By the Committee on Juvenile Justice and Representatives Merchant and Patterson

A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to juvenile justice; amending 3 s. 984.226, F.S.; providing for physically secure settings for children in need of 4 5 services; authorizing the Department of Juvenile Justice to establish physically secure 6 7 settings; providing for a waiver of a child's 8 right to counsel at court appearances; 9 authorizing a court to place a child in a 10 physically secure setting under prescribed 11 circumstances; requiring the department to verify to the court that a bed is available; 12 13 providing duration of stay in a physically secure setting; providing for court review of a 14 child's placement; providing grounds for 15 16 transfer of jurisdiction of the child to the Department of Children and Family Services; 17 providing an effective date. 18 19 20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 21 22 Section 1. Section 984.226, Florida Statutes, is 23 amended to read: 24 984.226 Pilot program for a Physically secure setting 25 facility; contempt of court. --26 (1) Subject to specific legislative appropriation, the 27 Department of Juvenile Justice shall establish a pilot program 28 within a single judicial circuit for the purpose of operating 29 one or more physically secure settings facilities designated

exclusively for the placement of children in need of services

who meet the criteria provided in this section are found in direct contempt or indirect contempt of a valid court order.

(2) When If any party files a petition is filed alleging that a child is a child in need of services within such judicial circuit, the child must be represented by counsel at each court appearance unless the record in that proceeding affirmatively demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that the child knowingly and intelligently waived the right to counsel after fully being advised by the court of the nature of the proceedings and the dispositional alternatives available to the court under this section. If the court decides to appoint counsel for the child and if the child is indigent, the court shall appoint an attorney to represent the child as provided under s. 985.203. Nothing precludes the court from requesting reimbursement of attorney's fees and costs from the nonindigent parent or legal guardian.

(3)(2) When If a child is adjudicated as a child in need of services, the court may order the child to be placed in a physically secure setting authorized in this section if is held in direct contempt or indirect contempt of a valid court order, as an alternative to placing the child in a staff-secure facility as provided under s. 984.225 or s. 985.216, the court may order that the child be placed within the circuit in a physically secure facility operated under the pilot program. A child may be committed to the facility only if the department, or an authorized representative of the department, verifies to the court that a bed is available for the child at the physically secure facility and the child has:

(a) Failed to appear for placement in a staff-secure shelter under s. 984.225, or failed to comply with any other provision of a valid court order relating to such placement

and, as a result of such failure, been found to be in direct 1 2 or indirect contempt of court; or 3 (b) (a) Run away from a staff-secure shelter following placement under s. 984.225 or s. 984.09 985.216; or 4 5 (b) Committed at least two prior acts of direct or 6 indirect contempt. 7 8 The department, or an authorized representative of the 9 department, must verify to the court that a bed is available for the child. If a bed is not available, the court must stay 10 11 the placement until a bed is available, and the department 12 must place the child's name on a waiting list. The child who 13 has been on the waiting list the longest has first priority 14 for placement in the physically secure setting. 15 (4)(3) A child may be placed in a physically secure 16 setting facility for up to 90 5 days for the first commitment 17 and up to 15 days for a second or subsequent commitment. If a child has not been reunited with his or her parent, guardian, 18 19 or legal custodian at the expiration of the placement in a 20 physically secure setting, the court may order that the child remain in the physically secure setting for an additional 30 21 22 days if the court finds that reunification could be achieved within that period. 23 24 (5)(a) The court shall review the child's placement 25 once every 45 days as provided in s. 984.20. 26 (b) At any time during the placement of a child in 27 need of services in a physically secure setting, the 28 department, or an authorized representative of the department, 29 may submit to the court a report that recommends: 30

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- 1. That the child has received all of the services available from the physically secure setting and is ready for reunification with a parent or guardian; or
- 2. That the child is unlikely to benefit from continued placement in the physically secure setting and is more likely to have his or her needs met in a different type of placement.
- (c) The court shall determine if the parent, guardian, or custodian has reasonably participated in and has financially contributed to the child's counseling and treatment program. If the court finds an inadequate financial contribution or participation by the parent, guardian, or custodian before the end of the placement, the court shall direct that the child be handled as a dependent child, jurisdiction shall be transferred to the Department of Children and Family Services, and the child's care shall be governed by chapter 39.
- (d) If the court determines that the child requires residential mental health treatment or residential care for a developmental disability, the court shall refer the child to the Department of Children and Family Services for the provision of necessary services.
- (6) (4) Prior to being ordered committed to a physically secure setting facility, the child must be afforded all rights of due process required under s. 985.216. While in the physically secure setting facility, the child shall receive appropriate assessment, treatment, and educational services that are designed to eliminate or reduce the child's truant, ungovernable, or runaway behavior. The child and family shall be provided with family counseling and other 31 support services necessary for reunification.

(7)(5) The court shall order the parent, guardian, or legal custodian to cooperate with efforts to reunite the child with the family, participate in counseling, and pay all costs associated with the care and counseling provided to the child and family, in accordance with the family's ability to pay as determined by the court. Placement Commitment of a child under this section is designed to provide residential care on a temporary basis. Such placement commitment does not abrogate the legal responsibilities of the parent, guardian, or legal custodian with respect to the child, except to the extent that those responsibilities are temporarily altered by court order.

(6) The Juvenile Justice Accountability Board shall monitor the operation of the pilot program and issue a preliminary evaluation report to the Legislature by December 1, 1998. The Department of Juvenile Justice and the Juvenile Justice Accountability Board shall issue a joint final report to the Legislature, including any proposed legislation, by December 1, 1999.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.