

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Criminal Justice Committee

BILL: CS/SB 116

INTRODUCER: Criminal Justice Committee and Senator Fasano

SUBJECT: An Electronic Monitoring Program for Tracking Lost Persons

DATE: March 6, 2008 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Ray	Jameson	CF	Favorable
2.	Dugger	Cannon	CJ	Fav/CS
3.			JA	
4.				
5.				
6.				

Please see Section VIII. for Additional Information:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| A. COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Statement of Substantial Changes |
| B. AMENDMENTS..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Technical amendments were recommended |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Amendments were recommended |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Significant amendments were recommended |

I. Summary:

The bill establishes a state grant program to encourage counties to implement county personal tracking programs. The bill describes the components of the program and designates the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to administer the grant program, manage the moneys appropriated to start county programs, and serve as a liaison to county personal tracking programs. The bill also:

- Provides for start up procedures;
- Provides for application for state grant funds;
- Requires local match funds;
- Provides that a county sheriff's office or other lead agency use the grant and match funds to purchase necessary equipment and training to implement a county personal tracking program;
- Provides for an appropriation of \$670,000 to FDLE; and
- Requires that the county personal tracking programs be self-supporting within three years.

The bill will take effect July 1, 2008.

The bill creates an undesignated section of law.

II. Present Situation:

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive brain disorder that gradually destroys a person's memory and ability to learn, reason, make judgments, communicate, and carry out daily activities.

According to the Alzheimer's Association there are more than five million people in the United States living with Alzheimer's disease.¹ This number includes 4.9 million people over the age of 65 and between 200,000 and 500,000 people under the age of 65 with early-onset Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.² According to the Florida Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, there are an estimated 450,000 cases of Alzheimer's disease in Florida.

Alzheimer's disease causes millions of Americans to lose their ability to recognize familiar places and faces. Six in ten people with Alzheimer's disease will wander. A person with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia may become disoriented and lost, even in their own neighborhood.³ Although common, wandering behavior can be dangerous. If not found within 24 hours, half of those who wander risk serious injury or death.⁴

In 1999, Project Lifesaver International was established as an initiative of the 43rd Search and Rescue Company of the Chesapeake Sheriff's Office in Chesapeake, VA.⁵ Project Lifesaver aides persons suffering from diseases and disabilities by using technology to locate wandering and lost adults and children.⁶ Project Lifesaver is endorsed by the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, the International Society of Crime Prevention Practitioners, the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners, the National Sheriff's Association, and the Florida Sheriff's Association.⁷ Currently, 19 Florida Counties and eight Florida Cities have implemented lifesaver programs with the assistance of Project Lifesaver International.⁸

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill establishes a state grant program to encourage each county to implement a county personal tracking program.

The bill provides that the FDLE administer the grant program, manage state moneys appropriated to start county programs, and serve as a liaison to county personal tracking programs.

¹ http://www.alz.org/alzheimers_disease_what_is_alzheimers.asp (Last visited, January 14, 2008).

² Alzheimer's Association Report, 2007 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures. Alzheimer's Association (2007).

³ Alzheimer's Association Safe Return Program Fact Sheet. Alzheimer's Association (2006).

⁴ Id.

⁵ <http://www.projectlifesaver.org/site/> (Last visited, January 14, 2008).

⁶ Id.

⁷ Id.

⁸ Id.

The bill provides that to apply for state grant moneys to implement a county personal tracking program, a county sheriff's office or other lead agency must submit an application annually by October 1, which includes:

- An estimate of the number of people who might qualify for assistance;
- An estimate of the startup cost;
- A statement of the number of personnel available for tracking lost individuals; and
- The sources and amount of local funds available for matching state grant moneys.

The bill provides that FDLE prioritize the grant moneys in accordance with:

- A counties' need for tracking services;
- The availability of local sources to provide matching funds; and
- The date the application was received by FDLE.

The bill provides that the maximum amount a county may receive for startup of a county personal tracking program is \$10,000. The grant amount must be matched, dollar-for-dollar, by the county. Grants awarded to qualifying counties must be prorated in accordance with the availability of state funds.

The bill provides that a county sheriff's office or other lead agency shall use the grant money and matching funds to purchase the necessary equipment and training needed to implement a county personal tracking program.

The bill provides that a county sheriff's office or other lead agency solicit moneys from private sources to assure that within three years the county personal tracking program is self supporting and no longer requires state funding.

The bill provides for an appropriation of \$670,000 from the General Revenue Fund to FDLE for the purpose of awarding grants to qualifying counties to start county personal tracking programs.

The bill will take effect July 1, 2008.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

There may be an impact on persons using a county's personal tracking program to the extent that program assesses a services fee.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill appropriates \$670,000 from the General Revenue Fund.

Each county, requesting participation in the program is required to match the state grant, dollar-for-dollar, and to make the program self sufficient within three years.

FDLE estimates that the bill will require \$47,687 to administer the state grants as follows:

○ Planner IV	\$36,467
○ Expenses	\$10,088
○ Operating Capital Outlay	\$ 1,000
○ Human Resources	\$ 132

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Criminal Justice on March 5, 2008:

Deletes references to "Project Lifesaver," local "lifesaver" programs, and provisions describing small transmitters used to implement this particular program.

B. Amendments:

None.