HB 591 2018

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; providing an effective 7 date. 8 9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 10 Section 1. Section 937.041, Florida Statutes, is amended 11 12 to read: 13 937.041 Missing persons with special needs pilot 14 projects.-(1) (a) There is created a statewide pilot project in 15 16 Alachua, Baker, Columbia, Hamilton, and Suwannee Counties, to be 17 known as "Project Leo," to provide personal devices to aid 18 search-and-rescue efforts for persons with special needs in the 19 case of elopement through the centers for autism and related 20 disabilities at institutions in the state university system. (b) There is created an additional pilot project in Palm 21 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.

Page 1 of 3

(c) There is created an additional pilot project

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

25

HB 591 2018

Hillsborough County to provide personal devices to aid searchand-rescue efforts for persons with special needs in the case of elopement.

- (2) (a) 1. Participants for the pilot project specified in paragraph (1) (a) shall be selected based on criteria developed by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the University of Florida.
- 2. Participants for the pilot project specified in paragraph (1) (b) shall be selected based on criteria developed by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at Florida Atlantic University.
- 3. Participants for the pilot project specified in paragraph (1)(c) shall be selected based on criteria developed by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the University of South Florida.
- (b) Criteria for participation in the pilot project projects must include, at a minimum, the person's risk of elopement. The qualifying participants shall be selected on a first-come, first-served basis by the respective centers to the extent of available funding within their existing resources. The Each project must be voluntary and free of charge to participants.
- (3) Under the each pilot project, personal devices to aid search-and-rescue efforts which are attachable to clothing or otherwise worn shall be provided by the respective center to the

Page 2 of 3

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

HB 591 2018

sheriff's offices of the participating counties. The devices shall be distributed to project participants by the county sheriff's offices in conjunction with the respective center. The respective center shall fund any costs associated with monitoring the devices.

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

 $\underline{\text{(4)}}$ $\underline{\text{(5)}}$ $\underline{\text{The}}$ $\underline{\text{Each}}$ project shall operate to the extent of available funding within the respective center's existing resources.

(5) (6) This section expires June 30, 2019 2018. Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

Page 3 of 3