

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to guardians ad litem; amending s. 61.402,
 3 F.S.; permitting citizens affiliated with not-for-profit
 4 legal aid organizations to be appointed as guardians ad
 5 litem; requiring the not-for-profit legal aid
 6 organizations to conduct security background
 7 investigations of such persons; providing an effective
 8 date.

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

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 12 Section 1. Section 61.402, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 13 read:

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

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