

## NASW-FL Legislative Report:

The 2018 Legislative Session ended March 11<sup>th</sup>. The most significant bill which became law was [SB 7026](#) (The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act). This bill provides several reforms including, but not limited to, 103 million dollars in new funding for mental health services. Another bill of note was [HB 21](#) which added money and resources for treatment and prevention for the state's opioid crisis. The bill targeted 14.6 million dollars to DCF to increase access to treatment. Through advocacy efforts the Federal Immigration Enforcement bill ([SB 308](#)) was not heard and bills creating new requirements for food stamp participation did not pass.

Where do we go from here? NASW-FL has a twofold plan for the 2018-2019 legislative period;

- 1) To identify candidates seeking election which best reflect our views on legislative issues. We will do this on a local, state and national level through PACE and identifying opportunities for members to volunteer in candidates' campaigns. We will also work with other social work and human service organizations in these efforts.
- 2) To continue to develop relationships with those holding public office, addressing our social work principles and values on legislative issues. We will also strengthen our working relationships with other coalitions and organizations working toward common legislative goals.

This year LEAD event was our largest ever with 1000 participants. The following bills were identified as LEAD's priority legislation:

- 1) SB 308 - Federal Immigration Enforcement was postponed and not heard. The bill did not pass.
- 2) SB 326 and HB 179 – Services for Veterans and their Families did not pass. SB 326 passed two committees and HB 179 passed one committee.
- 3) SB 644 and HB 489 – Juvenile Civil Citation did not pass. The Senate Bill passed one committee, the House bill was not heard. However SB 1329 a similar bill did pass. A description is below.
- 4) SB 280 and HB 793 – Telehealth did not pass. The Senate bill was approved in 4 committees and passed in the Senate. The House bill was not heard.
- 5) SB 347 and HB 66 – Florida Competitive Workforce Act did not pass. The bill was not heard in any committee.

[SB 1392](#) Prearrest Diversion Programs: Encouraging counties, municipalities, and public or private educational institutions to implement prearrest diversion programs; requiring that in each judicial circuit the public defender, the state attorney, the clerks of the court, and representatives of participating law enforcement agencies create a prearrest diversion program and develop its policies and procedures; requiring, rather than authorizing, the Department of Law Enforcement to adopt rules for the expunction of certain nonjudicial records of the arrest of a minor upon his or her successful completion of a certain diversion program, etc. Effective Date: 10/1/2018

Thank You to NASW-FL's Legislative Committee and the LEAD Planning Committee for your support and participation in making our legislative session so successful. A very special thanks to Dawn Brown, the Chapter's legislative chair and Seth Berkowitz the LEAD chair.

NASW-FL followed over 100 bills this year. Bills which passed that NASW-FL followed:

[HB 29](#): Military and Veterans Affairs: Citing this act as the "Don Hahnfeldt Veteran and Military Family Opportunity Act"; revising licensure eligibility requirements; requiring the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to waive certain fees; authorizing the licensing authority to recognize certain military-issued credentials for purposes of licensure; designating March 25 of each year as "Medal of Honor Day"; requiring the State Board of Education to issue a temporary certificate in educational leadership to certain persons, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2018

[HB 21](#): Controlled Substances: Requires practitioners to complete specified board-approved continuing education course to prescribe controlled substances; defines "acute pain"; provides for adoption of standards of practice for treatment of acute pain; limits prescribing of opioids for acute pain in certain circumstances; requires pain management clinic owners to register approved exemptions with DOH; provides requirements for pharmacists & practitioners for dispensing of controlled substances to persons not known to them; conforms state controlled substances schedule to federal controlled substances schedule; revises requirements for prescription drug monitoring program. Effective Date: July 1, 2018

[HB 41](#): Pregnancy Support and Wellness Services: Requires DOH to contract with not for-profit statewide alliance of organizations to provide pregnancy support & wellness services through subcontractors; provides duties of department; provides contract requirements; requires services to be provided in noncoercive manner & forbids inclusion of religious content. Effective Date: July 1, 2018

[SB 140](#): Marriage Licenses: Providing that a marriage license may not be issued to a person under the age of 18 years; requiring parties to a marriage to file a written and signed affidavit with the county court judge or clerk of the circuit court before the judge or clerk may issue a marriage license; requiring each party to a marriage to provide his or her social security number or an alien registration number for purposes of child support enforcement; clarifying that a county court judge or clerk of a circuit court commits a misdemeanor if he or she issues a blank marriage license or if he or she issues a marriage license without obtaining the ages and identification numbers of the parties, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018

[HB 281](#): Incarcerated Parents: Requires DCF to include parents who are incarcerated in development of case plans for their children; specifies respective responsibilities of department, correctional facilities, & incarcerated parents; provides conditions for amending case plan. Effective Date: July 1, 2018

[SB 376](#): Workers' Compensation Benefits for First Responders: Providing that, under certain circumstances, posttraumatic stress disorder suffered by a first responder is an occupational disease compensable by workers' compensation benefits; specifying that benefits do not require a physical injury and are not subject to certain apportionment or limitations, etc. Effective Date: 10/1/2018

[HB 937](#): Perinatal Mental Health: Requires DOH to offer perinatal mental health care information through Family Health Line toll-free hotline accessible to general public; revises components included in postpartum evaluation & follow up care provided by birth centers to include mental health screening & information on postpartum depression; provides appropriation. Effective Date: July 1, 2018

[HB 1059](#): Exploitation of a Vulnerable Adult: Creates cause of action for injunction for protection of vulnerable adult from exploitation; provides requirements for clerk of circuit court; provides penalty for willful violation. Effective Date: July 1, 2018

[HB 1079](#): Child Welfare - Requires DCF to establish rules for granting exemptions from criminal history & certain other records checks required for persons being considered for placement of child; requires court to consider case plan compliance in permanency hearings; revises offenses that disqualify certain child care personnel from specified employment. Effective Date: July 1, 2018

[SB 1392](#): Prearrest Diversion Programs: Encouraging counties, municipalities, and public or private educational institutions to implement prearrest diversion programs; requiring that in each judicial circuit the public defender, the state attorney, the clerks of the court, and representatives of participating law enforcement agencies create a prearrest diversion program and develop its policies and procedures; requiring, rather than authorizing, the Department of Law Enforcement to adopt rules for the expunction of certain nonjudicial records of the arrest of a minor upon his or her successful completion of a certain diversion program, etc. Effective Date: 10/1/2018

[HB 1435](#): Child Welfare: Requires DCF, in collaboration with sheriffs' offices that conduct child protective investigations & community-based care lead agencies, to develop statewide family-finding program; authorizes community-based care lead agencies to establish kinship navigator programs; requires court to request that parents' consent to providing access to additional records. Effective Date: July 1, 2018

[SB 7026](#): Public Safety: Citing this act as the "Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act"; authorizing the awarding of grants through the Crime Stoppers Trust Fund for student crime watch programs; establishing the Office of Safe Schools within the Department of Education; providing that each sheriff may establish a Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program and appoint certain volunteer school employees as school guardians; prohibiting a person who has been adjudicated mentally defective or been committed to a mental institution from owning or possessing a firearm until certain relief is obtained; prohibiting a person younger than a certain age from purchasing a firearm; prohibiting specified acts relating to the sale and possession of bump-fire stocks; creating the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission within the Department of Law Enforcement, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$400,000,000.00 Effective Date: Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law