

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public safety; providing a short
3 title; amending s. 20.201, F.S.; establishing a
4 Counterterrorism/Counterintelligence Unit within the
5 Department of Law Enforcement; amending s. 111.09,
6 F.S.; revising the definitions of the terms
7 "affiliated first responder organization" and "first
8 responder" to include additional personnel in
9 provisions relating to peer support for first
10 responders; amending ss. 937.021 and 937.022, F.S.;
11 revising requirements for the reporting of missing
12 persons information; creating s. 943.0322, F.S.;
13 requiring the department to establish and operate a
14 Counterterrorism/Counterintelligence Unit; providing
15 requirements for such unit; amending s. 943.131, F.S.;
16 providing an exemption from certain law enforcement
17 basic training requirements for persons who have
18 served as intelligence or counterintelligence officers
19 or agents for a specified time period; providing
20 requirements for verification of qualifications;
21 creating s. 943.1714, F.S.; requiring certain basic
22 skills training in resilience for law enforcement
23 officers; authorizing first responder amputees to
24 continue to serve as first responders in certain
25 circumstances; creating the Florida Medal of Valor and

26 the Florida Blue/Red Heart Medal; providing
 27 requirements for such medals; providing an effective
 28 date.

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

31
 32 **Section 1.** This act may be cited as the "Florida First
 33 Responder and Florida Public Safety Act."

34 **Section 2. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (2) of**
 35 **section 20.201, Florida Statutes, to read:**

36 20.201 Department of Law Enforcement.—

37 (2) The following programs of the Department of Law
 38 Enforcement are established:

39 (e) Counterterrorism/Counterintelligence Unit.

40 **Section 3. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) of**
 41 **section 111.09, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

42 111.09 Peer support for first responders.—

43 (1) For purposes of this section, the term:

44 (a) "Affiliated first responder organization" includes,
 45 but is not limited to, any of the following organizations:

46 1. Regularly organized volunteer firefighting departments
 47 or associations.

48 2. Regularly organized volunteer ambulance services.

49 3. Combination fire departments, as that term is defined
 50 in s. 633.135(1).

51 4. An organization of prosecutors.

52 5. An organization of crime scene technicians.

53 (b) "First responder" has the same meaning as provided in
 54 s. 112.1815 and includes 911 public safety telecommunicators as
 55 defined in s. 401.465, correctional officers as defined in s.
 56 943.10(2), ~~and~~ correctional probation officers as defined in s.
 57 943.10(3), prosecutors, crime scene technicians, and judges and
 58 their clerks who deal with criminal matters.

59 **Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) and subsection**
 60 **(4) of section 937.021, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

61 937.021 Missing child and missing adult reports.—

62 (1) Law enforcement agencies in this state shall adopt
 63 written policies that specify the procedures to be used to
 64 investigate reports of missing children and missing adults. The
 65 policies must ensure that cases involving missing children and
 66 adults are investigated promptly using appropriate resources.
 67 The policies must include:

68 (c) Standards for maintaining and clearing computer data
 69 of information concerning a missing child or missing adult which
 70 is stored in the Florida Crime Information Center, the National
 71 Crime Information Center, and the National Missing and
 72 Unidentified Persons System. The standards must require, at a
 73 minimum, a monthly review of each case entered into the Florida
 74 Crime Information Center and the National Crime Information
 75 Center, an annual review of each case entered into the National

76 Missing and Unidentified Persons System, and a determination of
 77 whether the case should be maintained in the databases ~~database~~.

78 (4) (a) Upon the filing of a police report that a child is
 79 missing by the parent or guardian, the Department of Children
 80 and Families, or a community-based care provider, the law
 81 enforcement agency receiving the report shall immediately inform
 82 all on-duty law enforcement officers of the missing child
 83 report, communicate the report to every other law enforcement
 84 agency having jurisdiction in the county, and within 2 hours
 85 after receipt of the report, transmit the report for inclusion
 86 within the Florida Crime Information Center and~~7~~ the National
 87 Crime Information Center~~7~~, ~~and the National Missing and~~
 88 ~~Unidentified Persons System~~ databases, and shall, within 90 days
 89 after receipt of the report, transmit the report to the National
 90 Missing and Unidentified Persons System. A law enforcement
 91 agency may not require a reporter to present an order that a
 92 child be taken into custody or any other such order before
 93 accepting a report that a child is missing.

