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Bill by Representative Marie Woodson Adopted Within SB 1532

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – [HB 1075](#) by **Representative Marie Woodson (D-Hollywood)** was amended into [SB 1532](#), which passed on Wednesday, April 28, 2021. **Senator Lauren Book (D-Plantation)** sponsors **SB 1532** while **Representative Robert Andrade (R-Pensacola)** sponsors [HB 1089](#), the House companion to **SB 1532**. The bill as amended will ensure divorcing parents of children with special needs and/or emotional concerns are educated about the specific needs of their children during this time, as well as about resources and community services available for their children and how to access them.

Currently, Florida law mandates that divorcing parents attend a Parent Education and Family Stabilization Course. The course is designed to educate, train, and assist divorcing parents about the impact of divorce on parents and children. However, the statute does not require the divorcing parents of children with special needs and/or emotional concerns to take a course specific to the needs of their children.

The language of [HB 1075](#), which was amended into [SB 1532](#), changes the statute by requiring parents of children with special needs or emotional concerns take a tailored Parent Education and Family Stabilization Course specific to their unique needs and challenges.

Representative Marie Woodson stated, “I could not be more thankful to **Senator Book** and **Representative Andrade** for their willingness to include the language of my bill into theirs and for the hard work they did to pass this legislation. This will have a huge impact on Florida families by providing parents of children with special needs and/or emotional concerns the support and resources they require and deserve.”

“When parents get a divorce, it is a hard thing for any child to go through – let alone a child with special needs,” says **Senator Lauren Book**. “This bill will help make sure parents have the information and resources they need to support their special needs child through the changes their family is going through, so that everyone can come out stronger on the other side.”

“I couldn’t be prouder to work on this bi-partisan piece of legislation with two tireless advocates for our children like **Senator Book** and **Representative Woodson**,” stated

Representative Andrade.

“I am so happy that the Florida Legislature has voted to support **SB 1532** with the language of **HB 1075** within it. It is one more step toward empowering parents and children by offering resources and education for their specific needs,” said **Raquel Catalano**, the mother of **Ava**, a child with special needs child who was the inspiration for the language of **HB 1075**.

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