

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to access to patients in mental health
3 facilities; amending s. 27.59, F.S.; authorizing
4 certain lawyers to counsel patients held in certain
5 mental health facilities; providing an effective date.
6

7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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9 Section 1. Section 27.59, Florida Statutes, is amended to
10 read:

11 27.59 Access to prisoners and patients in mental health
12 facilities.—The public defenders, assistant public defenders,
13 criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, and assistant
14 regional counsel shall be empowered to inquire of all persons
15 who are incarcerated in lieu of bond or are held in a facility
16 licensed under chapter 394 and to tender them advice and counsel
17 at any time, but ~~the provisions of this section does shall~~ not
18 apply ~~with respect~~ to persons who have engaged private counsel.

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