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CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Judiciary Committee recommends the following:

2
3 **Council/Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 A bill to be entitled

6 An act relating to court actions involving families;
7 amending ss. 39.001, 61.001, 63.022, 68.07, 741.2902,
8 984.01, and 985.02, F.S., and creating ss. 88.1041,
9 742.016, 743.001, and 1003.20, F.S.; providing additional
10 purposes relating to implementing a unified family court
11 program in the circuit courts; providing legislative
12 intent; providing an effective date.

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

15
16 Section 1. Paragraph (n) is added to subsection (1) of
17 section 39.001, Florida Statutes, to read:

18 39.001 Purposes and intent; personnel standards and
19 screening.--

20 (1) PURPOSES OF CHAPTER.--The purposes of this chapter
21 are:

22 (n) To provide all children and families with a fully
23 integrated, comprehensive approach to handling all cases that

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24 involve children and families and a resolution of family
 25 disputes in a fair, timely, efficient, and cost-effective
 26 manner. It is the intent of the Legislature that the courts of
 27 this state embrace methods of resolving disputes that do not
 28 cause additional emotional harm to the children and families who
 29 are required to interact with the judicial system. It is the
 30 intent of the Legislature to support the development of a
 31 unified family court and to support the state courts system's
 32 efforts to improve the resolution of disputes involving children
 33 and families through a fully integrated, comprehensive approach
 34 that includes coordinated case management; the concept of "one
 35 family, one judge"; collaboration with the community for
 36 referral to needed services; and methods of alternative dispute
 37 resolution. The Legislature supports the goal that the legal
 38 system should focus on the needs of children who are involved in
 39 the litigation, refer families to resources that will make
 40 families' relationships stronger, coordinate families' cases to
 41 provide consistent results, and strive to leave families in
 42 better condition than when the families entered the system.

43 Section 2. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (2) of
 44 section 61.001, Florida Statutes, to read:

45 61.001 Purpose of chapter.--

46 (2) Its purposes are:

47 (d) To provide all children and families with a fully
 48 integrated, comprehensive approach to handling all cases that
 49 involve children and families and a resolution of family
 50 disputes in a fair, timely, efficient, and cost-effective
 51 manner. It is the intent of the Legislature that the courts of

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52 | this state embrace methods of resolving disputes that do not
53 | cause additional emotional harm to the children and families who
54 | are required to interact with the judicial system. It is the
55 | intent of the Legislature to support the development of a
56 | unified family court and to support the state courts system's
57 | efforts to improve the resolution of disputes involving children
58 | and families through a fully integrated, comprehensive approach
59 | that includes coordinated case management; the concept of "one
60 | family, one judge"; collaboration with the community for
61 | referral to needed services; and methods of alternative dispute
62 | resolution. The Legislature supports the goal that the legal
63 | system should focus on the needs of children who are involved in
64 | the litigation, refer families to resources that will make
65 | families' relationships stronger, coordinate families' cases to
66 | provide consistent results, and strive to leave families in
67 | better condition than when the families entered the system.

68 | Section 3. Subsection (6) is added to section 63.022,
69 | Florida Statutes, to read:

70 | 63.022 Legislative intent.--

71 | (6) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide all
72 | children and families with a fully integrated, comprehensive
73 | approach to handling all cases that involve children and
74 | families and a resolution of family disputes in a fair, timely,
75 | efficient, and cost-effective manner. It is the intent of the
76 | Legislature that the courts of this state embrace methods of
77 | resolving disputes that do not cause additional emotional harm
78 | to the children and families who are required to interact with
79 | the judicial system. It is the intent of the Legislature to

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80 support the development of a unified family court and to support
 81 the state courts system's efforts to improve the resolution of
 82 disputes involving children and families through a fully
 83 integrated, comprehensive approach that includes coordinated
 84 case management; the concept of "one family, one judge";
 85 collaboration with the community for referral to needed
 86 services; and methods of alternative dispute resolution. The
 87 Legislature supports the goal that the legal system should focus
 88 on the needs of children who are involved in the litigation,
 89 refer families to resources that will make families'
 90 relationships stronger, coordinate families' cases to provide
 91 consistent results, and strive to leave families in better
 92 condition than when the families entered the system.

