

By Senator Perry

8-01454-18

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to missing persons with special needs;
3 amending s. 937.041, F.S.; expanding pilot projects
4 for missing persons with special needs to all centers
5 for autism and related disabilities at institutions in
6 the State University System; conforming provisions to
7 changes made by the act; deleting a reporting
8 requirement; 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 amended to
13 read:

14 937.041 Missing persons with special needs pilot project
15 projects.—

16 (1) ~~(a)~~ There is created a statewide pilot project ~~in~~
17 ~~Alachua, Baker, Columbia, Hamilton, and Suwannee Counties,~~ to be
18 known as "Project Leo," through the centers for autism and
19 related disabilities at institutions in the State University
20 System to provide personal devices to aid search-and-rescue
21 efforts for persons with special needs in the case of elopement.

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

26 ~~(c) There is created an additional pilot project in~~
27 ~~Hillsborough County to provide personal devices to aid search-~~
28 ~~and-rescue efforts for persons with special needs in the case of~~
29 ~~elopement.~~

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

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

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

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

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

57 ~~(4) Each center shall submit a preliminary report by~~
58 ~~December 1, 2016, and a final report by December 15, 2017, to~~

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59 ~~the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of~~
60 ~~the House of Representatives describing the implementation and~~
61 ~~operation of its pilot project. At a minimum, each report must~~
62 ~~include the criteria used to select participants, the number of~~
63 ~~participants, the nature of the participants' special needs, the~~
64 ~~number of participants who elope, the amount of time taken to~~
65 ~~rescue such participants following elopement, and the outcome of~~
66 ~~any rescue attempts. Each final report shall also provide~~
67 ~~recommendations for modification or continued implementation of~~
68 ~~the project.~~

69 (4)~~(5)~~ The ~~Each~~ project shall operate to the extent of
70 available funding within the respective center's existing
71 resources.

72 (5)~~(6)~~ This section expires June 30, 2019 ~~2018~~.

73 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.