13 correctional facility within a reasonable distance from  
14 the minor children. Provides for a child-friendly  
15 environment at the facility for the continued bonding of  
16 the minor child and the confined parent. Provides for  
17 the application of the act.

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