

By the Committee on Judiciary and Senator Crist

308-1826-98

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 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, 365 days a  
29 year. 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.

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17 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
19 Senate Bill 460

20 The Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 460 removes all  
21 references to persons accused of a crime, allowing victims and  
22 witnesses to obtain information only about the status of a  
23 person convicted of a crime.  
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