

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Juvenile Justice 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 juvenile animal cruelty; providing
7 legislative findings; providing definitions; creating a
8 task force on juvenile cruelty to animals; providing
9 powers and duties; requiring the task force to consider
10 specified issues and make recommendations; providing
11 membership; requiring a report; providing for
12 administrative support and travel reimbursement; providing
13 for dissolution of the task force; providing an effective
14 date.

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

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18 Section 1. Task force on juvenile cruelty to animals.--

19 (1) The Legislature recognizes that multiple research
20 studies have found statistically significant correlations
21 between acts of animal cruelty by juveniles and violent behavior
22 against persons and that a literature review conducted by the
23 federal Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention found

HB 563

2006
CS

24 that juvenile animal cruelty may be characteristic of the
25 developmental histories of 25 to 60 percent of violent adult
26 offenders. The Legislature further recognizes that it is
27 critical for the rehabilitation of juvenile animal cruelty
28 offenders and for the protection of society that the Legislature
29 establish a policy requiring the Department of Juvenile Justice
30 to assess the specific rehabilitation needs of juvenile animal
31 cruelty offenders and to provide programs that will treat these
32 offenders and halt further antisocial conduct.

33 (2) For purposes of this section, the term:

34 (a) "Department" means the Department of Juvenile Justice.

35 (b) "Juvenile animal cruelty offender" means a juvenile
36 referred to the department who has violated s. 828.12, Florida
37 Statutes, or who otherwise has a history of engaging in one or
38 more acts of animal cruelty.

39 (3) There is created a task force to review and evaluate
40 the state's laws that define and address animal cruelty and the
41 department's practices for treating and rehabilitating juvenile
42 animal cruelty offenders. The task force shall make findings
43 that include, but are not limited to:

44 (a) Identification of statutes that address animal
45 cruelty.

46 (b) Compilation of statistics regarding the number of
47 juveniles in this state who have been found, between July 1,
48 2001, and June 30, 2006, to have committed an act of animal
49 cruelty in violation of s. 828.12, Florida Statutes, and
50 identification of the disposition imposed in each of those
51 cases.

HB 563

2006
CS

52 (c) A profile of the delinquency and criminal histories of
53 the juveniles involved in the cases identified in paragraph (b)
54 before and after commission of the act of animal cruelty.

55 (d) A summary of the department's methods for identifying
56 juvenile animal cruelty offenders who are referred to the
57 department for a delinquent act other than a violation of s.
58 828.12, Florida Statutes.

59 (e) Identification of the department's practices,
60 procedures, and programs for the treatment and rehabilitation of
61 juvenile animal cruelty offenders.

62 (f) A summary of research regarding juvenile animal
63 cruelty offenders and of any recommendations contained therein
64 for the treatment and rehabilitation of these offenders.

65 (g) Identification of best and evidence-based practices
66 and model programs used in other jurisdictions for the treatment
67 and rehabilitation of juvenile animal cruelty offenders.

68 (4) Based on its findings, the task force shall make
69 recommendations for the improvement of the state's policies and
70 laws that address juvenile animal cruelty. Such recommendations
71 shall specifically include, but are not limited to,
72 identification of methods to assess the needs of juvenile animal
73 cruelty offenders, treatment programs that will best
74 rehabilitate juvenile animal cruelty offenders, service delivery
75 mechanisms to ensure that recommended treatment programs are
76 available statewide, and any funding needs above existing
77 resources to ensure adequate availability of recommended
78 treatment programs.

HB 563

2006
CS

79 (5) On or before August 1, 2006, the secretary of the
80 department shall appoint up to 12 members to the task force. The
81 task force membership shall include, but is not limited to:
82 three persons who collectively have experience with the conduct
83 of juvenile animal cruelty research and with the treatment and
84 rehabilitation of juvenile animal cruelty offenders; two
85 department employees who collectively are responsible for
86 research and planning and delinquency prevention and treatment
87 programming; and two representatives of providers of juvenile
88 delinquency prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation services.

89 (6) The task force shall submit a written report of its
90 findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of
91 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by
92 January 1, 2007.

93 (7) Administrative support for the task force shall be
94 provided by the department. Members of the task force shall
95 serve without compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement
96 under s. 112.061, Florida Statutes, for travel and per diem
97 expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.
98 The task force shall strive to minimize travel and per diem
99 expenses by performing, when practicable, its duties in the
100 location where the majority of task force members reside.

101 (8) The task force shall be dissolved upon submission of
102 its report.

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