By Senator Powell

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A bill to be entitled An act relating to juvenile justice; amending s. 985.557, F.S.; revising the circumstances under which a state attorney may file an information when a child of a certain age range commits or attempts to commit specified crimes; deleting a requirement that a state attorney file an information under certain circumstances; prohibiting the transfer of a child to adult court under certain circumstances based on the child's competency; requiring the Department of Juvenile Justice to collect specified data under certain circumstances; requiring the department to provide an annual report to the Legislature; amending s. 985.56, F.S.; prohibiting the transfer of a child to adult court under certain circumstances based on the child's competency; amending s. 985.565, F.S.; providing specified sanctions to which a juvenile may be sentenced; prohibiting a sentence from exceeding the maximum term that an adult may serve for the same offense; revising the criteria to be used in determining whether to impose juvenile or adult sanctions; requiring the adult court to enter an order including specific findings of fact and the reasons for its decision; authorizing the court to consider certain reports that may assist it; providing for the examination of the reports by certain parties; revising how a child may be sanctioned under certain circumstances; removing a provision that requires a court to impose adult sanctions under certain circumstances; requiring the court to explain the basis for imposing adult sanctions; revising when juvenile sanctions may be imposed; providing criteria

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for blended sanctions; amending s. 985.556, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; reenacting ss. 985.15(1) and 985.265(5), F.S., relating to filing decisions and detention transfer and release, education, and adult jails, respectively, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 985.557, F.S., in references thereto; reenacting ss. 985.514(3) and 985.56(3) and (4)(a), F.S., relating to responsibility for cost of care and fees and indictment of a juvenile, respectively, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 985.565, F.S., in references thereto; reenacting s. 985.556(3) and (5)(a), F.S., relating to waiver of juvenile court jurisdiction and hearings, to incorporate the amendments made to ss. 985.557 and 985.565, F.S., in references thereto; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 985.557, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

(Substantial rewording of section. See s. 985.557, F.S., for present text.)

985.557 Direct filing of an information.—

(1) DIRECT FILE.—

(a) With respect to a child who was 16 years of age or older and younger than 18 years of age at the time the alleged offense was committed, the state attorney may file an information if, in the state attorney's judgment and discretion, the public interest requires that adult sanctions be considered

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62 and the offense charged is for the commission of or attempt to 63 commit: 1. Murder; 64 65 2. Manslaughter; 66 3. Sexual battery; 67 4. Robbery; 68 5. Aggravated assault; 69 6. Aggravated child abuse; 70 7. Arson; 71 8. Kidnapping; 72 9. Unlawful throwing, placing, or discharging of a 73 destructive device or bomb; 74 10. Aggravated battery; 11. Carrying, displaying, using, or threatening or 75 attempting to use a weapon or firearm in furtherance of the 76 77 commission of a felony; 78 12. Possessing or discharging a weapon or firearm on school 79 property in violation of s. 790.115; 80 13. Home invasion robbery; 81 14. Aggravated stalking; 82 15. Carjacking; 83 16. Aggravated animal cruelty by intentional acts; 17. DUI or BUI resulting in fatality, great bodily harm, 84 permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement to a person; 85 18. Felony DUI or BUI in violation of s. 316.193(2)(b)1. or 86 87 3. or s. 327.35(2)(b)1. or 3., respectively; 88 19. Leaving the scene of an accident resulting in fatality, 89 great bodily harm, permanent disability, or permanent 90 disfigurement to a person;

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91 <u>20. Any lewd or lascivious offense committed upon or in the</u> 92 presence of a person younger than 16 years of age; or

- 21. Burglary in violation of s. 810.02(2)(a), burglary of a dwelling in violation of s. 810.02(2) or (3), or burglary in violation of s. 810.02(3)(c) or (d).
- (b) With respect to a child who was 14 years of age or older and younger than 16 years of age at the time the alleged offense was committed, the state attorney may file an information if, in the state attorney's judgment and discretion, the public interest requires that adult sanctions be considered and the offense charged is for the commission of or attempt to commit:
 - 1. Murder;