93 Section 4. Subsection (9) is added to section 68.07,
 94 Florida Statutes, to read:

95 68.07 Change of name.--

96 (9) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide all
 97 children and families with a fully integrated, comprehensive
 98 approach to handling all cases that involve children and
 99 families and a resolution of family disputes in a fair, timely,
 100 efficient, and cost-effective manner. It is the intent of the
 101 Legislature that the courts of this state embrace methods of
 102 resolving disputes that do not cause additional emotional harm
 103 to the children and families who are required to interact with
 104 the judicial system. It is the intent of the Legislature to
 105 support the development of a unified family court and to support
 106 the state courts system's efforts to improve the resolution of
 107 disputes involving children and families through a fully

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108 integrated, comprehensive approach that includes coordinated
109 case management; the concept of "one family, one judge";
110 collaboration with the community for referral to needed
111 services; and methods of alternative dispute resolution. The
112 Legislature supports the goal that the legal system should focus
113 on the needs of children who are involved in the litigation,
114 refer families to resources that will make families'
115 relationships stronger, coordinate families' cases to provide
116 consistent results, and strive to leave families in better
117 condition than when the families entered the system.

118 Section 5. Section 88.1041, Florida Statutes, is created
119 to read:

120 88.1041 Legislative intent.--It is the intent of the
121 Legislature to provide all children and families with a fully
122 integrated, comprehensive approach to handling all cases that
123 involve children and families and a resolution of family
124 disputes in a fair, timely, efficient, and cost-effective
125 manner. It is the intent of the Legislature that the courts of
126 this state embrace methods of resolving disputes that do not
127 cause additional emotional harm to the children and families who
128 are required to interact with the judicial system. It is the
129 intent of the Legislature to support the development of a
130 unified family court and to support the state courts system's
131 efforts to improve the resolution of disputes involving children
132 and families through a fully integrated, comprehensive approach
133 that includes coordinated case management; the concept of "one
134 family, one judge"; collaboration with the community for
135 referral to needed services; and methods of alternative dispute

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136 resolution. The Legislature supports the goal that the legal
137 system should focus on the needs of children who are involved in
138 the litigation, refer families to resources that will make
139 families' relationships stronger, coordinate families' cases to
140 provide consistent results, and strive to leave families in
141 better condition than when the families entered the system.

142 Section 6. Subsection (3) is added to section 741.2902,
143 Florida Statutes, to read:

144 741.2902 Domestic violence; legislative intent with
145 respect to judiciary's role.--

146 (3) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide all
147 children and families with a fully integrated, comprehensive
148 approach to handling all cases that involve children and
149 families and a resolution of family disputes in a fair, timely,
150 efficient, and cost-effective manner. It is the intent of the
151 Legislature that the courts of this state embrace methods of
152 resolving disputes that do not cause additional emotional harm
153 to the children and families who are required to interact with
154 the judicial system. It is the intent of the Legislature to
155 support the development of a unified family court and to support
156 the state courts system's efforts to improve the resolution of
157 disputes involving children and families through a fully
158 integrated, comprehensive approach that includes coordinated
159 case management; the concept of "one family, one judge";
160 collaboration with the community for referral to needed
161 services; and methods of alternative dispute resolution. The
162 Legislature supports the goal that the legal system should focus
163 on the needs of children who are involved in the litigation,

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164 refer families to resources that will make families'
165 relationships stronger, coordinate families' cases to provide
166 consistent results, and strive to leave families in better
167 condition than when the families entered the system.

168 Section 7. Section 742.016, Florida Statutes, is created
169 to read:

170 742.016 Legislative intent.--It is the intent of the
171 Legislature to provide all children and families with a fully
172 integrated, comprehensive approach to handling all cases that
173 involve children and families and a resolution of family
174 disputes in a fair, timely, efficient, and cost-effective
175 manner. It is the intent of the Legislature that the courts of
176 this state embrace methods of resolving disputes that do not
177 cause additional emotional harm to the children and families who
178 are required to interact with the judicial system. It is the
179 intent of the Legislature to support the development of a
180 unified family court and to support the state courts system's
181 efforts to improve the resolution of disputes involving children
182 and families through a fully integrated, comprehensive approach
183 that includes coordinated case management; the concept of "one
184 family, one judge"; collaboration with the community for
185 referral to needed services; and methods of alternative dispute
186 resolution. The Legislature supports the goal that the legal
187 system should focus on the needs of children who are involved in
188 the litigation, refer families to resources that will make
189 families' relationships stronger, coordinate families' cases to
190 provide consistent results, and strive to leave families in
191 better condition than when the families entered the system.

