

By the Committee on Criminal Justice; and Senator Fasano

591-04504A-08

2008116c1

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to an electronic monitoring program for  
3 tracking lost persons; establishing a grant program to  
4 encourage counties to implement county personal tracking  
5 programs; describing the components of the program;  
6 designating the Department of Law Enforcement as the  
7 administrative agency; providing for application for state  
8 grant funds and requiring local matching funds; providing  
9 a cap on the amount of a grant and for prioritizing and  
10 prorating grants; requiring the county sheriff's office or  
11 other lead agency to use the funds for purchasing  
12 equipment and training; requiring the solicitation of  
13 private moneys and the achievement of financial  
14 independence for the program within a specified time;  
15 providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

16  
17 WHEREAS, more than 5 million United States residents have  
18 Alzheimer's disease and more than 50 percent of those individuals  
19 wander and become lost, and

20 WHEREAS, autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental  
21 disability in the United States and many autistic individuals  
22 wander and are attracted to water, causing drowning to be the  
23 leading cause of death for children who have autism, and

24 WHEREAS, agencies that sponsor local personal tracking  
25 programs have stated that the programs materially reduce the time  
26 required to find lost persons, often to less than ½ hour after  
27 the person is reported missing, within which period there is a  
28 100 percent recovery rate, and

29 WHEREAS, 16 Florida counties and 5 police departments have

591-04504A-08

2008116c1

30 implemented personal tracking programs, NOW, THEREFORE,

31  
32 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

33  
34 Section 1. Personal tracking program grants.--

35 (1) A state grant program is established to encourage each  
36 county in this state to implement a personal tracking program  
37 that is a search-and-rescue program designed to quickly find a  
38 lost or wandering person who is mentally impaired due to  
39 Alzheimer's disease, autism, Down syndrome, or other causes.

40 (2) The Department of Law Enforcement shall administer the  
41 grant program, manage the state moneys appropriated for the  
42 purpose of starting county programs, and serve as a liaison to  
43 county personal tracking programs.

44 (3) To apply for state grant moneys for implementing a  
45 county personal tracking program, a county sheriff's office or  
46 other lead agency must submit an application annually by October  
47 1, which includes:

48 (a) An estimate of the number of people who might qualify  
49 for personal tracking assistance;

50 (b) An estimate of the startup cost;

51 (c) A statement of the number of personnel available for  
52 tracking lost individuals; and

53 (d) The source or sources and the amount of local funds  
54 available for matching state grant moneys.

55 (4) The department shall prioritize the grant moneys in  
56 accordance with the respective counties' needs for tracking  
57 services, the availability of local sources to provide matching  
58 funds, and the date the application was received by the

591-04504A-08

2008116c1

59 department. The maximum grant that a county may receive for  
60 startup costs is \$10,000, and the amount awarded must be matched,  
61 dollar for dollar, by local funds. Grants awarded to qualifying  
62 counties must be prorated in accordance with the availability of  
63 state funds.

64 (5) The county sheriff's office or other lead agency shall  
65 use the grant money and matching funds to purchase the necessary  
66 equipment and training to implement a county personal tracking  
67 program. Through its community resource officer, the sheriff's  
68 office or other lead agency shall solicit moneys from private  
69 sources so as to ensure that within 3 years the personal tracking  
70 program is self-supporting and no longer requires state funding.

71 Section 2. The sum of \$670,000 is appropriated from the  
72 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Law Enforcement for the  
73 2008-2009 fiscal year for the purpose of awarding grants to  
74 counties that qualify under this act to start a county personal  
75 tracking program.

76 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.