

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the operation and administration of
 3 the Baker Act; amending s. 394.457, F.S.; requiring
 4 the Department of Children and Families to provide
 5 specified information to certain individuals and
 6 organizations; requiring the department to maintain an
 7 information handbook and repository of answers to
 8 frequently asked questions; providing requirements for
 9 such handbook and repository; providing an effective
 10 date.

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

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 14 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
 15 394.457, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16 394.457 Operation and administration.—

17 (2) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT.—The department is
 18 responsible for:

19 (b)1. Informing individuals and organizations involved in
 20 implementing this part, including, but not limited to, law
 21 enforcement officers, qualified professionals, and service
 22 providers, ~~The publication and distribution of an information~~
 23 ~~handbook to facilitate understanding of the provisions of this~~
 24 ~~part;~~ the policies and procedures related to its effective
 25 involved in the implementation; their roles and of this part,

26 ~~and the responsibilities; and any other information necessary~~
27 ~~for its effective implementation. The department shall maintain:~~
28 ~~of the various providers of services under this part.~~

29 a. An information handbook, which must be published and
30 updated on the department's website annually by October 1.

31 b. A repository of answers to frequently asked questions,
32 which must be published on the department's website and
33 continually revised and expanded as necessary.

34 2. Supporting and facilitating ~~It shall stimulate~~ research
35 by public and private agencies, institutions of higher learning,
36 and hospitals in the interest of the elimination and
37 amelioration of mental illness.

38 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.