

**HB 71-E — Records Falsification**

by Reps. Murman, Detert, and others (CS/SB 76-E by Criminal Justice Committee and Senators Villalobos, Peaden, Campbell, and Cowin)

The bill creates a third degree felony offense, ranked in level 4, for any person who knowingly falsifies by altering, destroying, defacing, overwriting, removing, or discarding an official record relating to an individual in the care and custody of a state agency, which act has the potential to detrimentally affect the health, safety, or welfare of that individual.

The bill also creates a second degree felony offense, ranked in level 5, for any person who commits the above-described offense if the violation contributes to great bodily harm to or the death of an individual in the care and custody of a state agency.

Further, the bill provides that, the term “care and custody” includes, but is not limited to, a child abuse protective investigation, protective supervision, foster care and related services, or a protective investigation or protective supervision of a vulnerable adult, as defined in chapters 39, 409, or 415, F.S.

Finally, the bill creates a third degree felony, ranked in level 4, for any person who knowingly falsifies by altering, destroying, defacing, overwriting, removing, or discarding an *official record of the Department of Children and Family Services* or its contract provider with the intent to conceal a fact material to a child abuse protective investigation, protective supervision, foster care and related services, or a protective investigation or protective supervision of a vulnerable adult, as defined in chapters 39, 409, or 415, F.S.

These provisions became law upon approval by the Governor on May 15, 2002.

*Vote: Senate 38-0; House 113-0*