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192 Section 8. Section 743.001, Florida Statutes, is created
193 to read:

194 743.001 Legislative intent.--It is the intent of the
195 Legislature to provide all children and families with a fully
196 integrated, comprehensive approach to handling all cases that
197 involve children and families and a resolution of family
198 disputes in a fair, timely, efficient, and cost-effective
199 manner. It is the intent of the Legislature that the courts of
200 this state embrace methods of resolving disputes that do not
201 cause additional emotional harm to the children and families who
202 are required to interact with the judicial system. It is the
203 intent of the Legislature to support the development of a
204 unified family court and to support the state courts system's
205 efforts to improve the resolution of disputes involving children
206 and families through a fully integrated, comprehensive approach
207 that includes coordinated case management; the concept of "one
208 family, one judge"; collaboration with the community for
209 referral to needed services; and methods of alternative dispute
210 resolution. The Legislature supports the goal that the legal
211 system should focus on the needs of children who are involved in
212 the litigation, refer families to resources that will make
213 families' relationships stronger, coordinate families' cases to
214 provide consistent results, and strive to leave families in
215 better condition than when the families entered the system.

216 Section 9. Paragraph (g) is added to subsection (1) of
217 section 984.01, Florida Statutes, to read:

218 984.01 Purposes and intent; personnel standards and
219 screening.--

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220 (1) The purposes of this chapter are:

221 (g) To provide all children and families with a fully
222 integrated, comprehensive approach to handling all cases that
223 involve children and families and a resolution of family
224 disputes in a fair, timely, efficient, and cost-effective
225 manner. It is the intent of the Legislature that the courts of
226 this state embrace methods of resolving disputes that do not
227 cause additional emotional harm to the children and families who
228 are required to interact with the judicial system. It is the
229 intent of the Legislature to support the development of a
230 unified family court and to support the state courts system's
231 efforts to improve the resolution of disputes involving children
232 and families through a fully integrated, comprehensive approach
233 that includes coordinated case management; the concept of "one
234 family, one judge"; collaboration with the community for
235 referral to needed services; and methods of alternative dispute
236 resolution. The Legislature supports the goal that the legal
237 system should focus on the needs of children who are involved in
238 the litigation, refer families to resources that will make
239 families' relationships stronger, coordinate families' cases to
240 provide consistent results, and strive to leave families in
241 better condition than when the families entered the system.

242 Section 10. Paragraph (j) is added to subsection (1) of
243 section 985.02, Florida Statutes, to read:

244 985.02 Legislative intent for the juvenile justice
245 system.--

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246 (1) GENERAL PROTECTIONS FOR CHILDREN.--It is a purpose of
247 the Legislature that the children of this state be provided with
248 the following protections:

249 (j) A fully integrated, comprehensive approach to handling
250 all cases that involve children and families and a resolution of
251 family disputes in a fair, timely, efficient, and cost-effective
252 manner. It is the intent of the Legislature that the courts of
253 this state embrace methods of resolving disputes that do not
254 cause additional emotional harm to the children and families who
255 are required to interact with the judicial system. It is the
256 intent of the Legislature to support the development of a
257 unified family court and to support the state courts system's
258 efforts to improve the resolution of disputes involving children
259 and families through a fully integrated, comprehensive approach
260 that includes coordinated case management; the concept of "one
261 family, one judge"; collaboration with the community for
262 referral to needed services; and methods of alternative dispute
263 resolution. The Legislature supports the goal that the legal
264 system should focus on the needs of children who are involved in
265 the litigation, refer families to resources that will make
266 families' relationships stronger, coordinate families' cases to
267 provide consistent results, and strive to leave families in
268 better condition than when the families entered the system.

269 Section 11. Section 1003.20, Florida Statutes, is created
270 to read:

271 1003.20 Legislative intent.--It is the intent of the
272 Legislature to provide all children and families with a fully
273 integrated, comprehensive approach to handling all cases that

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274 involve children and families and a resolution of family
275 disputes in a fair, timely, efficient, and cost-effective
276 manner. It is the intent of the Legislature that the courts of
277 this state embrace methods of resolving disputes that do not
278 cause additional emotional harm to the children and families who
279 are required to interact with the judicial system. It is the
280 intent of the Legislature to support the development of a
281 unified family court and to support the state courts system's
282 efforts to improve the resolution of disputes involving children
283 and families through a fully integrated, comprehensive approach
284 that includes coordinated case management; the concept of "one
285 family, one judge"; collaboration with the community for
286 referral to needed services; and methods of alternative dispute
287 resolution. The Legislature supports the goal that the legal
288 system should focus on the needs of children who are involved in
289 the litigation, refer families to resources that will make
290 families' relationships stronger, coordinate families' cases to
291 provide consistent results, and strive to leave families in
292 better condition than when the families entered the system.

293 Section 12. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.