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HB 1829 2003

A bill to be entitled An act relating to the Chief of Domestic Security Initiatives; amending s. 943.0311, F.S.; providing that costs of conducting security assessments of buildings and facilities owned or occupied by a state agency or agencies shall be borne by the agency or agencies owning or occupying the building or facility being assessed; requiring completion of initial assessments of all buildings and facilities owned or leased by a state agency by a specified date; providing for subsequent security assessments; requiring the Chief of Domestic Security Initiatives to promote security assessments of buildings and facilities owned or leased by local governments; providing that costs of security assessments of local government buildings and facilities shall be borne by the local government; authorizing the chief to provide a report based upon information obtained from security assessments of state buildings; requiring the chief to develop recommended best practices for safety and security of buildings owned or leased by state agencies and local governments; authorizing the chief to revise or enhance best practices; providing that best practices and a list of entities qualified to perform security assessments be made available to specified entities; requiring the distribution of best practices to specified officials; providing for payment of costs of conducting a security assessment requested by a private entity; providing that security assessments and specified related information, best practices, and reports of the chief are within the



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plan" and are, as such, confidential and exempt from public records requirements; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 943.0311, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

943.0311 Chief of Domestic Security Initiatives: and the department's duties of the department with respect to domestic security. -- The executive director of the department, or a member of the department designated by the executive director, shall serve as the Chief of Domestic Security Initiatives.

- (1) The Chief of Domestic Security Initiatives shall:
- (a) Coordinate the efforts of the department in the ongoing assessment of this state's vulnerability to, and ability to detect and respond to, acts of terrorism, as defined in s. 775.30, within or affecting this state.
- (b) Prepare recommendations for the Executive Office of the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives which are based upon ongoing assessments to limit the vulnerability of the state to terrorism.
- (c) Coordinate the collection of proposals to limit the vulnerability of the state to terrorism.
- (d) Use regional task forces to support the duties of the department set forth in this section.
- (e) Use public or private resources to perform the duties assigned to the department under this section.
 - (f) Perform other duties assigned by law.



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specific security assessments of buildings and facilities owned or leased by state agencies or local governments. All state agencies and local governments shall cooperate with the department and provide requested information and resources to assist the department in meeting its responsibilities under this section. Costs of conducting a security assessment shall be borne by the state agency or agencies that own or occupy the building or facility being assessed. The initial assessment of each building or facility owned or leased by a state agency or agencies shall be completed no later than December 1, 2003. After completion of the initial assessment, the chief shall ensure that followup assessments are conducted to ensure that the security assessment of buildings and facilities owned or leased by state agencies remains reasonably current and valid.

- (b) The chief shall promote the conducting of security assessments of buildings and facilities owned or leased by local governments and agencies thereof by communicating to local governments the importance of such assessments and the options local governments should consider in obtaining such assessments.

 Upon the request of a local government, the chief may suggest entities known to the chief as being qualified to provide meaningful building and facility security assessments. The cost of any security assessment of a building or facility owned or leased by a local government shall be borne by the local government.
- (c)(b) Based upon the information obtained from state agency security assessments, the chief shall prepare recommendations to enhance the security of buildings and



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facilities owned or leased by state agencies or local governments.

- (d)(e) Based upon information obtained from security assessments of state buildings and facilities, the chief may shall report to the Executive Office of the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and provide prioritized suggestions for security enhancement of recommended minimum security standards or security-enhancement needs for any building or facility owned or leased by a state agency or local government. The report may must identify and prioritize the recommended security enhancements and provide recommendations to maximize federal funding in support of building and facility security.
- The chief shall develop and submit to the Executive Office of the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives recommended best practices for safety and security of buildings owned or leased by state agencies and local governments. To promote the continued safety of government facilities within the state, the best practices may be revised or enhanced by the chief as necessary. The recommended best practices are not a rule as defined in chapter 120. Upon request, the best practices shall be made available to the head of a state agency that owns or occupies any building or facility in the state and to the chief administrator of any local government. A copy of the current recommended best practices shall be provided to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The chief may make the best practices available to other entities if their disclosure promotes public safety. Any security assessment, or suggestion or prioritization with



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respect thereto, or best practices prepared or developed under this section constitutes a threat assessment as that term is used in s. 119.071 The chief shall review the recommended best practices as necessary, but at least once each year, and shall submit any recommended changes to the Executive Office of the Covernor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

- The chief may identify entities qualified to perform security assessments of buildings or facilities and may make a list of those entities available to state or local entities seeking to conduct security assessments. In addition, the chief may make the list available to any conduct specific security assessments of a building or facility owned by a private entity upon the request of that private entity seeking to conduct a security assessment. All costs of a security assessment by a private entity shall be borne by the private entity having the assessment performed. The chief may prioritize requests, and such prioritization is not agency action that is subject to review under chapter 120. The chief may solicit private entities for the purpose of receiving requests to perform security assessments of buildings or facilities. Private entities are urged to cooperate with and assist the department in meeting its responsibilities for domestic security.
- (5) By November 1 of each year, the executive director shall compile, coordinate, and prioritize recommendations and proposals concerning security and shall present the recommendations and proposals to the Executive Office of the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. All recommendations seeking funding shall be prioritized, with critical domestic security needs



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requiring immediate or top-priority funding being clearly identified. Such recommendations shall include recommendations to maximize federal funding in support of the state's domestic-security efforts. The report of the Chief of Domestic Security Initiatives prepared under this section is a threat assessment and threat response plan as those terms are used in s. 119.071.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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