

## **SB 282 – Criminal Prosecution of Juveniles (Identical HB 239)**

Amends s. 985.557 relating to the direct filing of juveniles. The bill adds that the state attorney may file “an information” against a child otherwise eligible under this section if the child has a prior felony or misdemeanor adjudication or adjudication withheld. The bill also specifies that the state attorney is required to consider specified criteria in determining whether to recommend to the court that a child be transferred for criminal prosecution as an adult, and to file a written explanation if he or she decides to file “an information” against a child. Furthermore, it allows for the use of a reverse waiver, where any child over whom the adult court has obtained original jurisdiction may request, in writing, a hearing to determine whether the child must remain in adult court. The adult court shall retain jurisdiction unless the child or his or her counsel proves by a preponderance of evidence multiple criteria.

Per DOC, there were approximately 956 inmates admitted to the prison system in FY 14-15 who committed their crimes when they were 14-17 years of age.

**CONFERENCE ADOPTED ESTIMATE: Negative Indeterminate**

**Requested by: House**