

## **CS/CS/HB's 1073 and 81 — Persons with Disabilities**

by Full Appropriations Council on Education and Economic Development; PreK-12 Policy Committee; and Reps. Llorente, Hukill, and others (CS/CS/SB 2118 by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee; Education Pre-K – 12 Committee; and Senators Gardiner, Fasano, Dean, Storms, Sobel, Crist, and Wilson)

This bill makes changes to the law related to persons with developmental disabilities. The bill provides that all persons with developmental disabilities have a right to be free from all abuse, neglect, and exploitation, regardless of the setting. The bill requires staff training in facilities licensed by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to include the reporting of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and abandonment.

The bill also provides for:

### ***Child Care Personnel Training***

- Requires the 40-clock-hour child course to include the identification and support of children with developmental disabilities;

### ***Seclusion and Restraint***

- Provides for incident reports involving the use of restraints for students with disabilities, monitoring the incidence of restraint use, and reporting requirements;
- Requires school districts to develop policies and procedures for incident reporting and data collection, and monitoring;
- Prohibits school personnel from using a mechanical restraint or a manual physical restraint on a student that restricts a student's breathing;
- Prohibits school personnel from closing, locking, or physically blocking a student in a room that is unlit and does not meet the rules of the State Fire Marshal for seclusion time-out rooms;

### ***Regional Autism Centers***

- Requires regional autism centers to disseminate information about the resources for services to persons with developmental disabilities and to provide support to state agencies in the development of training for early child care providers and educators;

### ***Instructional Personnel***

- Directs the Commissioner of Education to develop recommendations to incorporate autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities awareness instruction into continuing education or inservice training for instructional personnel.

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

*Vote: Senate 38-0; House 115-0*