

ENROLLED  
 HB 5021, Engrossed 2

2006 Legislature

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to sexually violent predators; amending s.  
 3           394.916, F.S.; providing that a trial in a proceeding to  
 4           commit a sexually violent predator may be continued once  
 5           if specified conditions are met; providing that no  
 6           additional continuances may be granted unless a court  
 7           finds that a manifest injustice would occur; creating s.  
 8           394.932, F.S.; requiring the Justice Administrative  
 9           Commission to maintain a registry of mental health and  
 10          other experts; providing for advertising of the registry;  
 11          requiring the commission to advise registry users that it  
 12          is their responsibility to verify a listed person's  
 13          qualifications; providing for electronic publication;  
 14          providing an effective date.

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

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 18           Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 394.916, Florida  
 19   Statutes, is amended to read:

20           394.916 Trial; counsel and experts; indigent persons;  
 21   jury.--

22           (2) The trial may be continued once upon the request of  
 23   either party for not more than 120 days upon ~~and~~ a showing of  
 24   good cause, or by the court on its own motion in the interests  
 25   of justice, when the person will not be substantially  
 26   prejudiced. No additional continuances may be granted unless the  
 27   court finds that a manifest injustice would otherwise occur.

28           Section 2. Section 394.932, Florida Statutes, is created

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29 to read:

30 394.932 Registry of experts.--The Justice Administrative  
31 Commission shall maintain a registry of mental health and other  
32 experts who are available and willing to provide examinations  
33 and expert testimony in proceedings held under this part. The  
34 commission shall advertise the registry in professional trade  
35 publications on a periodic basis and shall list the name and  
36 contact information for all persons holding themselves out to be  
37 qualified to provide examinations and expert testimony pursuant  
38 to this part upon request. It shall be the sole responsibility  
39 of parties using the services of a person listed on the registry  
40 to verify the qualifications of that person. The commission  
41 shall advise all parties that use the registry that it has not  
42 verified the professional qualifications of the persons listed  
43 on the registry and that it is the party's responsibility to  
44 verify the person's professional qualifications. The commission  
45 may electronically publish the names and contact information of  
46 persons requesting to be listed on the registry.

47 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.