

By Senator Ring

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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 state-  
21 of-the-art digital devices, such as bracelets, necklaces, and  
22 pocket cards that are similar to those kept upon the person of  
23 individuals who have certain medical conditions or age-related  
24 disabilities, to assist law enforcement, correctional, or other  
25 public safety officials and other concerned persons in quickly  
26 identifying individuals who have been diagnosed with autism, an  
27 autism spectrum disorder, or a related developmental disability  
28 and notifying the family members, caregivers, and primary  
29 intervention professionals of such individuals when a crisis

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30 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.