

HB 1457

2006

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to youth custody officers; amending s.
 3 985.2075, F.S.; authorizing a youth custody officer to
 4 take a youth into custody if the officer has probable
 5 cause to believe that the youth has escaped from a
 6 facility operated by or under contract with the Department
 7 of Juvenile Justice or has absconded from the supervision
 8 of the department; authorizing the youth custody officer
 9 to file certain criminal charges and gather evidence for
 10 court; revising a provision concerning an officer
 11 informing local law enforcement agencies of his or her
 12 activities; providing an effective date.

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

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16 Section 1. Section 985.2075, Florida Statutes, is amended
 17 to read:

18 985.2075 Youth custody officer.--

19 (1) There is created within the department ~~of Juvenile~~
 20 ~~Justice~~ the position of youth custody officer. The primary
 21 duties of each youth custody officer shall be to take youth into
 22 custody if the officer has probable cause to believe that the
 23 youth has violated the conditions of probation, home detention,
 24 conditional release, or postcommitment probation, or has failed
 25 to appear in court after being properly noticed. The authority
 26 of the youth custody officer to take youth into custody is
 27 specifically limited to this purpose.

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28 (2) A youth custody officer who, while in the performance
29 of his or her duties, takes a youth into custody for any reason
30 specified in subsection (1) and has probable cause to believe
31 that the youth has committed violations of criminal law, may
32 file the appropriate criminal charges and gather evidence for
33 prosecution. Each youth custody officer is subject to and shall
34 have the same arrest and other authority provided for law
35 enforcement officers generally in chapter 901, including s.
36 901.15, and shall have statewide jurisdiction. Such officers
37 have full law enforcement powers granted to other peace officers
38 of this state, including the authority to make arrests, carry
39 firearms, serve court process, and seize contraband and the
40 proceeds of illegal activities.

41 (3)~~(2)~~ A youth custody officer must meet the minimum
42 qualifications for employment or appointment, be certified under
43 chapter 943, and comply with the requirements for continued
44 employment required by s. 943.135. The department ~~of Juvenile~~
45 ~~Justice~~ must comply with the responsibilities provided for an
46 employing agency under s. 943.133 for each youth custody
47 officer.

48 (4)~~(3)~~ A youth custody officer should ~~shall~~ inform
49 appropriate local law enforcement agencies of his or her
50 activities under this section.

51 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.