

**Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc**  
**Public Policy Committee Report**  
**January 22, 2021**  
**via Zoom**

The Public Policy Committee met yesterday, and we discussed secondary legislative issues for Council support and got an update our primary legislative priorities. The main priorities for the Council are Preserve the iBudget and Supported Decision Making.

The Preserve the iBudget website and materials are almost completed and initial budget testimony is being heard in interim legislative committees. The state has a \$2 billion shortfall, so we want to protect the funding and services of the iBudget waiver.

We have sponsors for the Supported Decision Making Bill. Senator Gruters in the Senate and Representative Tant in the House. There are no bill numbers yet.

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

**1) Students with Disabilities in Public Schools - HB 149 DuBose and SB 192 Book**

This Bill requires school districts to prohibit the use of seclusion on students with disabilities in public schools, requires school districts to adopt positive behavior interventions and support procedures, creates the Video Cameras in Public School Classrooms Pilot Program, and requires continuing education and in-service training for instructional personnel teaching students with emotional or behavioral disabilities.

The bill does not prohibit straight jackets, zip ties or handcuffs except where they prevent breathing or cut off blood circulation. Effective Date: 7/1/2021. **The Committee voted to support the bill only if it prohibits the use of mechanical restraints that are not recommended by a doctor.**

**2) Resource Information for Individuals with Disabilities - HB 117 Tant and, as of yesterday, SB 714**

**Taddeo** This bill requires the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to provide specified written information to persons applying for iBudget waiver services. The bill requires agency to provide certain disclosure statement along with such information. Effective Date: July 1, 2021. **The committee voted to stay neutral for now. Some members supported the idea of some of the information being required and others thought it may not be the agencies role to disseminate all the information that is required in the bill.**

**3) Purple Alert bill-SB 184 Berman and HB 79 Casello-** This bill requires the Department of Law Enforcement, in cooperation with the Department of Transportation, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, the Department of the Lottery, and local law enforcement agencies, to establish and implement the Purple Alert. The bill requires the local law enforcement agency having

jurisdiction to notify media and alert subscribers if a Purple Alert is determined to be necessary and appropriate. The bill provides that the Department of Law Enforcement, as the Purple Alert coordinator, and certain agencies, employees, individuals, and entities are immune from civil liability for damages when performing certain actions in good faith. APPROPRIATION: \$322,836 Effective Date: Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act and except for this section, which shall take effect July 1, 2021, this act shall take effect July 1, 2022. **The committee voted to support this bill.**

**Virtual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day is scheduled for March 30, 2021!**