

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to missing persons with special needs;  
 3           creating s. 937.041, F.S.; creating pilot projects 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 projects;  
 7           requiring reports; providing for expiration; providing  
 8           appropriations; 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  
 15 projects.-

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

21           (b) There is created an additional pilot project in  
 22 Broward and Palm Beach Counties to provide personal devices to  
 23 aid search-and-rescue efforts for persons with special needs in  
 24 the case of elopement.

25           (2) (a) 1. Participants for the pilot project specified in  
 26 paragraph (1) (a) shall be selected based on criteria developed

27 by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the  
28 University of Florida.

29 2. Participants for the pilot project specified in  
30 paragraph (1)(b) shall be selected based on criteria developed  
31 by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at Florida  
32 Atlantic University.

33 (b) Criteria for participation in the pilot projects must  
34 include, at a minimum, the person's risk of elopement. The  
35 qualifying participants shall be selected on a first-come,  
36 first-served basis by the respective centers to the extent of  
37 available funding within their existing resources. Each project  
38 must be voluntary and free of charge to participants.

39 (3) Under each pilot project, personal devices to aid  
40 search-and-rescue efforts which are attachable to clothing or  
41 otherwise worn shall be provided by the respective center to the  
42 sheriff's offices of the participating counties. The devices  
43 shall be distributed to project participants by the county  
44 sheriff's offices in conjunction with the respective center. The  
45 respective center shall fund any costs associated with  
46 monitoring the devices.

47 (4) Each center shall submit a preliminary report by  
48 December 1, 2016, and a final report by December 15, 2017, to  
49 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of  
50 the House of Representatives describing the implementation and  
51 operation of its pilot project. At a minimum, each report must  
52 include the criteria used to select participants, the number of

53 participants, the nature of the participants' special needs, the  
54 number of participants who elope, the amount of time taken to  
55 rescue such participants following elopement, and the outcome of  
56 any rescue attempts. Each final report shall also provide  
57 recommendations for modification or continued implementation of  
58 the project.

59 (5) Each project shall operate to the extent of available  
60 funding within the respective centers' existing resources.

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

62 Section 2. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the sum of  
63 \$100,000 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the  
64 Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the University of  
65 Florida and the sum of \$100,000 is appropriated from the General  
66 Revenue Fund to the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities  
67 at Florida Atlantic University for the purpose of implementing  
68 this act.

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