

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.

9  
 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 Palm  
 22 Beach County to provide personal devices to aid search-and-  
 23 rescue efforts for persons with special needs in the case of  
 24 elopement.

25           (c) There is created an additional pilot project in  
 26 Hillsborough County to provide personal devices to aid search-

27 and-rescue efforts for persons with special needs in the case of  
28 elopement.

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

33 2. Participants for the pilot project specified in  
34 paragraph (1) (b) shall be selected based on criteria developed  
35 by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at Florida  
36 Atlantic University.

37 3. Participants for the pilot project specified in  
38 paragraph (1) (c) shall be selected based on criteria developed  
39 by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the  
40 University of South Florida.

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

47 (3) Under each pilot project, personal devices to aid  
48 search-and-rescue efforts which are attachable to clothing or  
49 otherwise worn shall be provided by the respective center to the  
50 sheriff's offices of the participating counties. The devices  
51 shall be distributed to project participants by the county  
52 sheriff's offices in conjunction with the respective center. The

53 respective center shall fund any costs associated with  
54 monitoring the devices.

55 (4) Each center shall submit a preliminary report by  
56 December 1, 2016, and a final report by December 15, 2017, to  
57 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of  
58 the House of Representatives describing the implementation and  
59 operation of its pilot project. At a minimum, each report must  
60 include the criteria used to select participants, the number of  
61 participants, the nature of the participants' special needs, the  
62 number of participants who elope, the amount of time taken to  
63 rescue such participants following elopement, and the outcome of  
64 any rescue attempts. Each final report shall also provide  
65 recommendations for modification or continued implementation of  
66 the project.

67 (5) Each project shall operate to the extent of available  
68 funding within the respective center's existing resources.

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

70 Section 2. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the sum of  
71 \$100,000 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General  
72 Revenue Fund to the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities  
73 at the University of Florida, the sum of \$100,000 in  
74 nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund  
75 to the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at Florida  
76 Atlantic University, and the sum of \$100,000 in nonrecurring  
77 funds is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the  
78 Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the University of

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79 | South Florida. The funds provided to each center shall be used  
80 | for the purchase of personal devices to aid search-and-rescue  
81 | efforts for persons with special needs in the case of elopement.

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