

HB 1147

2006

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to crimes against homeless persons;  
3 directing the Office of the Attorney General to develop  
4 and provide to the Legislature a report and  
5 recommendations regarding crimes against homeless persons;  
6 specifying certain contents of the report and  
7 recommendations; specifying entities to be consulted in  
8 the development of the report and recommendations;  
9 directing the Department of Law Enforcement, in  
10 consultation with the Criminal Justice Standards and  
11 Training Commission and the Florida Criminal Justice  
12 Executive Institute, to develop a telecourse to instruct  
13 state and local law enforcement agencies and operators  
14 concerning crimes against homeless persons and ways to  
15 deal with such crimes; specifying additional contents of  
16 the telecourse; specifying entities to be consulted in  
17 developing the telecourse; directing the department and  
18 local law enforcement agencies to provide the telecourse  
19 to officers; providing an effective date.

20  
21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

22  
23 Section 1. (1) (a) The Office of the Attorney General  
24 shall assess the extent of the problem of crimes against  
25 homeless persons and develop a plan to prevent these crimes and  
26 to apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes. In  
27 developing the assessment and plan, the office shall consult  
28 homeless persons and their advocates, law enforcement agencies

HB 1147

2006

29 having experience in investigating crimes against the homeless,  
30 the Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida Criminal Justice  
31 Executive Institute, and the regional domestic task forces  
32 created under s. 943.0312, Florida Statutes.

33 (b) The office shall make an initial report to the  
34 Legislature by January 7, 2007, and a final report by December  
35 1, 2007. Each report must include recommendations for any  
36 legislation necessary to carry out the plan and a recommendation  
37 on whether to enact additional laws to address hate crimes that  
38 are committed in whole or in part because the victim is homeless  
39 or is perceived to be homeless.

40 (2) By July 1, 2007, the Department of Law Enforcement, in  
41 consultation with the Criminal Justice Standards and Training  
42 Commission and the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute  
43 shall develop a 2-hour telecourse, which shall be made available  
44 to all law enforcement agencies in this state and shall address  
45 crimes against homeless persons and methods of dealing  
46 effectively and humanely with homeless persons, including  
47 homeless persons with disabilities. The telecourse must include  
48 instruction concerning hate crimes and crimes committed in whole  
49 or in part because of the victims' actual or perceived  
50 homelessness. In developing the telecourse, the institute shall  
51 consult subject matter experts, including, but not limited to,  
52 homeless and formerly homeless persons in this state, service  
53 providers and advocates for such persons, experts on the  
54 disabilities that homeless persons commonly suffer, Florida  
55 Impact, and the National Coalition for the Homeless. The  
56 Department of Law Enforcement and local law enforcement agencies

HB 1147

2006

57 | shall make the telecourse available to all law enforcement  
58 | officers.

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