By the Committee on Criminal Justice; and Senator Constantine

591-2358-07

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to missing persons; amending s.
3	937.021, F.S.; requiring law enforcement
4	agencies to process reports of missing persons
5	under the age of 26 in a manner similar to that
6	of missing child reports; providing immunity
7	from civil liability for certain persons
8	involving such reports; requiring that certain
9	acts be undertaken by a law enforcement agency
10	after such persons have been missing more than
11	90 days; amending s. 937.022, F.S.; requiring
12	the Missing Children Information Clearinghouse
13	to collect and process information regarding
14	missing persons under the age of 26; providing
15	a definition; requiring the Department of Law
16	Enforcement to create within the Missing
17	Children Information Clearinghouse a database
18	of unidentified deceased persons; providing an
19	effective date.
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21	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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23	Section 1. Section 937.021, Florida Statutes, is
24	amended to read:
25	937.021 Missing child reports
26	(1) Upon the filing of a police report that a child is
27	missing by the parent or guardian, the law enforcement agency
28	receiving the report shall immediately inform all on-duty law
29	enforcement officers of the existence of the missing child
30	report, communicate the report to every other law enforcement
31	agency having jurisdiction in the county, and transmit the

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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report for inclusion within the Florida Crime Information Center computer within 2 hours.

(2) Upon filing a police report that a person under the age of 26 is missing by the parent, quardian, legal custodian, spouse, significant other, or consanguineous relation, the law enforcement agency receiving the report shall transmit the report for entry into the Florida and National Crime Information Center computers within 2 hours after the agency receives the missing person information.

(3)(2) A police report that a child or person under the age of 26 is missing shall may be filed with the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in the county or municipality in which the child or person was last seen prior to the filing of the report, without regard to whether the child or person resides in or has any significant contacts with that county or municipality. The filing of such a report shall impose the duties specified in subsections subsection (1) and (2) upon that law enforcement agency.

(4)(3)(a) Upon receiving a request to record, report, transmit, display, or release Amber Alert or Missing Child Alert information from the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the missing or endangered child, the Department of Law Enforcement as the state Amber Alert coordinator; any state or local law enforcement agency and the personnel of these agencies; any radio or television network, broadcaster, or other media representative; any dealer of communications services as defined in s. 202.11; or any agency, employee, individual, or entity is immune from civil liability for damages for complying in good faith with the request and is presumed to have acted in good faith in recording, reporting, transmitting, displaying, or releasing

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Amber Alert or Missing Child Alert information pertaining to such child.

(b) Upon receiving a request to record, report, transmit, display, or release information and photographs pertaining to a missing person under the age of 26 from the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the missing or endangered person, the Department of Law Enforcement; any state or local law enforcement agency and the personnel of these agencies; any radio or television network, broadcaster, or other media representative; any dealer of communications services as defined in s. 202.11; or any agency, employee, individual, or entity is immune from civil liability for damages for complying in good faith with the request and is presumed to have acted in good faith in recording, reporting, transmitting, displaying, or releasing information or photographs pertaining to such person.

(c)(b) The presumption of good faith is not overcome if a technical or clerical error is made by any such agency, employee, individual, or entity acting at the request of the local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction or if the Amber Alert or Missing Child Alert information is incomplete or incorrect because the information received from the local law enforcement agency was incomplete or incorrect.

(d)(e) Neither this subsection nor any other provision of law creates a duty of the agency, employee, individual, or entity to record, report, transmit, display, or release the Amber Alert or Missing Child Alert information received from the local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction. The decision to record, report, transmit, display, or release information is discretionary with the agency, employee,