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- 2. Manslaughter;
- 3. Sexual battery;
- 4. Robbery;
- 5. Aggravated battery;
- 6. Carjacking;
- 7. Home invasion robbery;
 - 8. Kidnapping;
- 9. Burglary of a dwelling or burglary in violation of s. 810.02(2)(a);
- 113 10. Arson; or
- 114 <u>11. Possessing or discharging any weapon or firearm on</u> 115 school property in violation of s. 790.115.
 - (c) With respect to a child who was 15 years of age or older and younger than 18 years of age at the time the alleged offense was committed, the state attorney may file an information for a felony if, in the state attorney's judgment

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and discretion, the public interest requires that adult

sanctions be considered and the child has had a prior

adjudication for an offense that would be a felony if committed

by an adult.

- (d) With respect to a child who is 17 years of age or older and younger than 18 years of age at the time the alleged offense was committed, the state attorney may file an information for a violation of s. 784.03(1)(b) if, in the state attorney's judgment and discretion, the public interest requires that adult sanctions be considered, the child has had a prior adjudication for an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult, and the victim requests that the offense be filed in adult court.
 - (2) EFFECT OF DIRECT FILE.—
- (a) If a child is transferred for criminal prosecution as an adult, the court must transfer and certify to the adult circuit court all felony cases pertaining to the child which have not yet resulted in a plea of guilty or nolo contendere or in which a finding of guilt has not been made. If the child is acquitted of all charged offenses or lesser included offenses contained in the original case transferred to adult court, any felony cases that were transferred to adult court under this subsection are subject to the same penalties they were subject to before their transfer.
- (b) If a child has been transferred to adult court pursuant to this section and found to have committed the presenting offense or a lesser included offense, he or she must be treated as an adult for each subsequent violation of state law, unless the court imposes juvenile sanctions under s. 985.565.

(3) TRANSFER PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other law, a child who is eligible for direct file and who has a pending competency hearing in juvenile court or has previously been found to be incompetent and has not been restored to competency by a court may not be transferred to adult court for criminal prosecution.

- (4) DATA COLLECTION RELATING TO DIRECT FILE.-
- (a) The department shall collect data regarding children who qualify for direct file under subsection (1), including, but not limited to:
 - 1. Age.

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- 2. Race and ethnicity.
- 3. Gender.
- 4. Circuit and county of residence.
- 5. Circuit and county of offense.
- 6. Prior adjudicated offenses.
- 7. Prior periods of probation.
- 8. Previous contacts with law enforcement agencies or the courts.
- 9. Initial charges.
 - 10. Charges at disposition.
- 11. Whether adult codefendants were involved.
- 171 <u>12. Whether child codefendants were involved who were</u> 172 transferred to adult court.
- 173 13. Whether the child was represented by counsel.
 - 14. Whether the child has waived counsel.
 - 15. Risk assessment instrument score.
- 176 <u>16. The child's medical, mental health, substance abuse, or</u> 177 trauma history.

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- 17. The child's history of abuse or neglect.
- 18. The child's history of foster care placements, including the number of prior placements.
- 19. Whether the child has been the subject of a childrenin-need-of-services or families-in-need-of-services petition or dependency petition.
 - 20. The case resolution in juvenile court.
 - 21. The case resolution in adult court.
- (b) If a child is transferred for criminal prosecution as an adult, the department must also collect disposition data, including, but not limited to, whether the child received adult sanctions, juvenile sanctions, blended sanctions, or diversion and, if sentenced to prison, the length of prison sentence or enhanced sentence.
- (c) The department shall annually provide a report analyzing this aggregated data to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- Section 2. Subsection (5) is added to section 985.56, Florida Statutes, to read:
 - 985.56 Indictment of a juvenile.-
- (5) Notwithstanding any other law, a child who is eligible for indictment and who has a pending competency hearing in juvenile court or has previously been found to be incompetent and has not been restored to competency by a court may not be transferred to adult court for criminal prosecution.
- Section 3. Subsection (1), paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (3), and subsection (4) of section 985.565, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 - 985.565 Sentencing powers; procedures; alternatives for

