

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to missing persons with special needs;
 3 creating s. 937.041, F.S.; creating a pilot project in
 4 specified counties to provide personal devices to aid
 5 search-and-rescue efforts for persons with special
 6 needs; providing for administration of the project;
 7 requiring reports; providing for expiration; providing
 8 an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

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 12 Section 1. Section 937.041, Florida Statutes, is created
 13 to read:

14 937.041 Missing persons with special needs pilot project.-

15 (1) There is created a pilot project in Alachua, Baker,
 16 Columbia, Hamilton, and Suwannee Counties to be known as
 17 "Project Leo" to provide personal devices to aid search-and-
 18 rescue efforts for persons with special needs in the case of
 19 elopement.

20 (2) Participants for the pilot project shall be selected
 21 based on criteria developed by the Center for Autism and Related
 22 Disabilities at the University of Florida. Criteria for
 23 participation shall include, at a minimum, the person's risk of
 24 elopement. The qualifying participants shall be selected on a
 25 first-come, first-served basis by the center to the extent of
 26 available funding within the center's existing resources. The

27 project shall be voluntary and free to participants.

28 (3) Under the pilot project, personal devices to aid
29 search-and-rescue efforts that are attachable to clothing or
30 otherwise worn shall be provided by the center to the sheriff's
31 offices of the participating counties. The devices shall be
32 distributed to project participants by the county sheriff's
33 offices in conjunction with the center. The center shall fund
34 any costs associated with monitoring the devices.

35 (4) The center shall submit a preliminary report by
36 December 1, 2016, and a final report by December 15, 2017, to
37 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
38 the House of Representatives describing the implementation and
39 operation of the pilot project. At a minimum, the report shall
40 include the criteria used to select participants, the number of
41 participants, the age of the participants, the nature of the
42 participants' special needs, the number of participants who
43 elope, the amount of time taken to rescue such participants
44 following elopement, and the outcome of any rescue attempts. The
45 final report shall also provide recommendations for modification
46 or continued implementation of the project.

47 (5) The project shall operate to the extent of available
48 funding within the center's existing resources.

49 (6) This section expires June 30, 2018.

50 Section 2. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the sum of
51 \$100,000 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the
52 Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the University of

CS/HB 11

2016

53 | Florida for the purpose of implementing this act.

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