

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice

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BILL: CS/SB 820

INTRODUCER: Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice and Senator Bradley

SUBJECT: Problem-solving Court Reports

DATE: February 6, 2026

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Davis</u>	<u>Cibula</u>	<u>JU</u>	<b>Favorable</b>
2.	<u>Kolich</u>	<u>Harkness</u>	<u>ACJ</u>	<b>Fav/CS</b>
3.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>RC</u>	<u>                    </u>

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**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

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**I. Summary:**

CS/SB 820 specifies additional data that must be presented in the annual problem-solving court reports prepared by the Office of the State Courts Administrator. The bill creates data reporting requirements for early childhood court and veterans treatment court programs and amends data reporting requirements for mental health courts and drug courts.

The bill sets forth reporting timelines for problem-solving courts funded by the state courts system's problem-solving court appropriation and all other problem-solving courts.

The bill has a significant negative fiscal impact to the State Courts System. See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

## II. Present Situation:

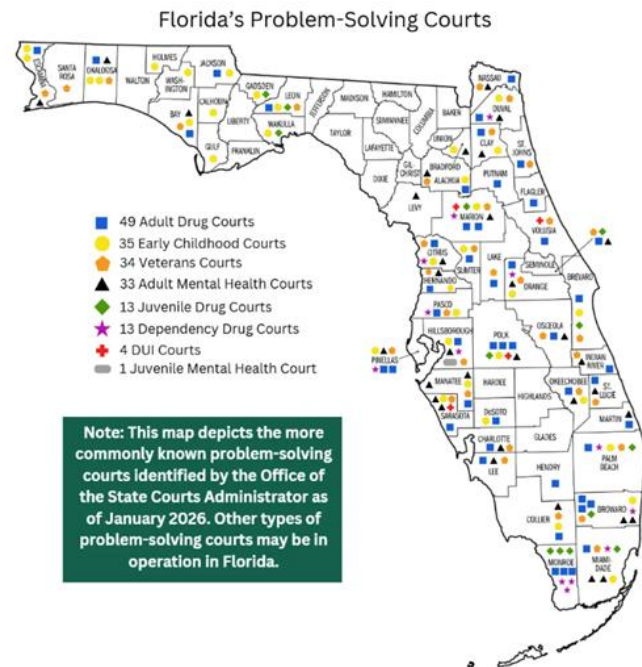
### Problem-Solving Courts

Florida developed the national model for problem-solving courts in 1989 when it created the country's first drug court in Miami-Dade County. Since then, other types of problem-solving courts have been developed using that template for the drug court model.<sup>1</sup>

Problem-solving courts are unique among the trial and appellate courts in the state. Rather than operate in the traditional adversarial model, problem-solving courts provide non-adversarial proceedings with a dedicated judge who monitors each participant's progress and compliance. The courts also provide a broad-based problem-solving team made up of case managers, prosecuting and defense attorneys, treatment professionals, even law enforcement and correctional officers, as well as a guardian ad litem, if necessary.<sup>2</sup> The programs require regular court appearances by the participants and the length of the program is often, though not always, determined by the progress the participant makes as measured against specific guidelines.<sup>3</sup>

According to the Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA), there are currently 182 problem-solving courts operating in the state as shown on the map to the right.<sup>4</sup> These courts are specifically designed to address the root causes of why people are involved in the criminal justice system and to help those people receive the treatment they need to leave the system. While participation in these court programs is voluntary, there is a list of factors, such as the commission of violent crimes, which can disqualify someone from participating.

### Problem-Solving Court Month and Opioid and Stimulant Use Disorder Awareness Month



<sup>1</sup> Florida Courts, Office of the State Courts Administrator, *About Problem-Solving Courts*, <https://www.flcourts.gov/Services/Problem-Solving-Courts/about-problem-solving-courts> (last visited Jan. 29, 2026).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Florida's 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, *Problem Solving Court*, <https://www.jud10.flcourts.org/problem-solving-court#:~:text=Problem%20Solving%20Court%20programs%20are,random%20testing%20for%20substance%20use> (Jan. 29, 2026).

<sup>4</sup> Florida Courts, Office of the State Courts Administrator, *About Problem-Solving Courts*, <https://www.flcourts.gov/Services/Problem-Solving-Courts/about-problem-solving-courts> (last visited Jan. 29, 2026).

According to OSCA, the most common problem-solving courts include adult, juvenile, and dependency drug courts, early childhood courts, veterans' courts, adult and juvenile mental health courts, and DUI courts.<sup>5</sup>

## **Reporting Requirements**

### ***Problem-solving Court Reports***

The Office of the State Courts Administrator is required to provide an annual report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives which identifies:

- The number of participants in each problem-solving court for each fiscal year the court has operated.
- The types of services provided.
- Each source of funding for each court for each fiscal year.
- Information on the performance of each court based upon outcome measures established by the courts.<sup>6</sup>

### ***Mental Health Court Programs and Treatment-based Drug Court Programs Reports***

Sections 394.47892(5)(b) and 397.334(6)(b), F.S., require mental health court programs and treatment-based drug court programs, respectively, to “collect sufficient client-level data and programmatic information” for the programs to be evaluated.