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juveniles prosecuted as adults.-

- (1) POWERS OF DISPOSITION. -
- (a) A child <u>in adult court</u> who is found to have committed a violation of law may <u>be</u> sentenced to adult sanctions, juvenile sanctions, or blended sanctions consisting of both juvenile and adult sanctions. The child's sentence may include a term of imprisonment, community control, probation, commitment, as an alternative to adult dispositions, be committed to the department for treatment in an appropriate program, for children outside the adult correctional system or be placed on juvenile probation, or any combination thereof. The sentence may also include any other sanction authorized by law. A sentence imposed under this section may not exceed the maximum term that an adult may serve for the same offense.
- (b) In determining whether to impose juvenile sanctions, instead of adult sanctions, or blended sanctions, the court shall consider the following criteria:
- 1. The seriousness of the offense to the community and whether the <u>protection of the</u> community would <u>be</u> best <u>served</u> be protected by juvenile, or blended sanctions.
 - 2. The extent of the child's participation in the offense.
- 3. The effect, if any, of familial or peer pressure on the child's actions.
- $\underline{4.2.}$ Whether the offense was committed in an aggressive, violent, premeditated, or willful manner.
- 5.3. Whether the offense was against persons or against property, with greater weight being given to offenses against persons, especially if personal injury resulted.
 - 6.4. The sophistication and maturity of the child,

including: offender.

- a. The child's age, maturity, intellectual capacity, and mental and emotional health at the time of the offense.
- b. The child's background, including his or her family, home, and community environment.
- c. The effect, if any, of immaturity, impetuosity, or failure to appreciate the risks and consequences on the child's participation in the offense.
- d. The effect, if any, of characteristics attributable to the child's age on the child's judgment.
- 7.5. The record and previous history of the <u>child</u> offender, including:
- a. Previous contacts with the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the former Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, or the Department of Children and Families, and the adequacy and appropriateness of the services provided to address the child's needs law enforcement agencies, and the courts.
 - b. Prior periods of probation.
- c. Prior adjudications that the offender committed a delinquent act or violation of law as a child.
- d. Prior commitments to the Department of Juvenile Justice, the former Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, the Department of Children and Families, or other facilities or institutions, and the adequacy and appropriateness of the services provided to address the child's needs.
- $\underline{\text{e. Previous contacts with law enforcement agencies and the}}$ courts.
 - f. History of abuse, abandonment or neglect, or foster care

placements.

- g. Identification of the child as having a disability or having previously received mental health services or treatment.
- 8.6. The prospects for adequate protection of the public and the likelihood of deterrence and reasonable rehabilitation of the offender if assigned to services and facilities of the Department of Juvenile Justice.
- 9.7. Whether the Department of Juvenile Justice has appropriate programs, facilities, and services immediately available.
- 10.8. Whether adult sanctions would provide more appropriate punishment and deterrence to further violations of law than the imposition of juvenile sanctions.
- 11. Whether the Department of Corrections has appropriate programs, facilities, and services immediately available.
- (c) The adult court shall enter an order under paragraph (4) (b) for its sentencing decision.
 - (3) SENTENCING HEARING.-
- (a) At the sentencing hearing the court shall receive and consider a presentence investigation report by the Department of Corrections regarding the suitability of the offender for disposition as an adult sanctions, or as a juvenile sanctions, or blended sanctions. The presentence investigation report must include a comments section prepared by the Department of Juvenile Justice, with its recommendations as to disposition. This report requirement may be waived by the offender.
- (c) The court may receive and consider any other relevant and material evidence, including other reports, written or oral, in its effort to determine the action to be taken with regard to

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the child, and may rely upon such evidence to the extent of its probative value even if the evidence would not be competent in an adjudicatory hearing. Reports the court may consider include, but are not limited to, prior predisposition reports, psychosocial assessments, individualized educational plans, developmental assessments, school records, abuse or neglect reports, home studies, protective investigations, and psychological or psychiatric evaluations. The child, the child's defense counsel, and the state attorney have the right to examine the reports and to question the parties responsible for the reports at the hearing.

