

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" (SUID); revising provisions
 7 relating to training requirements for first
 8 responders; revising requirements relating to
 9 autopsies performed by medical examiners; requiring
 10 the Medical Examiners Commission to provide for the
 11 development and implementation of a protocol for the
 12 medicolegal investigation of SUID; requiring the
 13 Department of Health to consult with certain child
 14 protection teams in the performance of specified
 15 duties with respect to SUID; providing an effective
 16 date.

17
 18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 20 Section 1. Section 383.3362, Florida Statutes, is amended
 21 to read:

22 383.3362 Sudden Unexpected Infant Death ~~Syndrome~~.—

23 (1) FINDINGS AND INTENT.—The Legislature recognizes that
 24 more than 4,500 infants in the United States die suddenly and
 25 unexpectedly of no immediate or obvious cause. According to
 26 statistics from the Department of Health, more than 200 infants
 27 in this state experienced Sudden Unexpected Infant Death in 2010
 28 ~~Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, or SIDS, is a leading cause of~~

29 | ~~death among children under the age of 1 year, both nationally~~
30 | ~~and in this state.~~ The Legislature further recognizes that first
31 | responders to emergency calls relating to such a death need
32 | access to special training to better enable them to recognize
33 | that such deaths may result from natural and accidental causes
34 | or may be caused ~~distinguish SIDS from death caused by criminal~~
35 | acts and to appropriately interact with the deceased infant's
36 | parents or caretakers. At the same time, the Legislature,
37 | recognizing that the primary focus of first responders is to
38 | carry out their assigned duties, intends to increase ~~the~~
39 | awareness of the possible causes of Sudden Unexpected Infant
40 | Death ~~SIDS by first responders,~~ but in no way expand or take
41 | away from their duties. Further, the Legislature recognizes the
42 | importance of a multidisciplinary investigation and standardized
43 | investigative protocols in cases of Sudden Unexpected Infant
44 | Death ~~standard protocol for review of SIDS deaths by medical~~
45 | ~~examiners and the importance of appropriate followup in cases of~~
46 | ~~certified or suspected SIDS deaths.~~ Finally, the Legislature
47 | finds that it is desirable to analyze existing data, and ~~to~~
48 | conduct further research on, the possible causes of Sudden
49 | Unexpected Infant Death ~~SIDS~~ and on how to reduce its incidence
50 | ~~lower the number of sudden infant deaths.~~

51 | (2) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term "Sudden
52 | Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome," or "SUID," "~~SIDS,~~" means the
53 | sudden unexpected death of an infant under 1 year of age while
54 | in apparent good health whose death may have been a result of
55 | natural or unnatural causes ~~which remains unexplained after a~~
56 | ~~complete autopsy, death scene investigation, and review of the~~

57 | ~~ease history. The term includes only those deaths for which,~~
58 | ~~currently, there is no known cause or cure.~~

59 | (3) TRAINING.—

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

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

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

85 (4) AUTOPSIES.—

86 (a) The death of any infant younger than 1 year of age who
87 dies suddenly and unexpectedly while in apparent good health
88 falls under the jurisdiction of the medical examiner as provided
89 in s. 406.11. The medical examiner must perform an autopsy upon
90 any infant under the age of 1 year who is suspected to have died
91 of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. The autopsy must be performed
92 within 24 hours after the death, or as soon thereafter as is
93 feasible. When the medical examiner's findings are consistent
94 with the definition of sudden infant death syndrome in
95 subsection (2), the medical examiner must state on the death
96 certificate that sudden infant death syndrome was the cause of
97 death.

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

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

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

115 (5) DEPARTMENT DUTIES RELATING TO SUID ~~SUDDEN INFANT DEATH~~
 116 ~~SYNDROME (SIDS).~~—The Department of Health, in consultation with
 117 the child protection teams established in the Children's Medical
 118 Services program, shall:

119 (a) Collaborate with other agencies in the development and
 120 presentation of the SUID ~~Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)~~
 121 training programs for first responders, including those for
 122 emergency medical technicians and paramedics, firefighters, and
 123 law enforcement officers.

124 (b) Maintain a database of statistics on reported SUID
 125 ~~SIDS~~ deaths, and analyze the data as funds allow.

126 (c) Serve as liaison and closely coordinate activities
 127 with the Florida SIDS Alliance, ~~including the services related~~
 128 ~~to the SIDS hotline.~~

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

131 (e) Provide professional support to field staff.

132 (f) Coordinate the activities of and promote a link
 133 between the fetal and infant mortality review committees of the
 134 local healthy start coalitions, the Florida ~~local~~ SIDS Alliance,
 135 and other related support groups.

136 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.