586-2395-07

 1   A bill to be entitled

 2   An act relating to an electronic monitoring

 3   program for tracking lost persons; establishing

 4   a grant program to encourage counties to

 5   implement county lifesaver programs; describing

 6   the components of such a program; designating

 7   the Department of Law Enforcement as the

 8   administrative agency; providing for

 9   application for state grant funds and requiring

10   local matching funds; providing a cap on the

11   amount of the grant and for prioritizing and

12   prorating grants; requiring the county

13   sheriff's office or other lead agency to use

14   the funds for purchasing equipment and

15   training; requiring the solicitation of private

16   moneys and the achievement of financial

17   independence for the program within a specified

18   time; providing an effective date.

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20   WHEREAS, more than 5 million United States residents

21 have Alzheimer's disease and more than 50 percent of those

22 individuals wander and become lost, and

23   WHEREAS, autism is the fastest-growing serious

24 developmental disability in the United States, and many

25 autistic individuals wander and are attracted to water,

26 causing drowning to be the leading cause of death for children

27 who have autism, and

28   WHEREAS, Project Lifesaver is a search-and-rescue

29 program that can quickly find wandering individuals who have

30 Alzheimer's disease, autism, Downs syndrome, or other mental

31 impairments, and

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

 1   WHEREAS, Project Lifesaver was established in Virginia
 2 in 1999 and has been implemented by law enforcement agencies
 3 and public safety agencies across the country, and
 4   WHEREAS, agencies that sponsor local lifesaver programs
 5 have stated that the program materially reduces the time
 6 required to find lost persons, often to less than one-half
 7 hour after the person is reported missing, within which period
 8 there is a 100-percent recovery rate, and
 9   WHEREAS, 16 Florida counties and 5 police departments
10 have implemented lifesaver programs, NOW, THEREFORE,
11
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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14   Section 1. Lifesaver program grants.--
15   (1) A state grant program is established to encourage
16 each county in this state to implement a lifesaver program
17 that is modeled after Project Lifesaver, a search-and-rescue
18 program designed to quickly find a lost or wandering person
19 who is mentally impaired due to Alzheimer's disease, autism,
20 Downs syndrome, or other causes. The program uses small
21 transmitters, which are usually worn on a participant's wrist,
22 to electronically track lost or wandering participants. A
23 county sheriff's office or other lead agency is equipped with
24 receivers that track the transmitters.
25   (2) The Department of Law Enforcement shall administer
26 the grant program, manage the state moneys appropriated for
27 the purpose of starting county programs, and serve as a
28 liaison to county lifesaver programs.
29   (3) To apply for state grant moneys to implement a
30 county lifesaver program, a county sheriff's office or other
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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

 1 lead agency must submit an application annually by October 1,

 2 which includes:

 3   (a) An estimate of the number of people who might

 4 qualify for lifesaver assistance;

 5   (b) An estimate of the startup cost;

 6   (c) A statement of the number of personnel available

 7 for tracking lost individuals; and

 8   (d) The source or sources and the amount of local

 9 funds available for matching state grant moneys.

10   (4) The department shall prioritize the grant moneys

11 in accordance with the respective counties' needs for tracking

12 services, the availability of local sources to provide

13 matching funds, and the date the application was received by

14 the department. The maximum grant that a county may receive

15 for startup is $10,000, and the amount awarded must be

16 matched, dollar for dollar, by local funds. Grants awarded to

17 qualifying counties must be prorated in accordance with the

18 availability of state funds.

19   (5) The county sheriff's office or other lead agency

20 shall use the grant money and matching funds to purchase the

21 necessary equipment and training to implement a county

22 lifesaver program. Through its community resource officer, the

23 sheriff's office or other lead agency shall solicit moneys

24 from private sources so as to ensure that within 3 years the

25 lifesaver program is self-supporting and no longer requires

26 state funding.

27   Section 2. The sum of $670,000 is appropriated from

28 the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Law Enforcement

29 for the purpose of awarding grants to counties that qualify

30 under this act to start a county lifesaver program.

31   Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

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 1           STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
                      COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
 2                        Senate Bill 490

 3

 4  The committee substitute:

 5  -    Provides for the establishment of a state grant program
          to encourage counties to implement a lifesaver program
 6        modeled after Project Lifesaver.

 7  -    Provides that to receive state grant moneys a county
          sheriff's office or other lead agency must submit an
 8        application by October 1 that includes a list of items.

 9  -    Provides that the Florida Department of Law Enforcement
          (FDLE) must grant moneys to applicants with respect to an
10        applicant's need for tracking services, the availability
          of matching funds, and the date the application is
11        received.

12  -    Provides that a county must match the state grant moneys,
          dollar-for-dollar.
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    -    Specifies that the county sheriff's office or lead agency
14        must purchase the necessary equipment and training needed
          to implement a county lifesaver program.
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    -    Corrects technical deficiencies.
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