- (4) SENTENCING ALTERNATIVES.-
- (a) Adult Sanctions.-

1. Cases prosecuted on indictment.—If the child is found to have committed the offense punishable by death or life imprisonment, the child shall be sentenced as an adult. If the juvenile is not found to have committed the indictable offense but is found to have committed a lesser included offense or any other offense for which he or she was indicted as a part of the criminal episode, the court may sentence as follows:

- a. As an adult;
- b. Under chapter 958; or
- c. As a juvenile under this section.

2. Other cases.—If a child who has been transferred to adult court for criminal prosecution pursuant to indictment, information, or waiver of juvenile court jurisdiction is found to have committed a violation of state law or a lesser included offense for which he or she was charged as a part of the criminal episode, the court may sentence as follows:

323 1.a. As an adult;

- 2.b. As a youthful offender under chapter 958; or
- 325 3.e. As a juvenile under this section; or
 - 4. To a blended sanction as provided in paragraph (e).
 - 3. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, if the state attorney is required to file a motion to transfer and certify the juvenile for prosecution as an adult under s. 985.556(3) and that motion is granted, or if the state attorney is required to file an information under s. 985.557(2)(a) or (b), the court must impose adult sanctions.
 - (b) 4. Findings.—The court must Any sentence imposing adult sanctions is presumed appropriate, and the court is not required to set forth specific findings or enumerate the criteria in paragraph (1)(b) this subsection as the any basis for its decision to impose adult or blended sanctions.
 - $\underline{\text{(c)}}$ 5. Restitution.—If When a child has been transferred for criminal prosecution as an adult and has been found to have committed a violation of state law, the disposition of the case may include the enforcement of $\underline{\text{any}}$ restitution ordered in any juvenile proceeding.
 - <u>(d) (b)</u> Juvenile sanctions.—<u>If juvenile sanctions</u> For juveniles transferred to adult court but who do not qualify for such transfer under s. 985.556(3) or s. 985.557(2)(a) or (b), the court may impose juvenile sanctions under this paragraph. If juvenile sentences are imposed, the court shall, under this paragraph, adjudge the child to have committed a delinquent act. An adjudication of delinquency may shall not be deemed a conviction and may not, nor shall it operate to impose any of the civil disabilities ordinarily resulting from a conviction.

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The court shall impose an adult sanction or a juvenile sanction and may not sentence the child to a combination of adult and juvenile punishments. An adult sanction or A juvenile sanction may include enforcement of an order of restitution or probation previously ordered in any juvenile proceeding. However, if the court imposes a juvenile sanction and the department determines that the sanction is unsuitable for the child, the department shall return custody of the child to the sentencing court for further proceedings, including the imposition of adult sanctions. Upon adjudicating a child delinquent under this paragraph subsection (1), the court may:

- 1. Place the child in a probation program under the supervision of the department for an indeterminate period of time until the child reaches the age of 19 years or sooner if discharged by order of the court.
- 2. Commit the child to the department for treatment in an appropriate program for children for an indeterminate period of time until the child is 21 or sooner if discharged by the department. The department shall notify the court of its intent to discharge no later than 14 days <u>before</u> prior to discharge. Failure of the court to timely respond to the department's notice shall be considered approval for discharge.
- 3. Order disposition under ss. 985.435, 985.437, 985.439, 985.441, 985.45, and 985.455 as an alternative to youthful offender or adult sentencing if the court determines not to impose youthful offender or adult sanctions.
- (e) Blended sanctions.—If blended sanctions are imposed, the court must withhold adjudication of guilt as an adult and adjudge the child to have committed a delinquent act. An

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adjudication of delinquency under this paragraph may not be deemed a conviction and may not operate to impose any of the civil disabilities ordinarily resulting from a conviction.

