

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to visiting county and municipal  
 3           detention facilities; creating s. 951.225, F.S.;  
 4           authorizing specified persons to visit at their  
 5           pleasure county and municipal detention facilities;  
 6           prohibiting persons not otherwise authorized by law  
 7           from entering such facilities; providing exceptions;  
 8           prohibiting the unreasonable withholding of permission  
 9           to enter such facilities from professional journalists  
 10          or writers; providing an effective date.

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

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 14          Section 1.   Section 951.225, Florida Statutes, is created  
 15          to read:

16          951.225   Persons authorized to visit county and municipal  
 17          detention facilities.-

18          (1)   The following persons who are elected or appointed to  
 19          serve the county or municipality in which the county or  
 20          municipal detention facility is located may visit such facility  
 21          at their pleasure:

22          (a)   Members of the governing body of the county or  
 23          municipality.

24          (b)   Members of the Legislature.

25          (c)   State court judges.

26        (d) State attorneys.

27        (e) Public defenders.

28        (f) Regional counsels.

29        (2) A person not otherwise authorized by law may not enter  
30 a county or municipal detention facility except under such rules  
31 or regulations as the county and municipal detention facilities  
32 may prescribe. Permission may not be unreasonably withheld from  
33 a person who gives sufficient evidence to the facility that he  
34 or she is a professional journalist, as defined in s. 90.5015,  
35 or a writer.

36        Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.