

By Senator Joyner

18-03438-08

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to guardians ad litem; amending s. 61.402,
3 F.S.; authorizing a citizen affiliated with a not-for-
4 profit legal aid organization to serve as a guardian ad
5 litem; requiring that such an individual undergo
6 background screening; providing an effective date.
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8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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10 Section 1. Section 61.402, Florida Statutes, is amended to
11 read:

12 61.402 Qualifications of guardians ad litem.--A guardian ad
13 litem must be ~~either~~ a citizen certified by the Guardian Ad Litem
14 Program to act in family law cases, a citizen affiliated with a
15 not-for-profit legal aid organization defined in s. 68.096, or an
16 attorney who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar.
17 Prior to certifying a guardian ad litem to be appointed under
18 this chapter, the Guardian Ad Litem Program must conduct a
19 security background investigation as provided in s. 39.821. A
20 citizen affiliated with a not-for-profit legal aid organization
21 may serve as a guardian ad litem only after such organization has
22 conducted a security background investigation that conforms to
23 the requirements of s. 39.821.

24 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.