

By Senator Rich

34-1354A-06

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

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

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27 Section 1. (1)(a) The Office of the Attorney General
28 shall assess the extent of the problem of crimes against
29 homeless persons and develop a plan to prevent these crimes
30 and to apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators of these
31 crimes. In developing the assessment and plan, the office

1 shall consult homeless persons and their advocates, law
2 enforcement agencies having experience in investigating crimes
3 against the homeless, the Department of Law Enforcement, the
4 Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute, and the regional
5 domestic task forces created under s. 943.0312, Florida
6 Statutes.

7 (b) The office shall make an initial report to the
8 Legislature by January 7, 2007, and a final report by December
9 1, 2007. Each report must include recommendations for any
10 legislation necessary to carry out the plan and a
11 recommendation on whether to enact additional laws to address
12 hate crimes that are committed in whole or in part because the
13 victim is homeless or is perceived to be homeless.

14 (2) By July 1, 2007, the Department of Law
15 Enforcement, in consultation with the Criminal Justice
16 Standards and Training Commission and the Florida Criminal
17 Justice Executive Institute shall develop a 2-hour telecourse,
18 which shall be made available to all law enforcement agencies
19 in this state and shall address crimes against homeless
20 persons and methods of dealing effectively and humanely with
21 homeless persons, including homeless persons with
22 disabilities. The telecourse must include instruction
23 concerning hate crimes and crimes committed in whole or in
24 part because of the victims' actual or perceived homelessness.
25 In developing the telecourse, the institute shall consult
26 subject-matter experts, including, but not limited to,
27 homeless and formerly homeless persons in this state, service
28 providers and advocates for such persons, experts on the
29 disabilities that homeless persons commonly suffer, Florida
30 Impact, and the National Coalition for the Homeless. The
31 Department of Law Enforcement, and local law enforcement

