

By the Committee on Appropriations; and Senator Perry

576-03800-18

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to missing persons; amending s.  
3       683.231, F.S.; abrogating the scheduled repeal of  
4       provisions relating to a citizen support organization  
5       for Florida Missing Children's Day; amending s.  
6       937.041, F.S.; expanding a pilot project for missing  
7       persons with special needs from specified counties to  
8       statewide, through regional autism centers; requiring  
9       each center that opts to join the pilot project to  
10      distribute personal devices to aid search-and-rescue  
11      efforts; requiring that participants be selected based  
12      on criteria developed by the respective participating  
13      centers; revising the requirements for personal  
14      devices used in the pilot project; deleting a  
15      reporting requirement; delaying the scheduled repeal  
16      of the pilot project; conforming provisions to changes  
17      made by the act; providing an effective date.

18  
19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

20  
21       Section 1. Section 683.231, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
22       read:

23       683.231 Citizen support organization for Florida Missing  
24       Children's Day.—

25       (1) The Department of Law Enforcement may establish a  
26       citizen support organization to provide assistance, funding, and  
27       promotional support for activities authorized for Florida  
28       Missing Children's Day under s. 683.23.

29       (2) As used in this section, the term "citizen support

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30 organization" means an organization that is:

31 (a) A Florida corporation not for profit incorporated under  
32 chapter 617 and approved by the Department of State.

33 (b) Organized and operated to conduct programs and  
34 activities; raise funds; request and receive grants, gifts, and  
35 bequests of money; acquire, receive, hold, invest, and  
36 administer, in its own name, securities, funds, objects of  
37 value, or other property, either real or personal; and make  
38 expenditures to or for the direct or indirect benefit of the  
39 department in furtherance of Florida Missing Children's Day.

40 (3) The citizen support organization is not a registered  
41 lobbyist within the meaning of s. 11.045.

42 (4) The citizen support organization is specifically  
43 authorized to collect and expend funds to be used for awards;  
44 public awareness and awards ceremonies, workshops, and other  
45 meetings, including distribution materials for public education  
46 and awareness; travel; Internet and web-hosting services;  
47 administrative costs, including personnel costs; costs of  
48 audits; and costs of facilities rental.

49 (5) The activities of the citizen support organization must  
50 be determined by the department to be consistent with the goals  
51 and mission of the department and in the best interests of the  
52 state and approved in writing by the department to operate for  
53 the direct or indirect benefit of the department. The approval  
54 shall be given in a letter of agreement from the department.

55 (6) (a) The department may fix and collect charges for the  
56 rental of facilities and properties managed by the department  
57 and may permit, without charge, appropriate use of  
58 administrative services, property, and facilities of the

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59 department by the citizen support organization, subject to this  
60 section. The use must be directly in keeping with the approved  
61 purposes of the citizen support organization and may not be made  
62 at times or places that would unreasonably interfere with  
63 opportunities for the public to use such facilities for  
64 established purposes. Any money received from rentals of  
65 facilities and properties managed by the department may be held  
66 in the Operating Trust Fund of the department or in a separate  
67 depository account in the name of the citizen support  
68 organization and subject to the provisions of the letter of  
69 agreement with the department. The letter of agreement must  
70 provide that any funds held in the separate depository account  
71 in the name of the citizen support organization must revert to  
72 the department if the citizen support organization is no longer  
73 approved by the department to operate in the best interests of  
74 the state.

75 (b) The department may adopt rules with which a citizen  
76 support organization must comply in order to use department  
77 administrative services, property, or facilities.

78 (c) The department may not authorize ~~permit~~ the use of any  
79 administrative services, property, or facilities of the state by  
80 a citizen support organization that does not provide equal  
81 membership and employment opportunities to all persons  
82 regardless of race, color, religion, gender, age, or national  
83 origin.

84 (7) The citizen support organization shall provide for an  
85 independent annual financial audit in accordance with s.  
86 215.981. Copies of the audit shall be provided to the  
87 department, the Office of Policy and Budget in the Executive

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88 Office of the Governor, and the Florida Cabinet.

89 ~~(8) This section is repealed October 1, 2018, unless~~  
90 ~~reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.~~

91 Section 2. Section 937.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
92 read:

93 937.041 Missing persons with special needs pilot project  
94 projects.-

95 (1)~~(a)~~ There is created a statewide pilot project ~~in~~  
96 ~~Alachua, Baker, Columbia, Hamilton, and Suwannee Counties,~~ to be  
97 known as "Project Leo," through regional autism centers  
98 established under s. 1004.55. Each center that opts to join the  
99 pilot project shall distribute to provide personal devices to  
100 aid search-and-rescue efforts for persons with special needs in  
101 the case of elopement.

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

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

110 (2) ~~(a)~~<sup>1.</sup> Participants for the pilot project ~~specified in~~  
111 ~~paragraph (1) (a)~~ shall be selected based on criteria developed  
112 by each participating center based on the specific needs of that  
113 center's service area counties prescribed under s. 1004.55 ~~the~~  
114 ~~Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the University of~~  
115 ~~Florida.~~

116 ~~2. Participants for the pilot project specified in~~

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117 ~~paragraph (1) (b) shall be selected based on criteria developed~~  
118 ~~by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at Florida~~  
119 ~~Atlantic University.~~

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

124 ~~(b)~~ Criteria for participation in the pilot project  
125 ~~projects~~ must include, at a minimum, the person's risk of  
126 elopement. The qualifying participants shall be selected on a  
127 first-come, first-served basis by the respective centers to the  
128 extent of available funding within their existing resources. The  
129 ~~Each~~ project must be voluntary and free of charge to  
130 participants.

131 (3) Under the ~~each~~ pilot project, personal devices to aid  
132 search-and-rescue efforts ~~which are attachable to clothing or~~  
133 ~~otherwise worn~~ shall be provided by the respective center to the  
134 sheriff's offices of the participating counties. The devices  
135 shall be distributed to project participants by the county  
136 sheriff's offices in conjunction with the respective center. The  
137 respective center shall fund any costs associated with  
138 monitoring the devices.

139 ~~(4) Each center shall submit a preliminary report by~~  
140 ~~December 1, 2016, and a final report by December 15, 2017, to~~  
141 ~~the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of~~  
142 ~~the House of Representatives describing the implementation and~~  
143 ~~operation of its pilot project. At a minimum, each report must~~  
144 ~~include the criteria used to select participants, the number of~~  
145 ~~participants, the nature of the participants' special needs, the~~

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146 ~~number of participants who elope, the amount of time taken to~~  
147 ~~rescue such participants following elopement, and the outcome of~~  
148 ~~any rescue attempts. Each final report shall also provide~~  
149 ~~recommendations for modification or continued implementation of~~  
150 ~~the project.~~

151 (4)~~(5)~~ The ~~Each~~ project shall operate to the extent of  
152 available funding within the respective center's existing  
153 resources.

154 (5)~~(6)~~ This section expires June 30, 2019 ~~2018~~.

155 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.