- 1. The court shall place the child on adult probation, youthful offender probation under chapter 958, or community control through the Department of Corrections with a special condition to successfully complete a residential commitment program with an appropriate restrictiveness level. The sentence may also include any other adult sanction authorized by law. A blended sanction may include enforcement of an order of restitution or probation previously ordered in any juvenile proceeding.
- 2. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the court determining the appropriate restrictiveness level for a child shall consider the recommendations of the department, the state attorney, and the child's attorney but is not bound by any such recommendation. The court may order the child's incarceration in the juvenile detention center or county jail pending placement in the residential commitment program.
- 3. The department shall notify the court and the Department of Corrections of its intent to discharge the child from the residential commitment program no later than 14 days before discharge. Failure of the court to timely respond to the department's notice shall be considered approval for discharge.
- (f) (e) Resentencing Adult sanctions upon failure of juvenile sanctions.—If a child proves not to be suitable to a commitment program, juvenile probation program, or treatment program under paragraph (d) (b), the department shall provide the sentencing court with a written report outlining the basis

for its objections to the juvenile sanction and shall simultaneously provide a copy of the report to the state attorney and the defense counsel. The department shall schedule a hearing within 30 days. Upon hearing, the court may revoke the previous adjudication of delinquency, impose an adjudication of guilt, and impose any sentence that which it may lawfully impose, giving credit for all time spent by the child in the department. The court may also classify the child as a youthful offender under s. 958.04, if appropriate. For purposes of this paragraph, a child may be found not suitable to a commitment program, community control program, or treatment program under paragraph (d) (b) if the child commits a new violation of law while under juvenile sanctions, if the child commits any other violation of the conditions of juvenile sanctions, if the child is found to be noncompliant with the commitment program, or if the child's actions are otherwise determined by the court to demonstrate a failure of juvenile sanctions.

(g) (d) Further proceedings heard in adult court.—If When a child is sentenced to juvenile sanctions or blended sanctions, further proceedings involving those sanctions shall continue to be heard in the adult court.

(h) (e) School attendance.—If the child is attending or is eligible to attend public school and the court finds that the victim or a sibling of the victim in the case is attending or may attend the same school as the child, the court placement order shall include a finding pursuant to the proceeding described in s. 985.455(2), regardless of whether adjudication is withheld.

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It is the intent of the Legislature that the criteria and guidelines in this subsection are mandatory and that a determination of disposition under this subsection is subject to the right of the child to appellate review under s. 985.534.

Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 985.556, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

985.556 Waiver of juvenile court jurisdiction; hearing.-

(1) VOLUNTARY WAIVER.—The court shall transfer and certify a child's criminal case for trial as an adult if the child is alleged to have committed a violation of law and, before prior to the commencement of an adjudicatory hearing, the child, joined by a parent or, in the absence of a parent, by the guardian or guardian ad litem, demands in writing to be tried as an adult. Once a child has been transferred for criminal prosecution pursuant to a voluntary waiver hearing and has been found to have committed the presenting offense or a lesser included offense, the child shall be handled thereafter in every respect as an adult for any subsequent violation of state law, unless the court imposes juvenile sanctions under \underline{s} . $\underline{985.565(4)(b)}$.

Section 5. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 985.557, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 985.15, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

985.15 Filing decisions.-

(1) The state attorney may in all cases take action independent of the action or lack of action of the juvenile probation officer and shall determine the action that is in the best interest of the public and the child. If the child meets

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the criteria requiring prosecution as an adult under s. 985.556, the state attorney shall request the court to transfer and certify the child for prosecution as an adult or shall provide written reasons to the court for not making such a request. In all other cases, the state attorney may:

- (a) File a petition for dependency;
- (b) File a petition under chapter 984;
- (c) File a petition for delinquency;
- (d) File a petition for delinquency with a motion to transfer and certify the child for prosecution as an adult;
 - (e) File an information under s. 985.557;
 - (f) Refer the case to a grand jury;
- (g) Refer the child to a diversionary, pretrial intervention, arbitration, or mediation program, or to some other treatment or care program if such program commitment is voluntarily accepted by the child or the child's parents or legal guardian; or
 - (h) Decline to file.

