

Amendment No. (for drafter's use only)

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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Representative Planas offered the following:

**Amendment to Amendment (159621) (with title amendment)**

Between lines 4 and 5 insert:

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

985.02 Legislative intent for the juvenile justice system.--

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

(j) A fully integrated, comprehensive approach to handling all cases that involve children and families and a resolution of family disputes in a fair, timely, efficient, and cost-effective manner. It is the intent of the Legislature that the courts of this state embrace methods of resolving disputes that do not

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18 cause additional emotional harm to the children and families who  
19 are required to interact with the judicial system. It is the  
20 intent of the Legislature to support the development of a  
21 unified family court and to support the state courts system's  
22 efforts to improve the resolution of disputes involving children  
23 and families through a fully integrated, comprehensive approach  
24 that includes coordinated case management; the concept of "one  
25 family, one judge"; collaboration with the community for  
26 referral to needed services; and methods of alternative dispute  
27 resolution. The Legislature supports the goal that the legal  
28 system should focus on the needs of children who are involved in  
29 the litigation, refer families to resources that will make  
30 families' relationships stronger, coordinate families' cases to  
31 provide consistent results, and strive to leave families in  
32 better condition than when the families entered the system.

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34 ===== T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T =====

35       Remove line 857 and insert:

36       An act relating to juvenile justice; amending s.

37       985.02, F.S.; providing additional purposes relating

38       to implementing a unified family court program in the

39       circuit courts; providing legislative intent; amending

40       s. 985.207,