“Client-level data” includes:

- Primary offenses that resulted in the program referral or sentence.
- Treatment compliance.
- Completion status and reasons for failure to complete.
- Offenses committed during treatment and the sanctions imposed.
- Frequency of court appearances.
- Units of service.

“Programmatic information” includes referral and screening procedures, eligibility criteria, type and duration of treatment offered, and residential treatment resources. The programmatic information and aggregate data on the number of admissions and terminations by type of termination must be reported annually to OSCA.

## **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

### **Problem-solving Court Reports – Section 1**

The bill amends s. 43.51, F.S., to require additional and specific data in OSCA’s annual problem-solving court report to the officers of the Legislature. The annual report must be provided no later than January 31 of each year for the previous fiscal year. The report must include, at a minimum, the following uniform aggregate participant data for each problem-solving court:

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<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> Section 43.51(1), F.S.

- The number of participants.
- Participant primary offenses that resulted in the court program referral or sentence, if applicable.
- Treatment compliance.
- Program completion status and reasons for any failure to complete.
- Offenses committed during program participation, if applicable.
- The frequency of court appearances.
- Units of service.

The report must also include these specific impact and outcome measures by each problem-solving court:

- Participant changes in the status of employment, housing, and child custody during program participation.
- Other uniform information that demonstrates the effectiveness of the program.

The bill amends the definition of problem-solving court” to include a dependency drug court pursuant to s. 39.507 or s. 39.521; and an early childhood court pursuant to s. 39.01304, F.S.

### **Early Childhood Court and Veterans Treatment Court Programs – Sections 2 and 3**

The bill amends ss. 39.01304 and 394.47891, F.S., relating to early childhood court programs and veterans treatment court programs, respectively, to require the collection of data and information prescribed in s. 43.51, F.S., for the purpose of program evaluation. Additionally, the programs must collect the number of admissions and terminations, referral and screening procedures, eligibility criteria, type and duration of treatment offered, and residential treatment resources. The bill requires each early childhood court program and each veterans treatment court program to report the data and information to OSCA annually.

### **Mental Health Court and Treatment-based Drug Court Programs – Sections 4 and 5**

The bill also amends ss. 394.47892 and 397.334, F.S., relating to mental health court programs and treatment-based drug court programs, respectively, to require the collection of data and information prescribed in s. 43.51, F.S., for the purpose of program evaluation. Additionally, the programs must collect the number of admissions and terminations and are no longer required to collect specified client-level data. The bill requires each mental health court program and each treatment-based drug court program to report the data and information to OSCA annually.

### **Problem-Solving Court Report – Section 6**

The annual problem-solving court report prepared by OSCA must provide uniform aggregate data required by s. 43.51, F.S., as follows:

- For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, data from at least 30% of problem-solving courts funded by the state courts system’s problem-solving court appropriation.
- For the 2026-2027 fiscal year, data from every problem-solving court funded by the state courts system’s problem-solving court appropriation.
- For the 2027-2028 fiscal year, and every fiscal year thereafter, data from all problem-solving courts.

The changes to data and information requirements for early childhood, veterans treatment, mental health, and treatment-based drug court programs take effect July 1, 2026, if funded through the state courts system's problem-solving court appropriation, and apply to all other programs beginning July 1, 2027.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

#### **V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) estimates a fiscal impact of \$1,093,456, including \$11,957 in nonrecurring costs, to implement the bill. The estimate includes \$886,731 for 13 OPS case manager positions and \$126,273 for one statewide FTE. The OSCA estimates a \$50,000 cost for statewide technology and \$30,452 for trial court technology.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Office of the State Courts Administrator, *2026 Legislative Session – HB 831/SB 820 Estimated Fiscal Impact*, (on file with the Senate Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice).

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 43.51, 39.01304, 394.47891, 394.47892, and 397.334.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**CS by Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice on February 4, 2026:**

The committee substitute:

- Provides that the annual report on problem-solving courts is due no later than January 31 of each year for the previous fiscal year.
- Requires that information in the annual report must be provided by each problem-solving court and removes recidivism reporting requirements.
- Defines problem solving courts to include a dependency drug court pursuant to s. 39.507 or s. 39.521 and an early childhood court pursuant to s. 39.01304, F.S.; removes community court pursuant to s. 948.081, F.S., from the definition.
- Amends ss. 39.01304 and 394.47891, F.S., relating to early childhood court programs and veterans treatment court programs, to require the collection of certain data and information for the purpose of program evaluation.
- Changes the type of data and information that mental health and treatment-based drug court programs must collect and changes the reporting requirements to OSCA from quarterly to annually.
- Provides that the annual problem-solving court report prepared by OSCA must provide uniform aggregate data required by s. 43.51, F.S., by certain timeframes.
- Provides that changes to data and information requirements for early childhood, veterans treatment, mental health, and treatment-based drug court programs take effect July 1, 2026, if funded through the state courts system's problem-solving court appropriation, and apply to all other programs beginning July 1, 2027.

**B. Amendments:**

None.