

By the Committee on Criminal Justice; and Senator Brandes

591-02128A-18

20181004c1

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to persons authorized to visit  
3       juvenile facilities; creating s. 985.6885, F.S.;  
4       authorizing specified persons to visit, during certain  
5       hours, all facilities housing juveniles which are  
6       operated or overseen by the Department of Juvenile  
7       Justice or a county; authorizing such persons to visit  
8       the juvenile facilities outside of certain hours  
9       pursuant to department rules; prohibiting the  
10      department from unreasonably withholding permission  
11      for visits to such facilities by certain persons;  
12      requiring the department to adopt rules; providing an  
13      effective date.

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

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17       Section 1. Section 985.6885, Florida Statutes, is created  
18      to read:

19       985.6885 Persons authorized to visit juvenile facilities.-

20       (1) The following persons may visit at their pleasure  
21      between the hours of 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. all facilities housing  
22      juveniles which are operated or overseen by the department or a  
23      county:

24       (a) The Governor.

25       (b) A Cabinet member.

26       (c) A member of the Legislature.

27       (d) A judge of a state court.

28       (e) A state attorney.

29       (f) A public defender.

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30 (g) A person authorized by the secretary of the department.

31 (2) A person specified in subsection (1) may visit a  
32 facility subject to this section before 6 a.m. or after 11 p.m.  
33 pursuant to rules adopted by the department.

34 (3) The department may not unreasonably withhold permission  
35 to visit a facility subject to this section from a person who  
36 gives sufficient evidence that he or she is a bona fide reporter  
37 or writer.

38 (4) The department shall adopt rules to implement this  
39 section.

40 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.