

SENATE BILL SUMMARY

Prepared by the Division of Legislative Information for the Senate Bill **AS ORIGINALLY FILED**. For more detail, see Senate Bill Analyses, if available, prepared by the Senate's professional committee staff.

SB 688

Developmentally Disabled/Guardian Advocates by Senator Crist

Provides that a person being considered or selected to be a guardian advocate for a person with a developmental disability need not be represented by an attorney unless required by the court.

Requires the court to give preference to a health care surrogate, if one has already been designated, when selecting a guardian advocate. Provides a list of persons from which the court must select a guardian advocate if the health care surrogate has not been previously selected.

Revises the requirements for the petition seeking the appointment of a guardian advocate to exclude the name of the proposed guardian advocate. Modifies the requirements for the persons to whom a notice of the filing of the petition must be given to include family members. Requires the court's order to name the guardian advocate and the reasons why the advocate was selected.

Modifies the requirements for who may be appointed counsel to a person with developmental disabilities. Includes the office of criminal conflict and regional council.

Revises the powers and duties of the guardian advocate with respect to financial accounting requirements.

(See bill for details)