

By Senator Pizzo

37-01448-26

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to missing endangered persons; creating s. 937.032, F.S.; authorizing hospitals to disclose specified information about admitted patients to law enforcement agencies for a specified purpose and under certain circumstances; authorizing hospitals to search and use hospital records of admitted patients to identify potential matches to persons listed as missing on the Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse; authorizing hospitals to report to the appropriate law enforcement agency if they suspect that an admitted patient of the hospital matches the description of a missing endangered person in the clearinghouse; authorizing the Agency for Health Care Administration to adopt certain rules; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 937.032, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

937.032 Missing endangered persons; hospital records; access and use.—

(1) In accordance with 45 C.F.R. s. 164.512(f)(2), a hospital may disclose any of the following information about an admitted patient to a law enforcement agency, either upon request or pursuant to subsection (2), for the limited purpose of identifying or locating a missing endangered person:

(a) Name and address.

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30                   (b) Date and place of birth.  
31                   (c) Social security number.  
32                   (d) ABO blood type and rh factor.  
33                   (e) Type of injury.  
34                   (f) Date and time of treatment.  
35                   (g) Date and time of death, if applicable.  
36                   (h) A description of distinguishing physical  
37                   characteristics, including height, weight, gender, race, hair  
38                   and eye color, scars, tattoos, and presence or absence of facial  
39                   hair, such as a beard or moustache.

40                   (2) Hospitals may search and use hospital records of  
41                   admitted patients for purposes of identifying potential matches  
42                   to persons listed as missing on the Missing Endangered Persons  
43                   Information Clearinghouse. If it is suspected that an admitted  
44                   patient of the hospital matches the description of a missing  
45                   endangered person in the clearinghouse, the hospital may report  
46                   any of the information specified in subsection (1) to the  
47                   appropriate law enforcement agency.

48                   (3) The Agency for Health Care Administration may adopt  
49                   rules to implement uniform reporting procedures for hospitals  
50                   under this section.

51                   Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.