

FLORIDA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL, INC.

Public Policy Committee Report

January 27, 2022/ Zoom Call

The Public Policy Committee met this morning and we discussed updates on the Council's Legislative Platform which includes the **Pay Fair for Care Campaign** which is underway. The Senate appears to be amenable to raising Personal Supports to 15 dollars an hour. We discussed the secondary legislative issue of **Supported Decision Making** which has been moved to the section of statute 393.0 for developmental disabilities.

We have sponsors for the **Social Services Estimating** bill that the Council initiated a couple of years ago. We hope to see some movement on this bill that would include the iBudget waiver in the social service estimating process.

Decision items that were considered by the Public Policy Committee included the following secondary legislative issues.

1) Consideration of SB 390 by Book and HB 235 by Plascencia

This bill prohibits school personnel from using mechanical restraint on students with disabilities. This does not apply to school resource officers, school safety officers, school guardians, or school security guards as described in s. 1006.12, who may use mechanical restraint in the exercise of their powers and duties to restrict students in grades 6 through 12. **The Public Policy Committee voted to support this bill.**

2) Consideration of HB 015 by Tant and SB 236 by Jones

This bill revises definition of term "exceptional student" to include additional students with developmental delays ages birth through 9 years or through the student's completion of grade 2, whichever occurs first (current law includes up to age 5). **The Public Policy Committee voted to support this bill.**

3) Consideration of HB 155 by Valdes and SB 1068 by Jones

This bill provides students who have been awarded certificate of completion are eligible to enroll in workforce education programs. The bill also requires identification of such programs by Charter Technical Career Centers and the bill requires students who will be awarded certificate of completion to be advised of their educational options. **The Public Policy Committee voted to support this bill.**

4) Consideration of SB 1040/SB 1042 by Brodeur and HB 733/HB 735 by Plascencia

HB 733 has been replaced with PCB 733. Now, instead of an APD list, if an individual receives the "D" identifier on his or her identification card, such information shall be included through the Driver and Vehicle Information Database and available through the Florida Crime Information Center system. **The Public Policy Committee voted to oppose this bill.**

Virtual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day is scheduled for February 9, 2022!