

By Senator Sebesta

20-1602-00

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to children in need of  
services; expressing legislative intent to  
authorize a law enforcement officer to  
intervene on behalf of a first-time runaway  
child and initiate services to reunite the  
child and family; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. The Legislature intends to enact  
legislation authorizing a law enforcement officer, at the  
request of a parent, to immediately take a child into custody  
if the child is a first-time runaway and to initiate services  
under chapter 984, Florida Statutes, for children and families  
in need of services. It is also the intent of the Legislature  
that such intervention should not be treated as any form of  
detention of the child and should not be considered as an  
arrest of the child. The child and parent should be reunited  
as soon as possible and counseling should be initiated at the  
earliest opportunity.

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

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SENATE SUMMARY

Expresses legislative intent to enact legislation  
authorizing a law enforcement officer to intervene in the  
case of a first-time runaway child and to initiate  
services for the child and family.