

By Senator Rich

34-1565-06

See HB

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to court actions involving families; amending ss. 39.001, 61.001, and 985.02, F.S.; providing additional purposes relating to implementing a unified family court program in the circuit courts; providing legislative intent; providing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

(n) To provide all children and families affected by the legal process with a coordinated judicial system that minimizes multiple actions and provides one decisionmaker for each child or family and a coordinated approach in dealing with the applicable issues of the child or family. It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage the circuit courts of this state to implement a unified family court program as endorsed by the Florida Supreme Court and establish such a unified family court by local rule or administrative order to be submitted to the Florida Supreme Court for approval as directed by the Florida Supreme Court. It is the intent of the Legislature to improve the resolution of disputes within the judicial system for children and families by promoting the implementation of the Coordinated Management Model as

1 established by the Florida Supreme Court and the concept of  
2 "one family, one judge" to coordinate multiple cases involving  
3 one family.

4 Section 2. Section 61.001, Florida Statutes, is  
5 amended to read:

6 61.001 Purpose of chapter.--

7 (1) This chapter shall be liberally construed and  
8 applied.

9 (2) Its purposes are:

10 (a) To preserve the integrity of marriage and to  
11 safeguard meaningful family relationships;

12 (b) To promote the amicable settlement of disputes  
13 that arise between parties to a marriage; and

14 (c) To mitigate the potential harm to the spouses and  
15 their children caused by the process of legal dissolution of  
16 marriage.

17 (d) To provide all children and families affected by  
18 the legal process with a coordinated judicial system that  
19 minimizes multiple actions and provides one decisionmaker for  
20 each child or family and a coordinated approach in dealing  
21 with the applicable issues of the child or family. It is the  
22 intent of the Legislature to encourage the circuit courts of  
23 this state to implement a unified family court program as  
24 endorsed by the Florida Supreme Court and establish such a  
25 unified family court by local rule or administrative order to  
26 be submitted to the Florida Supreme Court for approval as  
27 directed by the Florida Supreme Court. It is the intent of the  
28 Legislature to improve the resolution of disputes within the  
29 judicial system for children and families by promoting the  
30 implementation of the Coordinated Management Model as  
31 established by the Florida Supreme Court and the concept of

1 "one family, one judge" to coordinate multiple cases involving  
2 one family.

3 Section 3. Paragraph (j) is added to subsection (1) of  
4 section 985.02, Florida Statutes, to read:

5 985.02 Legislative intent for the juvenile justice  
6 system.--

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

10 (j) To all children and their families affected by the  
11 legal process, a coordinated judicial system that minimizes  
12 multiple actions and provides one decisionmaker for each child  
13 or family and a coordinated approach in dealing with the  
14 applicable issues of the child or family. It is the intent of  
15 the Legislature to encourage the circuit courts of this state  
16 to implement a unified family court program as endorsed by the  
17 Florida Supreme Court and establish such a unified family  
18 court by local rule or administrative order to be submitted to  
19 the Florida Supreme Court for approval as directed by the  
20 Florida Supreme Court. It is the intent of the Legislature to  
21 improve the resolution of disputes within the judicial system  
22 for children and families by promoting the implementation of  
23 the Coordinated Management Model as established by the Florida  
24 Supreme Court and the concept of "one family, one judge" to  
25 coordinate multiple cases involving one family.

26 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.  
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