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1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to child psychological abuse; amending 3 s. 39.01, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "harm"; amending s. 39.201, F.S.; revising a provision 4 5 relating to mandatory reporting requirements for child 6 abuse, abandonment, or neglect to include child 7 psychological abuse; requiring the Board of Psychology 8 within the Department of Health to revise the 9 continuing education requirements for renewal of a 10 license to practice psychology to include child 11 psychological abuse; providing an effective date. 12 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 14 Section 1. Paragraph (m) is added to subsection (30) of 15 16 section 39.01, Florida Statutes, to read: 39.01 Definitions.-When used in this chapter, unless the 17 18 context otherwise requires: 19 "Harm" to a child's health or welfare can occur when (30)20 any person: 21 (m) Inflicts mental injury, as defined in subsection (43), 22 on a child through the use of manipulation or psychological 23 abuse, including, but not limited to, parental alienation, which creates a significant developmental pathology, personality 24

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disorder pathology, or delusional-psychiatric pathology as

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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diagnosed by a mental health professional licensed under chapter 490 or chapter 491.

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 39.201, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.201 Mandatory reports of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect; mandatory reports of death; central abuse hotline.—

(1) (a) Any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare, as defined in this chapter, or that a child is in need of supervision and care and has no parent, legal custodian, or responsible adult relative immediately known and available to provide supervision and care shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the department in the manner prescribed in subsection (2). For purposes of the mandatory reporting requirements in this section, child abuse includes any harm or mental injury as those terms are defined in s. 39.01.

Section 3. The Board of Psychology within the Department of Health shall revise the requirements for renewal of a license to practice psychology, pursuant to s. 490.007, Florida

Statutes, to require continuing education regarding child psychological abuse, including, but not limited to, abuse through the use of manipulation or parental alienation.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.