

By Representative Crow

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to victim assistance; requiring  
3           that the Crime Victims' Services Office of the  
4           Department of Legal Affairs establish a  
5           toll-free telephone number to provide  
6           information on the status of a person accused  
7           or convicted of a crime; providing for the  
8           information to be available to a crime victim,  
9           relative of a homicide victim, or witness of a  
10          crime; providing requirements for operating the  
11          telephone number; requiring the Crime Victims'  
12          Services Office to provide updated address  
13          information for a victim, relative, or witness  
14          to specified agencies; requiring that the Crime  
15          Victims' Services Office verify information  
16          used to notify a victim, relative, or witness;  
17          providing an effective date.

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

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21           Section 1. Toll-free crime victim assistance number.--  
22           (1) The Crime Victims' Services Office of the  
23 Department of Legal Affairs shall establish a statewide,  
24 toll-free telephone number that is available for use by a  
25 crime victim, relative of a homicide victim, or witness of a  
26 crime to obtain information concerning the status of the  
27 person accused or convicted of the crime. The toll-free  
28 telephone number shall be available 24 hours a day, 7 days per  
29 week, 365 days a year. The Crime Victims' Services Office  
30 shall distribute information regarding the toll-free telephone  
31 number to the Department of Corrections, the Parole

1 Commission, the Department of Law Enforcement, the state  
2 attorneys, and local law enforcement agencies.  
3 (2) The toll-free telephone number shall also be  
4 available for use by a crime victim, relative of a homicide  
5 victim, or witness of a crime to inform the Crime Victims'  
6 Services Office of any change of address. The Crime Victims'  
7 Services Office shall provide the updated address information  
8 to the Department of Corrections, the Parole Commission, the  
9 Department of Law Enforcement, the appropriate state attorney,  
10 and the appropriate local law enforcement agencies. At least  
11 once every 6 months, the Crime Victims' Services Office shall  
12 verify the address and telephone number of each victim,  
13 relative, or witness who wishes to be kept informed of the  
14 status of the person accused or convicted of the crime.

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998.

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18 SENATE SUMMARY

19 Requires the Crime Victims' Services Office within the  
20 Department of Legal Affairs to establish a toll-free  
21 telephone number that allows a crime victim, relative of  
22 a homicide victim, or crime witness to obtain information  
23 concerning the status of the person accused or convicted  
24 of the crime. Requires that the telephone number be  
25 available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a  
26 year. Provides that the toll-free number may be used by a  
27 crime victim, relative of a homicide victim, or crime  
28 witness to update address information. Requires that the  
29 Crime Victims' Services Office verify, at least once  
30 every 6 months, the address and telephone number of each  
31 victim, relative, or witness who wishes to be kept  
informed of the status of the person accused or convicted  
of the crime.