

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 convicted
7 of a crime; providing for the information to be
8 available to a crime victim, relative of a
9 homicide victim, or witness of a crime;
10 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 convicted of the crime. The toll-free telephone number
28 shall be available during the department's normal business
29 hours. The Crime Victims' Services Office shall distribute
30 information regarding the toll-free telephone number to the
31 Department of Corrections, the Parole Commission, the

1 Department of Law Enforcement, the state attorneys, and local
2 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 convicted of the crime.

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