

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to infant death; amending s. 383.3362,
 3 F.S.; revising legislative findings and intent with
 4 respect to the sudden unexpected death of an infant
 5 under a specified age; defining the term "sudden
 6 unexpected infant death"; revising provisions relating
 7 to training requirements for first responders;
 8 revising requirements relating to autopsies performed
 9 by medical examiners; requiring the Medical Examiners
 10 Commission to provide for the development and
 11 implementation of a protocol for the medicolegal
 12 investigation of sudden unexpected infant deaths;
 13 deleting references to the SIDS hotline and local SIDS
 14 alliances; providing an effective date.

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 16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 18 Section 1. Section 383.3362, Florida Statutes, is amended
 19 to read:

20 383.3362 Sudden unexpected infant death ~~Syndrome~~.—

21 (1) FINDINGS AND INTENT.—The Legislature recognizes that
 22 more than 4,500 infants in the United States die suddenly and
 23 unexpectedly of no immediate or obvious cause. According to
 24 statistics from the Department of Health, more than 200 infants
 25 in this state experienced sudden unexpected infant death in 2010
 26 ~~sudden Infant death Syndrome, or SIDS, is a leading cause of~~
 27 ~~death among children under the age of 1 year, both nationally~~
 28 ~~and in this state.~~ The Legislature further recognizes that first

29 responders to emergency calls relating to such a death need
30 access to special training to better enable them to recognize
31 that such deaths may result from natural and accidental causes
32 or may be caused ~~distinguish SIDS from death caused by criminal~~
33 acts and to appropriately interact with the deceased infant's
34 parents or caretakers. At the same time, the Legislature,
35 recognizing that the primary focus of first responders is to
36 carry out their assigned duties, intends to increase ~~the~~
37 awareness of the possible causes of sudden unexpected infant
38 death ~~SIDS by first responders~~, but in no way expand or take
39 away from ~~the~~ ~~their~~ duties of first responders. Further, the
40 Legislature recognizes the importance of a multidisciplinary
41 investigation and standardized investigative protocols in cases
42 of sudden unexpected infant death ~~standard protocol for review~~
43 ~~of SIDS deaths by medical examiners and the importance of~~
44 ~~appropriate followup in cases of certified or suspected SIDS~~
45 ~~deaths~~. Finally, the Legislature finds that it is desirable to
46 analyze existing data, and ~~to~~ conduct further research on, the
47 possible causes of sudden unexpected infant death ~~SIDS~~ and on
48 how to reduce its incidence ~~lower the number of sudden infant~~
49 ~~deaths~~.

50 (2) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term "sudden
51 unexpected infant death ~~Syndrome,~~" or "SUID," "~~SIDS,~~" means the
52 sudden unexpected death of an infant under 1 year of age while
53 in apparent good health whose death may have been a result of
54 natural or unnatural causes ~~which remains unexplained after a~~
55 ~~complete autopsy, death-scene investigation, and review of the~~
56 ~~case history. The term includes only those deaths for which,~~

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57 | ~~currently, there is no known cause or cure.~~

58 | (3) TRAINING.—

59 | (a) The Legislature finds that an emergency medical
60 | technician, a paramedic, a firefighter, or a law enforcement
61 | officer is likely to be the first responder to a request for
62 | assistance which is made immediately after the sudden unexpected
63 | death of an infant. The Legislature further finds that these
64 | first responders should be trained in appropriate responses to
65 | sudden unexpected infant death.

66 | (b) ~~After January 1, 1995,~~ The basic training programs
67 | required for certification as an emergency medical technician, a
68 | paramedic, a firefighter, or a law enforcement officer as
69 | defined in s. 943.10, other than a correctional officer or a
70 | correctional probation officer, must include curriculum that
71 | contains instruction on SUID ~~SIDS~~ ~~Sudden Infant Death Syndrome~~.

72 | (c) The Department of Health, in consultation with the
73 | Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, the Firefighters
74 | Employment, Standards, and Training Council, and the Criminal
75 | Justice Standards and Training Commission, shall develop and
76 | adopt, by rule, curriculum that, at a minimum, includes training
77 | in the nature of SUID ~~SIDS~~, standard procedures to be followed
78 | by law enforcement agencies in investigating cases involving the
79 | sudden unexpected deaths of infants, and training in responding
80 | appropriately to the parents or caretakers who have requested
81 | assistance.

82 | (4) AUTOPSIES.—

83 | (a) The death of any infant younger than 1 year of age who
84 | dies suddenly and unexpectedly while in apparent good health

85 falls under the jurisdiction of the medical examiner as provided
 86 in s. 406.11. ~~The medical examiner must perform an autopsy upon~~
 87 ~~any infant under the age of 1 year who is suspected to have died~~
 88 ~~of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. The autopsy must be performed~~
 89 ~~within 24 hours after the death, or as soon thereafter as is~~
 90 ~~feasible. When the medical examiner's findings are consistent~~
 91 ~~with the definition of sudden infant death syndrome in~~
 92 ~~subsection (2), the medical examiner must state on the death~~
 93 ~~certificate that sudden infant death syndrome was the cause of~~
 94 ~~death.~~

95 (b) The Medical Examiners Commission shall provide for the
 96 development and implementation of ~~develop and implement~~ a
 97 protocol for the medicolegal investigation of SUID ~~dealing with~~
 98 ~~suspected sudden infant death syndrome. The protocol must be~~
 99 ~~followed by all medical examiners when conducting the autopsies~~
 100 ~~required under this subsection.~~ The protocol may include
 101 requirements and standards for scene investigations,
 102 requirements for specific data, criteria for any specific tissue
 103 sampling, and any other requirements that are deemed
 104 ~~ascertaining cause of death based on the autopsy, criteria for~~
 105 ~~any specific tissue sampling, and any other requirements that~~
 106 ~~the commission considers necessary.~~

107 (c) A medical examiner is not liable for damages in a
 108 civil action for any act or omission done in compliance with
 109 this subsection.

110 ~~(d) An autopsy must be performed under the authority of a~~
 111 ~~medical examiner under s. 406.11.~~

112 (5) DEPARTMENT DUTIES RELATING TO SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT

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113 DEATH (SUID) ~~SYNDROME (SIDS)~~.—The Department of Health shall:

114 (a) Collaborate with other agencies in the development and
 115 presentation of the SUID ~~Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)~~
 116 training programs for first responders, including those for
 117 emergency medical technicians and paramedics, firefighters, and
 118 law enforcement officers.

119 (b) Maintain a database of statistics on reported SUID
 120 ~~SIDS~~ deaths, and analyze the data as funds allow.

121 (c) Serve as liaison and closely coordinate activities
 122 with the Florida SIDS Alliance, ~~including the services related~~
 123 ~~to the SIDS hotline.~~

124 (d) Maintain a library reference list and materials about
 125 SUID ~~SIDS~~ for public dissemination.

126 (e) Provide professional support to field staff.

127 (f) Coordinate the activities of and promote a link
 128 between the fetal and infant mortality review committees of the
 129 local healthy start coalitions, ~~the local SIDS alliance,~~ and
 130 other related support groups.

131 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.