

CS/HB 91 — Adult Protective Services

by Elder & Family Services Policy Committee; and Rep. Wood (CS/SB 336 by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee; and Senators Storms and Smith)

The bill amends several provisions in Chapter 415, Florida Statutes, relating to adult protective services. The bill replaces the terms “disabled adults” and “elderly persons” with “vulnerable adult.” The bill also amends the definition of “vulnerable adult” by including the term “sensory.” The bill creates a definition for “activities of daily living” that conforms the phrase to the definition of “activities of daily living,” relating to adult family-care homes.

The bill provides that the central abuse hotline must transfer to the appropriate county sheriff’s office reports of known or suspected abuse of a vulnerable adult involving a person other than a relative, caregiver, or household member.

The bill specifies that the Department of Children and Family Services (DCF) may file a petition to determine incapacity in adult protective proceedings. Upon filing the petition, DCF is prohibited from being appointed guardian or providing legal counsel to the guardian.

The bill provides DCF with access to records of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles for use in conducting adult protective investigations.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2010.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 113-0