

1                           A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to sexual assault response teams;  
 3           creating s. 154.012, F.S.; requiring county health  
 4           departments to participate in sexual assault response  
 5           teams coordinated by certified rape crisis centers, if  
 6           such teams exist; authorizing the establishment of  
 7           sexual assault response teams by certified rape crisis  
 8           centers; providing for meetings, duties, and  
 9           membership of sexual assault response teams; requiring  
 10          the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence to provide  
 11          specified technical assistance; requiring sexual  
 12          assault response teams to promote and support the use  
 13          of sexual assault forensic examiners meeting certain  
 14          requirements; 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. Section 154.012, Florida Statutes, is created  
 19 to read:

20           154.012 Sexual assault response teams; membership;  
 21 duties.-

22           (1) The health department in every county in this state,  
 23 or its designee, shall participate in the sexual assault  
 24 response team coordinated by the certified rape crisis center  
 25 serving the county or region, if such sexual assault response

26 | team exists. If a sexual assault response team does not exist in  
 27 | the county, the certified rape crisis center serving the county  
 28 | may coordinate with community partners to establish a county-  
 29 | specific or regional sexual assault response team.

30 | (2) Each sexual assault response team shall:

31 | (a) Meet at least quarterly to ensure a coordinated  
 32 | multidisciplinary response to sexual violence.

33 | (b) Develop a written protocol to govern the team's  
 34 | response to sexual assault which must include all of the  
 35 | following:

36 | 1. Roles and responsibilities of each team member.

37 | 2. Procedures following the report of a sexual assault,  
 38 | including:

39 | a. Law enforcement and immediate crisis response.

40 | b. Health care treatment for a sexual assault victim.

41 | c. Followup services provided to a sexual assault victim.

42 | 3. Procedures for the preservation, secure storage, and  
 43 | destruction of evidence from a sexual assault evidence kit,  
 44 | including length of storage, site of storage, and chain of  
 45 | custody.

46 | 4. Procedures for maintaining the confidentiality of a  
 47 | sexual assault victim during a forensic medical examination.

48 | (c) Promote and support the use of qualified sexual  
 49 | assault forensic examiners who have successfully completed a  
 50 | minimum of 40 hours of specialized training in the provision of

51 trauma-informed medical care and in the collection of evidence  
52 for sexual assault victims.

53 (3) (a) The certified rape crisis center serving the county  
54 in which the sexual assault response team is established, in  
55 collaboration with community partners, shall determine the  
56 membership of each sexual assault response team. At a minimum,  
57 membership must include the following persons or their  
58 designees:

- 59 1. The director of the certified rape crisis center.
- 60 2. A representative from the county health department.
- 61 3. The state attorney.
- 62 4. The chief of a police department located in the county.
- 63 5. The county sheriff.
- 64 6. A forensic sexual assault nurse examiner.
- 65 7. A representative from a hospital emergency department  
66 located in the county or region.

67 (b) If the sexual assault response team serves more than  
68 one county, its membership must include persons listed in  
69 paragraph (a) from each county.

70 (4) The Florida Council Against Sexual Violence shall  
71 provide technical assistance relating to the development and  
72 implementation of the sexual assault response teams.

73 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.