

January 26, 2021



The Senate Criminal Justice Committee
510 Knott Building
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Re: Open Government Bills before the Senate Criminal Justice
Committee 1/26/2021

The First Amendment Foundation writes in regard to bills scheduled to be heard by the Senate Criminal Justice Committee on Tuesday, January 26, 2021.

FAF is neutral as to Senate Bill 166, which makes confidential and exempts nonjudicial records of the arrest of a minor who has successfully completed a diversion program, and which record has been sealed or expunged upon application of the minor. The bill is no broader than necessary to accomplish its stated purpose.

FAF supports Senate Bill 206, which provides in part that permission to enter a county or municipal detention facility may not be unreasonably withheld from a person who gives sufficient evidence that he or she is a member of the press. By ensuring that journalists are not unreasonably denied access to detention facilities, this bill may increase accountability of detention facilities.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela C. Marsh".

Pamela C. Marsh, President

Cc: The Honorable Wilton Simpson, President, Senate President
The Honorable Keith Perry, Florida Senator
The Honorable Jason W. B. Pizzo, Florida Senator
Jim Baltzelle, Associated Press, Chair, First Amendment
Foundation
Samuel Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association
Lisa Nellesen Savage, Chair, Florida Society of News
Editors

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