1	individual, or entity receiving that information from the
2	local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction.
3	(5)(a) If a person under the age of 26 has been
4	missing for more than 90 days, the law enforcement agency
5	having jurisdiction of the case shall, with the consent of the
6	biological next of kin, obtain the following information:
7	1. Biological samples suitable for DNA analysis, if
8	available.
9	2. Appropriate consent forms necessary to access the
10	Combined DNA Indexing System (CODIS) which includes local,
11	state, and national DNA databases.
12	(b) If a person under the age of 26 has been missing
13	for more than 90 days, the law enforcement agency having
14	jurisdiction of the case shall obtain secondary samples
15	belonging to the missing person, when available.
16	(c) The law enforcement agency shall send appropriate
17	biological samples and materials obtained to the Department of
18	Law Enforcement. The department shall coordinate with
19	appropriate agencies following established procedures to
20	complete DNA analysis of the samples and upload appropriate
21	DNA profiles to CODIS.
22	(d) This subsection does not preclude a law
23	enforcement agency from attempting to obtain information or
24	biological samples before the expiration of the 90-day period.
25	Section 2. Section 937.022, Florida Statutes, is
26	amended to read:
27	937.022 Missing Children Information Clearinghouse
28	(1) There is created a Missing Children Information
29	Clearinghouse within the Department of Law Enforcement. The
30	clearinghouse is established as a central repository of
31	information regarding missing children. Such information

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shall be collected and disseminated to assist in the location of missing children and persons under the age of 26.

- (2) The clearinghouse shall be supervised by a director who shall be employed upon the recommendation of the executive director. The executive director shall establish services deemed appropriate by the department to aid in the location of missing children and persons under the age of 26.
 - (3) The clearinghouse shall:
- (a) Establish a system of intrastate communication of information relating to children determined to be missing by their parents, guardians, or legal custodians or by law enforcement agencies.
- (b) Provide a centralized file for the exchange of information on missing children and persons under the age of within the state.
- 1. Every state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency shall submit to the clearinghouse information received by it pursuant to s. 937.021.
- 2. Any parent, guardian, or legal custodian, spouse, significant other, or consanguineous relation may submit a missing person child report to the clearinghouse about a child or person 26 years of age or younger whose whereabouts is unknown, regardless of the circumstances, subsequent to reporting such child missing person to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The within the county in which the child became missing, which missing person child report shall be included in the clearinghouse database.
- (c) Interface with the National Crime Information

 Center for the exchange of information on children suspected of interstate travel.

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- (d) Collect, process, maintain, and disseminate information on missing children and persons under the age of and strive to maintain or disseminate only accurate and complete information.
 - (4) The parent, guardian, or legal custodian or reporter who is responsible for notifying the clearinghouse or a law enforcement agency about a missing child or person under the age of 26 shall immediately notify the clearinghouse or the agency of any child or missing person whose location has been determined.
 - (5) Information received pursuant to s. 937.021 about a missing child or person under the age of 26, which information has been included in the clearinghouse database, shall be purged by the appropriate law enforcement agency immediately upon location of such child.
 - (6) As used in this section, the term:
 - (a) "Missing child" means a person who is under the age of 18 years; whose temporary or permanent residence is in, or is believed to be in, this state; whose location has not been determined; and who has been reported as missing to a law enforcement agency.
 - (b) "Missing person" means a person under the age of 26 who has been reported as missing to a local law enforcement agency. Missing persons who are age 26 or older do not come under the authority of the Missing Children Information Clearinghouse.
 - (c)(b) "Missing child report" or "missing person

 report" means a report prepared on a form designed by the

 Department of Law Enforcement for the use by private citizens and law enforcement agencies to report information about

1	missing children or missing persons under the age of 26 to the
2	Missing Children Information Clearinghouse.
3	Section 3. The Department of Law Enforcement shall
4	create within the Missing Children Information Clearinghouse a
5	database containing appropriate forensic photos and other
6	information on unidentified deceased persons. The information
7	shall be provided to the Department of Law Enforcement by
8	medical examiners and law enforcement agencies having
9	information pertaining to unidentified persons as specified in
10	section 406.145, Florida Statutes, and compiled in a database
11	that is searchable and available to the public via the
12	Internet.
13	Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.
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15	STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
16	COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR <u>Senate Bill 2864</u>
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18	- Removes special requirements for investigating law
19	enforcement agencies to obtain evidence and disseminate information concerning missing persons of all ages, and
20	providing requirement for addressing missing persons under the age of 26.
21	- Includes persons under the age of 26 within FDLE's
22	Missing Children Information Clearinghouse, which currently applies only to children under 18 years old.
23	- Removes designation of categories of missing persons as
24	"high-risk missing persons."
25	 Replaces requirement for certain actions to be taken by law enforcement investigators and medical examiners with
of an Internet-searchable database of inform	regard to identification of human remains with creation of an Internet-searchable database of information
27	relating to unidentified deceased persons.
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