

HB 1043

2016

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to criminal justice system interviews
3 of persons with autism, an autism spectrum disorder,
4 or a related developmental disability; providing a
5 short title; encouraging the use of certain state-of-
6 the-art digital devices for the purposes of
7 identification and notification; requiring that
8 certain professionals with experience in treating,
9 teaching, or assisting persons with autism, an autism
10 spectrum disorder, or a related developmental
11 disability be present during an interview of a person
12 with autism, an autism spectrum disorder, or a related
13 developmental disability conducted by specified
14 persons; providing an effective date.

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

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18 Section 1. This act may be cited as "The Wes Kleinert Fair
19 Interview Act."

20 Section 2. (1) The Legislature encourages the use of
21 state-of-the-art digital devices, such as bracelets, necklaces,
22 and pocket cards that are similar to those kept upon the person
23 of individuals who have certain medical conditions or age-
24 related disabilities, to assist law enforcement, correctional,
25 or other public safety officials and other concerned persons in
26 quickly identifying individuals who have been diagnosed with

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27 autism, an autism spectrum disorder, or a related developmental
28 disability and notifying the family members, caregivers, and
29 primary intervention professionals of such individuals when a
30 crisis occurs.

31 (2) A psychiatrist, psychologist, mental health counselor,
32 special education instructor, clinical social worker, or related
33 professional, each of whom must have experience treating,
34 teaching, or assisting patients or clients who have been
35 diagnosed with autism, an autism spectrum disorder, or a related
36 developmental disability, or must be certified in special
37 education with a concentration focused on persons with autism,
38 an autism spectrum disorder, or a related developmental
39 disability, must be present to assist a law enforcement officer,
40 a correctional officer, or another public safety official during
41 all interviews of an individual with autism, an autism spectrum
42 disorder, or a related developmental disability, whether the
43 individual being interviewed is the victim of a crime, the
44 suspect in a crime, or the defendant formally accused of a crime
45 or is otherwise involved in the criminal justice system.

46 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.