



CS/CS/HB 591, Engrossed 1

2018

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to missing persons; amending s.
3 683.231, F.S.; making technical changes; abrogating
4 the scheduled repeal of provisions governing the
5 citizen support organization for Florida Missing
6 Children's Day; amending s. 937.041, F.S.; expanding a
7 project for missing persons with special needs to all
8 centers for autism and related disabilities at state
9 universities; revising requirements for personal
10 devices used in the project; providing an effective
11 date.

12
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14
15 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (6) and subsections
16 (7) and (8) of section 683.231, Florida Statutes, are amended to
17 read:

18 683.231 Citizen support organization for Florida Missing
19 Children's Day.—

20 (6)

21 (c) The department may not authorize ~~permit~~ the use of any
22 administrative services, property, or facilities of the state by
23 a citizen support organization that does not provide equal
24 membership and employment opportunities to all persons
25 regardless of race, color, religion, gender, age, or national



26 origin.

27 (7) The citizen support organization shall provide for an
28 independent annual financial audit in accordance with s.
29 215.981. Copies of the audit shall be provided to the
30 department, the Office of Policy and Budget in the Executive
31 Office of the Governor, and the ~~Florida~~ Cabinet.

32 ~~(8) This section is repealed October 1, 2018, unless~~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

34 Section 2. Section 937.041, Florida Statutes, is amended
35 to read:

36 937.041 Missing persons with special needs pilot
37 projects.—

38 (1)~~(a)~~ There is created a statewide pilot project ~~in~~
39 ~~Alachua, Baker, Columbia, Hamilton, and Suwannee Counties,~~ to be
40 known as "Project Leo," through a center for autism and related
41 disabilities established under section 1004.55. Each center that
42 opts to join the project shall distribute ~~to provide~~ personal
43 devices to aid search-and-rescue efforts for persons with
44 special needs in the case of elopement.

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

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



51 ~~and rescue efforts for persons with special needs in the case of~~
52 ~~elopement.~~

53 (2) ~~(a) 1.~~ Participants for the ~~pilot~~ project ~~specified in~~
54 ~~paragraph (1) (a)~~ shall be selected based on criteria developed
55 by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities based on the
56 specific needs of each center's service area counties prescribed
57 under s. 1004.55 at the University of Florida.

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

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

66 ~~(b)~~ Criteria for participation in the project ~~pilot~~
67 ~~projects~~ must include, at a minimum, the person's risk of
68 elopement. The qualifying participants shall be selected on a
69 first-come, first-served basis by the respective centers to the
70 extent of available funding within their existing resources. The
71 ~~Each~~ project must be voluntary and free of charge to
72 participants.

73 (3) Under the ~~each pilot~~ project, personal devices to aid
74 search-and-rescue efforts ~~which are attachable to clothing or~~
75 ~~otherwise worn~~ shall be provided by the respective center to the



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

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

93 | (4)~~(5)~~ The ~~Each~~ project shall operate to the extent of
94 | available funding within the respective center's existing
95 | resources.

96 | (5)~~(6)~~ This section expires June 30, 2019 ~~2018~~.

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