

From: [Arellano, Joey](#)
To: [Press](#)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Freshman State Representative Marie Woodson's Bills Signed into Law
Date: Friday, July 2, 2021 12:02:26 PM

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Freshman State Representative Marie Woodson's Bills Signed into Law

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – This week, **Governor Ron DeSantis** signed **HB 597** into law, a bill freshman **State Representative Marie Woodson (D-Hollywood)** introduced to simplify the renewal process for the additional homestead exemption available to qualifying seniors by requiring that they submit the statement of household income only the first time they are claiming the exemption.

“Thank you to **Representative Woodson** for her hard work making a difference for thousands of Florida seniors as **HB 597** will simplify and streamline the process for those who qualify to renew their Senior Exemption each year. Thousands of low-income seniors throughout the State of Florida struggling to make ends meet will now receive the benefit of this important exemption through automatic renewal,” said **Marty Kiar, Broward County Property Appraiser**

Governor DeSantis also signed **SB 590** into law this week, which includes wording from **HB 489**, a bill sponsored by **Representative Woodson** and **Representative Dan Daley (D-Coral Springs)**. Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, each school district in the state will be required to include the telephone numbers and text lines for national or state crisis and suicide hotlines on any school-issued student identification card for students in grades 6 through 12.

A few weeks ago, **Governor DeSantis** signed **SB 1532** into law as well, which includes wording from **HB 1075**, a bill sponsored by **Representative Woodson**. The new bill ensures divorcing parents of children with special needs and/or emotional concerns are educated about the specific needs of their children, as well as about the resources and community services available and how to access them.

“I am so happy that this bill was signed into law as amended. It is one more step toward empowering parents and children by offering resources and education for their specific needs,” said **Raquel Catalano**, the mother of **Ava**, a child with special needs child who was the inspiration for the language of **HB 1075**.

Representative Woodson stated, “I am grateful to the Governor for signing these bills into law which will go a long way in improving the lives of Floridians of all ages across the state. A special thank you as well to **Marty Kiar** for his tireless work on **HB 597** and to all my colleagues in the House and the Senate who helped move these bills across the finish line.”

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