94 (b) Upon the filing of a credible police report that an
 95 adult is missing, the law enforcement agency receiving the
 96 report shall, within 2 hours after receipt of the report,
 97 transmit the report for inclusion within the Florida Crime
 98 Information Center and~~7~~ the National Crime Information Center~~7~~
 99 ~~and the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System~~
 100 databases, and shall, within 90 days after receipt of the

101 report, transmit the report to the National Missing and
102 Unidentified Persons System.

103 **Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section**
104 **937.022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

105 937.022 Missing Endangered Persons Information
106 Clearinghouse.—

107 (3) The clearinghouse shall:

108 (b) Provide a centralized file for the exchange of
109 information on missing endangered persons.

110 1. Every state, county, or municipal law enforcement
111 agency shall submit to the clearinghouse information concerning
112 missing endangered persons.

113 2. Any person having knowledge may submit a missing
114 endangered person report to the clearinghouse concerning a child
115 or adult younger than 26 years of age whose whereabouts is
116 unknown, regardless of the circumstances, subsequent to
117 reporting such child or adult missing to the appropriate law
118 enforcement agency within the county in which the child or adult
119 became missing, and subsequent to entry by the law enforcement
120 agency of the child or person into the Florida Crime Information
121 Center and, ~~the National Crime Information Center, and the~~
122 ~~National Missing and Unidentified Persons System~~ databases. The
123 missing endangered person report shall be included in the
124 clearinghouse database.

125 3. Only the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction

126 over the case may submit a missing endangered person report to
127 the clearinghouse involving a missing adult age 26 years or
128 older who is suspected by a law enforcement agency of being
129 endangered or the victim of criminal activity.

130 4. Only the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction
131 over the case may make a request to the clearinghouse for the
132 activation of a state Silver Alert or a Purple Alert involving a
133 missing adult if circumstances regarding the disappearance have
134 met the criteria for activation of the Silver Alert Plan or the
135 Purple Alert.

136 **Section 6. Section 943.0322, Florida Statutes, is created**
137 **to read:**

138 943.0322 Counterterrorism/Counterintelligence Unit.-

139 (1) The department shall establish and operate a
140 Counterterrorism/Counterintelligence Unit consisting of teams
141 located regionally throughout this state whose primary purpose
142 is to proactively address terrorist threats, foreign
143 intelligence collection efforts, and insider threat actors. The
144 unit shall focus on identifying threats, analyzing patterns of
145 life, gathering actionable intelligence, formulating an
146 effective action plan, and executing arrests or revealing the
147 intent of this state to compel a response, thus avoiding
148 protracted investigations. The unit may conduct direct action
149 missions against identifiable threats on its own or join other
150 units to counteract and stop such threats.

151 (2) The Counterterrorism/Counterintelligence Unit shall
152 consist of seven teams, with one team assigned to each Regional
153 Domestic Security Task Force housed at each of the department's
154 regional operations centers.

155 **Section 7. Subsection (2) of section 943.131, Florida**
156 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

157 943.131 Temporary employment or appointment; minimum basic
158 recruit training exemptions.—

159 (2) If an applicant seeks an exemption from completing a
160 commission-approved basic recruit training program, the
161 employing agency, training center, or criminal justice selection
162 center must verify and document that the applicant has:

