



## 2021 Bill Highlights

As of 5/3/2021

### **SB 1094 & HB 519– Human Trafficking Education in Schools; Required Health Education Instruction**

**Sponsors:** Senator Bean (R-Jacksonville), Representative Yarborough (R-Jacksonville)

**Outcome:** SB 1094 has been laid on the table. HB 519 passed the legislature and is awaiting the governor's signature.

**Target Population:** Children in grades 6 through 12, educators, Florida public schools.

**Summary:** Places information about prevention of child sexual abuse, exploitation, and human trafficking in the required health curriculum. Specifies abstinence and dangers of teenage pregnancy education to be in grades 6 through 12, rather than its current location in the developmentally appropriate health curriculum.

## How the Bills Differ:

- HB 519 includes the addition of the term “evidence based” to the description of the health education taught in public schools. SB 1094 does not include this term.
- SB 1094 adds prevention of child sexual abuse, exploitation and human trafficking to the already existing health education requirement. HB 519 does not include this.

**Impact:** Florida ranks 3rd in the nation in calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Minors are especially vulnerable to exploitation. Teaching children to recognize the signs of human trafficking is critical to addressing the issue in Florida. Nationally, one out of every five children are at risk of being sexually exploited. In Florida, this equates to approximately 552,000 children at risk.

Providing children with the tools to identify potential trafficking situations and to avoid becoming victims of exploitation is a crucial step in combating the prevalence of human trafficking and helping victims gain access to the services they need. In order to be the most successful, this training should be required to include the signs and red flags of human trafficking and utilize trauma informed, best practices for educating children.

The Children’s Campaign supports educating children on the dangers of human trafficking, which is crucial to giving them the resources they need to protect themselves and their peers from becoming victims of trafficking. This change is important to place in statute rather than administrative rule to ensure it is a priority for the state.

**Effective Date:** July 1st, 2021