Section 6. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 985.557, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (5) of section 985.265, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

985.265 Detention transfer and release; education; adult jails.—

- (5) The court shall order the delivery of a child to a jail or other facility intended or used for the detention of adults:
- (a) When the child has been transferred or indicted for criminal prosecution as an adult under part X, except that the court may not order or allow a child alleged to have committed a

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misdemeanor who is being transferred for criminal prosecution pursuant to either s. 985.556 or s. 985.557 to be detained or held in a jail or other facility intended or used for the detention of adults; however, such child may be held temporarily in a detention facility; or

(b) When a child taken into custody in this state is wanted by another jurisdiction for prosecution as an adult.

The child shall be housed separately from adult inmates to prohibit a child from having regular contact with incarcerated adults, including trusties. "Regular contact" means sight and sound contact. Separation of children from adults shall permit no more than haphazard or accidental contact. The receiving jail or other facility shall contain a separate section for children and shall have an adequate staff to supervise and monitor the child's activities at all times. Supervision and monitoring of children includes physical observation and documented checks by jail or receiving facility supervisory personnel at intervals not to exceed 10 minutes. This subsection does not prohibit placing two or more children in the same cell. Under no circumstances shall a child be placed in the same cell with an adult.

Section 7. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 985.565, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (3) of section 985.514, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

985.514 Responsibility for cost of care; fees.-

(3) When the court under s. 985.565 orders any child prosecuted as an adult to be supervised by or committed to the

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department for treatment in any of the department's programs for children, the court shall order the child's parents to pay fees as provided in s. 985.039.

Section 8. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 985.565, Florida Statutes, in references thereto, subsection (3) and paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 985.56, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:

985.56 Indictment of a juvenile.-

- (3) If the child is found to have committed the offense punishable by death or by life imprisonment, the child shall be sentenced as an adult. If the juvenile is not found to have committed the indictable offense but is found to have committed a lesser included offense or any other offense for which he or she was indicted as a part of the criminal episode, the court may sentence under s. 985.565.
- (4) (a) Once a child has been indicted pursuant to this section and has been found to have committed any offense for which he or she was indicted as a part of the criminal episode, the child shall be handled thereafter in every respect as if an adult for any subsequent violation of state law, unless the court imposes juvenile sanctions under s. 985.565.

Section 9. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments made by this act to sections 985.557 and 985.565, Florida Statutes, in references thereto, subsection (3) and paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 985.556, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:

985.556 Waiver of juvenile court jurisdiction; hearing.-

(3) INVOLUNTARY MANDATORY WAIVER.-

(a) If the child was 14 years of age or older, and if the child has been previously adjudicated delinquent for an act classified as a felony, which adjudication was for the commission of, attempt to commit, or conspiracy to commit murder, sexual battery, armed or strong-armed robbery, carjacking, home-invasion robbery, aggravated battery, aggravated assault, or burglary with an assault or battery, and the child is currently charged with a second or subsequent violent crime against a person; or

(b) If the child was 14 years of age or older at the time of commission of a fourth or subsequent alleged felony offense and the child was previously adjudicated delinquent or had adjudication withheld for or was found to have committed, or to have attempted or conspired to commit, three offenses that are felony offenses if committed by an adult, and one or more of such felony offenses involved the use or possession of a firearm or violence against a person;

the state attorney shall request the court to transfer and certify the child for prosecution as an adult or shall provide written reasons to the court for not making such request, or proceed under s. 985.557(1). Upon the state attorney's request, the court shall either enter an order transferring the case and certifying the case for trial as if the child were an adult or provide written reasons for not issuing such an order.

(5) EFFECT OF ORDER WAIVING JURISDICTION. -

(a) Once a child has been transferred for criminal prosecution pursuant to an involuntary waiver hearing and has been found to have committed the presenting offense or a lesser

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584	included offense, the child shall thereafter be handled in	every
585	respect as an adult for any subsequent violation of state law,	
586	unless the court imposes juvenile sanctions under s. 985.565.	
587	Section 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.	