

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to victims of criminal offenses;  
 3           amending s. 960.001, F.S.; providing that private  
 4           counsel retained by a sexual assault victim may be  
 5           present during victim depositions; providing that  
 6           results of a toxicology screening of a victim may not  
 7           be used to prosecute certain offenses; providing an  
 8           effective date.

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 10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 12           Section 1. Paragraph (q) of subsection (1) of section  
 13           960.001, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (x) is  
 14           added to that subsection, to read:

15           960.001 Guidelines for fair treatment of victims and  
 16           witnesses in the criminal justice and juvenile justice systems.—

17           (1) The Department of Legal Affairs, the state attorneys,  
 18           the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile  
 19           Justice, the Florida Commission on Offender Review, the State  
 20           Courts Administrator and circuit court administrators, the  
 21           Department of Law Enforcement, and every sheriff's department,  
 22           police department, or other law enforcement agency as defined in  
 23           s. 943.10(4) shall develop and implement guidelines for the use  
 24           of their respective agencies, which guidelines are consistent  
 25           with the purposes of this act and s. 16(b), Art. I of the State

26 Constitution and are designed to implement s. 16(b), Art. I of  
 27 the State Constitution and to achieve the following objectives:

28 (q) *Presence of victim advocate during discovery*  
 29 *deposition; testimony of victim of a sexual offense.*—At the  
 30 request of the victim or the victim's parent, guardian, or  
 31 lawful representative, private counsel retained by the victim,  
 32 and a ~~the~~ victim advocate designated by the state attorney's  
 33 office, sheriff's office, or municipal police department, or one  
 34 representative from a not-for-profit victim services  
 35 organization, including, but not limited to, rape crisis  
 36 centers, domestic violence advocacy groups, and alcohol abuse or  
 37 substance abuse groups, shall be permitted to attend and be  
 38 present during any deposition of the victim. The victim of a  
 39 sexual offense shall be informed of the right to have the  
 40 courtroom cleared of certain persons as provided in s. 918.16  
 41 when the victim is testifying concerning that offense.

42 (x) Immunity from prosecution for test results from  
 43 victims.—The results of toxicology screening conducted in  
 44 conjunction with a sexual assault forensic examination or upon a  
 45 report of sexual violence may not be used to prosecute the  
 46 victim for a misdemeanor violation of chapter 893.

47 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.