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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to infant death; amending s. 383.3362,  
 3           F.S.; revising legislative findings and intent with  
 4           respect to the sudden unexpected death of an infant  
 5           under a specified age; defining the term "Sudden  
 6           Unexpected Infant Death"; revising provisions relating  
 7           to training requirements for first responders;  
 8           revising requirements relating to autopsies performed  
 9           by medical examiners; requiring the Medical Examiners  
 10          Commission to provide for the development and  
 11          implementation of a protocol for the medical and legal  
 12          investigation of sudden unexpected infant deaths;  
 13          deleting references to the SIDS hotline and local SIDS  
 14          alliances; providing an effective date.

15  
 16   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

17  
 18           Section 1.   Section 383.3362, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 19   to read:

20           383.3362   ~~Sudden Infant death Syndrome.~~

21           (1)   FINDINGS AND INTENT.—The Legislature recognizes that  
 22   the sudden unexpected death of an infant who is in apparent good  
 23   health ~~Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, or SIDS,~~ is a leading cause  
 24   of death among infants ~~children~~ under the age of 1 year, both  
 25   nationally and in this state. The Legislature further recognizes  
 26   that first responders to emergency calls relating to such a  
 27   death need access to special training to better enable them to  
 28   recognize that such deaths may result from natural or accidental

29 causes or may be ~~distinguish SIDS from death~~ caused by criminal  
 30 acts and to appropriately interact with the deceased infant's  
 31 parents or caretakers. At the same time, the Legislature,  
 32 recognizing that the primary focus of first responders is to  
 33 carry out their assigned duties, intends to increase the  
 34 awareness of possible causes of a sudden unexpected infant death  
 35 ~~SIDS~~ by first responders, but in no way expand or take away from  
 36 their duties. Further, the Legislature recognizes the importance  
 37 of a multidisciplinary investigation and standardized  
 38 investigative protocols in cases of sudden unexpected infant  
 39 death ~~standard protocol for review of SIDS deaths by medical~~  
 40 ~~examiners and the importance of appropriate followup in cases of~~  
 41 ~~certified or suspected SIDS deaths~~. Finally, the Legislature  
 42 finds that it is desirable to analyze existing data, and to  
 43 conduct further research on, the possible causes of infant death  
 44 ~~SIDS~~ and how to reduce ~~lower~~ the number of sudden unexpected  
 45 infant deaths.

46 (2) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term:

47 (a) "Sudden Infant Death Syndrome," or "SIDS," refers to  
 48 ~~means~~ the sudden unexpected death of an infant under 1 year of  
 49 age whose death appears to be a result of natural causes but  
 50 which remains unexplained after a complete autopsy, death-scene  
 51 investigation, and review of the case history. ~~The term includes~~  
 52 ~~only those deaths for which, currently, there is no known cause~~  
 53 ~~or cure.~~

54 (b) "Sudden Unexpected Infant Death" or "SUID" refers to  
 55 the sudden unexpected death of an infant under 1 year of age in  
 56 apparent good health and whose death may have been a result of

57 natural or unnatural causes.

58 (3) TRAINING.—

59 (a) The Legislature finds that an emergency medical  
 60 technician, a paramedic, a firefighter, or a law enforcement  
 61 officer is likely to be the first responder to a request for  
 62 assistance which is made immediately after the sudden unexpected  
 63 death of an infant. The Legislature further finds that these  
 64 first responders should be trained in appropriate responses to  
 65 sudden infant death.

66 (b) After January 1, 1995, the basic training programs  
 67 required for certification as an emergency medical technician, a  
 68 paramedic, a firefighter, or a law enforcement officer as  
 69 defined in s. 943.10, other than a correctional officer or a  
 70 correctional probation officer, must include curriculum that  
 71 contains instruction on SUID ~~Sudden Infant Death Syndrome~~.

72 (c) The Department of Health, in consultation with the  
 73 Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, the Firefighters  
 74 Employment, Standards, and Training Council, and the Criminal  
 75 Justice Standards and Training Commission, shall develop and  
 76 adopt, by rule, curriculum that, at a minimum, includes training  
 77 in SUID ~~the nature of SIDS~~, standard procedures to be followed  
 78 by law enforcement agencies in investigating cases involving  
 79 sudden deaths of infants, and training in responding  
 80 appropriately to the parents or caretakers who have requested  
 81 assistance.

82 (4) AUTOPSIES.—

83 (a) The sudden unexpected death of any infant under 1 year  
 84 of age who was in apparent good health falls under the

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85 jurisdiction of the medical examiner pursuant to s. 406.11 ~~must~~  
 86 ~~perform an autopsy upon any infant under the age of 1 year who~~  
 87 ~~is suspected to have died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. The~~  
 88 ~~autopsy must be performed within 24 hours after the death, or as~~  
 89 ~~soon thereafter as is feasible. When the medical examiner's~~  
 90 ~~findings are consistent with the definition of sudden infant~~  
 91 ~~death syndrome in subsection (2), the medical examiner must~~  
 92 ~~state on the death certificate that sudden infant death syndrome~~  
 93 ~~was the cause of death.~~

94 (b) The Medical Examiners Commission shall provide for the  
 95 development and implementation of ~~develop and implement~~ a  
 96 protocol for medical and legal investigation of sudden  
 97 unexpected infant death ~~dealing with suspected sudden infant~~  
 98 ~~death syndrome. The protocol must be followed by all medical~~  
 99 ~~examiners when conducting the autopsies required under this~~  
 100 ~~subsection.~~ The protocol may include requirements and standards  
 101 for scene investigations, requirements for specific data,  
 102 ~~criteria for ascertaining cause of death based on the autopsy,~~  
 103 criteria for any specific tissue sampling, and any other  
 104 requirements that the commission considers necessary.

105 (c) A medical examiner is not liable for damages in a  
 106 civil action for any act or omission done in compliance with  
 107 this subsection.

108 ~~(d) An autopsy must be performed under the authority of a~~  
 109 ~~medical examiner under s. 406.11.~~

110 (5) DEPARTMENT DUTIES RELATING TO SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT  
 111 DEATH (SUID) ~~DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS).~~—The Department of Health  
 112 shall:

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113 (a) Collaborate with other agencies in the development and  
114 presentation of ~~the~~ Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) ~~Death~~  
115 ~~Syndrome (SIDS)~~ training programs for first responders,  
116 including those for emergency medical technicians and  
117 paramedics, firefighters, and law enforcement officers.

118 (b) Maintain a database of statistics on reported sudden  
119 unexpected infant deaths ~~SIDS deaths~~, and analyze the data as  
120 funds allow.

121 (c) Serve as liaison and closely coordinate activities  
122 with the Florida SIDS Alliance, ~~including the services related~~  
123 ~~to the SIDS hotline.~~

124 (d) Maintain a library reference list and materials about  
125 SUID ~~SIDS~~ for public dissemination.

126 (e) Provide professional support to field staff.

127 (f) Coordinate the activities of and promote a link  
128 between the fetal and infant mortality review committees of the  
129 local healthy start coalitions, ~~the local SIDS alliance,~~ and  
130 other related support groups.

131 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.