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1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to victims of crimes; amending s.
3	960.001, F.S.; requiring law enforcement personnel to
4	ensure that victims are given information about their
5	right to employ private counsel; encouraging The
6	Florida Bar to develop a registry of attorneys willing
7	to serve as crime victim advocates on a pro bono
8	basis; providing an effective date.
9	
10	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
11	
12	Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
13	960.001, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
14	960.001 Guidelines for fair treatment of victims and
15	witnesses in the criminal justice and juvenile justice systems
16	(1) The Department of Legal Affairs, the state attorneys,
17	the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile
18	Justice, the Florida Commission on Offender Review, the State
19	Courts Administrator and circuit court administrators, the
20	Department of Law Enforcement, and every sheriff's department,
21	police department, or other law enforcement agency as defined in
22	s. 943.10(4) shall develop and implement guidelines for the use
23	of their respective agencies, which guidelines are consistent
24	with the purposes of this act and s. 16(b), Art. I of the State
25	Constitution and are designed to implement s. 16(b), Art. I of
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26 the State Constitution and to achieve the following objectives: 27 Information concerning services available to victims (a) 28 of adult and juvenile crime.-As provided in s. 27.0065, state 29 attorneys and public defenders shall gather information 30 regarding the following services in the geographic boundaries of their respective circuits and shall provide such information to 31 32 each law enforcement agency with jurisdiction within such geographic boundaries. Law enforcement personnel shall ensure, 33 34 through distribution of a victim's rights information card or brochure at the crime scene, during the criminal investigation, 35 36 and in any other appropriate manner, that victims are given, as 37 a matter of course at the earliest possible time, information 38 about:

39 1. The availability of crime victim compensation, if40 applicable;

2. Crisis intervention services, supportive or bereavement
counseling, social service support referrals, and communitybased victim treatment programs;

3. The role of the victim in the criminal or juvenile
justice process, including what the victim may expect from the
system as well as what the system expects from the victim;

47 4. The stages in the criminal or juvenile justice process
48 which are of significance to the victim and the manner in which
49 information about such stages can be obtained;

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5. The right of a victim, who is not incarcerated,

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51 including the victim's parent or guardian if the victim is a 52 minor, the lawful representative of the victim or of the 53 victim's parent or guardian if the victim is a minor, and the 54 next of kin of a homicide victim, to be informed, to be present, 55 and to be heard when relevant, at all crucial stages of a 56 criminal or juvenile proceeding, to the extent that this right 57 does not interfere with constitutional rights of the accused, as provided by s. 16(b), Art. I of the State Constitution; 58

59 6. In the case of incarcerated victims, the right to be
60 informed and to submit written statements at all crucial stages
61 of the criminal proceedings, parole proceedings, or juvenile
62 proceedings; and

63 7. The right of a victim to a prompt and timely 64 disposition of the case in order to minimize the period during 65 which the victim must endure the responsibilities and stress 66 involved to the extent that this right does not interfere with 67 the constitutional rights of the accused; and

68 <u>8. The right of a victim to employ private counsel. The</u> 69 <u>Florida Bar is encouraged to develop a registry of attorneys who</u> 70 <u>are willing to serve on a pro bono basis as advocates for crime</u> 71 <u>victims</u>.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

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