

CS/HB 315 — Adoption

by Health Care Services Policy and Rep. Horner and others (CS/SB 530 by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee and Senators Altman, Peaden, Negron, Dockery, and Thrasher)

This bill amends the Florida Adoption Act (Chapter 63, F.S.) to prohibit public and private adoption agencies or entities from making adoption suitability determinations based on the lawful possession, storage, or use of a firearm or ammunition. The bill also prohibits an adoption agency or entity from requiring the adoptive parent or prospective adoptive parent to disclose information relating to the lawful possession, storage, or use of a firearm or ammunition. Further the bill prohibits the adoption agency or entity from restricting the lawful possession, storage, or use of a firearm or ammunition as a condition for an individual to adopt.

The bill also amends provisions relating to the licensure of family foster homes, residential child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies to provide that requirements for the licensure and operation of a child-placing agency shall also include compliance with newly created and current law relating to the prohibition of firearms registration, and to provide that failure to comply with certain statutory requirements is a ground for denial, suspension, or revocation of a license for a family foster home, residential child-caring agency, or child placing agency.

The bill requires that the Department of Children and Family Services' rules include a form to be used by child-placing agencies during an adoption home study. The form must require all prospective adoptive parent applicants acknowledge in writing the receipt of a document containing the statutory language relating to the safe storage of firearms.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 38-2; House 112-0