

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.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Judiciary

BILL: SB 820

INTRODUCER: Senator Bradley

SUBJECT: Problem-solving Court Reports

DATE: January 26, 2026

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Davis</u>	<u>Cibula</u>	<u>JU</u>	<u>Pre-meeting</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>ACJ</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	<u>RC</u>	_____

I. Summary:

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 also amends the data reporting schedule for mental health courts and drug courts by requiring that the reports be submitted to the Office of the State Courts Administrator each quarter rather than annually.

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.¹

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.² The programs require regular

¹ 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. 23, 2026).

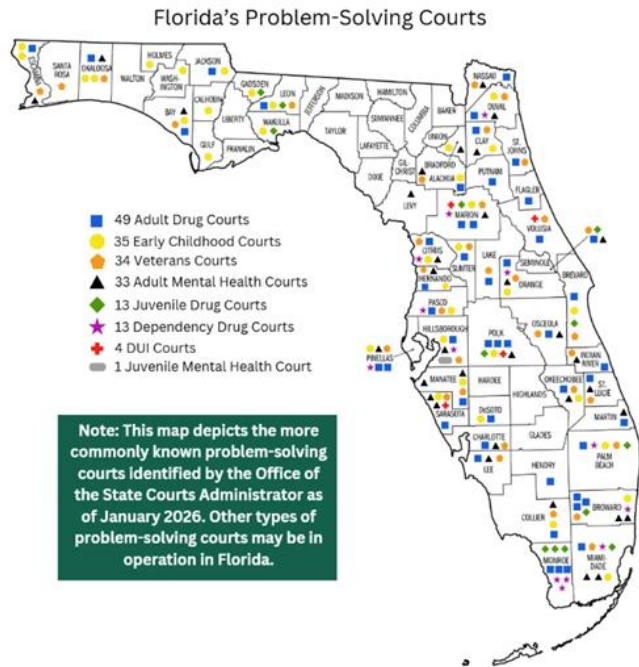
² *Id.*

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.³

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.⁴ 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.

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, DUI courts, and a delinquency pretrial intervention court program.⁵

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



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.⁶

³ Florida’s 10th 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. 23, 2026).

⁴ 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. 23, 2026).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Section 43.51(1), F.S.

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 report must include, at a minimum, the following uniform aggregate participant data:

- The number of participants by court type.
- The primary offenses that resulted in the court program referral or sentence.
- Treatment compliance.
- Completion status and reasons for failure to complete.
- Offenses committed during treatment and the sanctions imposed.
- 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 recidivism rate by category, including new arrests, new adjudications, and new felony adjudications.
- Participant changes in the status of employment, housing, and child custody during program participation.
- Other uniform information that demonstrates the effectiveness of the program.

Mental Health Court and Treatment-based Drug Court Programs – Sections 2 and 3

The bill also amends s. 394.47892, F.S., relating to mental health court programs, and s. 397.334, F.S., relating to treatment-based drug court programs, to specify that the client-level data and programmatic information must be collected for the purpose of program evaluation under s.

43.51, F.S., for the annual problem-solving court report. The statutes are further amended to require that the mental health court programs and drug court programs report the information and data to OSCA each quarter rather than each year.

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:

According to the Office of the State Courts Administrator's, *2026 Judicial Impact Statement*, the bill is "anticipated to have a significant workload impact." The problem-solving court staff in each circuit will need "to collect, compile, and report the additional required data to OSCA" each quarter rather than each year. The bill will also increase the workload of OSCA staff who will need to compile and format the data information for the approximately 180 problem-solving courts. OSCA reports that additional staff will be

required in the circuit courts and at OSCA to meet the additional reporting requirements.⁷

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

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

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

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

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

⁷ Office of the State Courts Administrator, *2026 Judicial Impact Statement, SB 820* (Jan 19, 2026), <https://abar.laspbs.state.fl.us/ABAR/Attachment.aspx?ID=37313>.