

By Senator Bean

4-01308A-14

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Cold Case Initiative Program;  
3           creating s. 943.0412, F.S.; establishing the program  
4           within the Department of Law Enforcement; providing  
5           the purpose of the program; defining the term "cold  
6           case"; requiring the department to develop a database  
7           of cold cases; providing requirements for the  
8           database; providing for a public website that includes  
9           specified information; requiring a law enforcement  
10          agency to provide a list of cold cases; requiring the  
11          department to coordinate with local law enforcement  
12          agencies; requiring the department to adopt rules;  
13          providing an effective date.

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

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17           Section 1. Section 943.0412, Florida Statutes, is created  
18           to read:

19           943.0412 Cold Case Initiative Program.—There is created the  
20           Cold Case Initiative Program within the Department of Law  
21           Enforcement. The purpose of the program is to provide additional  
22           insight and new approaches to previous investigative problems  
23           and to provide the opportunity to apply modern investigative  
24           strategies in order to reinvestigate violent crimes that are  
25           unsolved.

26           (1) As used in this section, the term "cold case" means a  
27           case involving a missing person, unidentified remains, or a  
28           violent crime, including, but not limited to, a homicide or a  
29           sexual battery, which has not been solved for at least 3 years

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30 after the commission of the crime.

31 (2) The department shall develop a database of cold cases  
32 which includes a secure, private database accessible to local  
33 law enforcement agencies within the state only, as well as a  
34 public website that includes limited information such as a  
35 victim's photo, if available, and the victim's race, gender,  
36 height, weight, hair color, eye color, and date of birth and a  
37 brief description and date of the crime. Each law enforcement  
38 agency in the state shall provide the department with a list of  
39 cold cases to be included in the cold case database and annual  
40 updates on resolved cold cases and any additional eligible cold  
41 cases to add to the database. The local law enforcement agency  
42 shall maintain the physical evidence and investigation file for  
43 each cold case unless otherwise agreed by the agency and the  
44 department.

45 (3) The department shall coordinate with the local law  
46 enforcement agency that has primary jurisdiction over each cold  
47 case to select, review, and reinvestigate such cold cases.

48 (4) The department shall adopt rules to administer this  
49 section.

50 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.