163 (a) Successfully completed a comparable basic recruit
164 training program for the discipline in which the applicant is
165 seeking certification in another state or for the Federal
166 Government or a previous Florida basic recruit training program.
167 Further, the employing agency, training center, or criminal
168 justice selection center must verify that the applicant has
169 served as a full-time sworn officer in another state or for the
170 Federal Government for at least 1 year provided there is no more
171 than an 8-year break in employment or was a previously certified
172 Florida officer provided there is no more than an 8-year break
173 in employment, as measured from the separation date of the most
174 recent qualifying employment to the time a complete application
175 is submitted for an exemption under this section. The employing

176 agency, training center, or criminal justice selection center
177 shall submit documentation of satisfaction of this requirement
178 to the commission; ~~or~~

179 (b) Served in the special operation forces for a minimum
180 of 5 years, provided there is no more than a 4-year break from
181 the applicant's special operations forces experience, as
182 measured from the separation date from the special operations
183 forces to the time a complete application for an exemption under
184 this subsection is submitted. The employing agency, training
185 center, or criminal justice selection center shall further
186 verify and document the specific training and experience the
187 applicant received during his or her special operations forces
188 service that is relevant to law enforcement. The employing
189 agency, training center, or criminal justice selection center
190 shall submit documentation of satisfaction of these requirements
191 to the commission; or

192 (c) Served as an intelligence or counterintelligence
193 officer or agent for a minimum of 5 years, provided that there
194 is no more than a 4-year break from the applicant's special
195 operations forces experience, as measured from the separation
196 date from the military or federal government to the time a
197 complete application for an exemption under this subsection is
198 submitted. The employing agency, training center, or criminal
199 justice selection center shall further verify and document the
200 specific training and experience the applicant received during

201 his or her intelligence or counterintelligence service that is
202 relevant to law enforcement. The employing agency, training
203 center, or criminal justice selection center shall submit
204 documentation of satisfaction of these requirements to the
205 commission.

206 **Section 8. Section 943.1714, Florida Statutes, is created**
207 **to read:**

208 943.1714 Basic skills training in resilience.—The
209 commission shall establish and maintain standards for basic
210 skills training in resilience for law enforcement officers,
211 including, but not limited to, mental health, sleep,
212 concussions, trauma, chemical and substance exposure and their
213 effects on health, lead exposure from ammunition, exposure to
214 harmful substances from fires, and the effects of exposure to
215 chemicals in protective gear. All basic skills training for law
216 enforcement officers to obtain initial certification must
217 include basic skills training in resilience.

218 **Section 9. First responder amputees.—An individual who is**
219 certified as a first responder, as defined in s. 112.1815(1),
220 Florida Statutes, who has a physical disability resulting from
221 amputation may continue to serve as a first responder if he or
222 she meets the first responder certification requirements without
223 an accommodation.

224 **Section 10. Florida Medal of Valor and Florida Blue/Red**
225 Heart Medal.—

226 (1) (a) There is created the Florida Medal of Valor for
227 first responders, as defined in s. 112.1815(1), Florida
228 Statutes, and related personnel. The medal may only be awarded
229 to a first responder or related personnel who goes above and
230 beyond the call of duty to save the life of an individual.

231 (b) There is created the Florida Blue/Red Heart Medal. The
232 medal shall be awarded to a law enforcement officer,
233 firefighter, correctional officer, or correctional probation
234 officer who is injured in the line of duty.

235 (2) The Governor or his or her designee may present the
236 awards. The awards shall be issued and administered through the
237 Department of Law Enforcement. A resident of this state or an
238 employing agency in this state must apply for the Florida Medal
239 of Valor or the Florida Blue/Red Heart Medal on behalf of the
240 potential recipient.

241 (3) (a) The application for a medal under this section
242 shall be considered and acted upon by a board charged with the
243 duty of evaluating the appropriateness of an application. The
244 board shall consist of five individuals as follows:

245 1. Three members appointed by the Governor.

246 2. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
247 Representatives.

248 3. One member appointed by the President of the Senate.

249 (b) Members of the board shall serve 2-year terms. Any
250 vacancy on the board must be filled within 3 months. At least

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251 | three board members must be active, retired, or former law
252 | enforcement officers or firefighters.

253 | **Section 11.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.