CS/HB 1043 2016

1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to interviews of suspects or 3 defendants with autism spectrum disorder; providing a short title; creating s. 943.0439, F.S.; providing 4 5 definitions; requiring a qualified professional to 6 assist a law enforcement officer during interviews in 7 certain circumstances; providing an effective date. 8 9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 10 11 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Wes Kleinert Fair 12 Interview Act." 13 Section 2. Section 943.0439, Florida Statutes, is created to read: 14 943.0439 Interviews of suspects or defendants with autism 15 16 spectrum disorder.-17 As used in this section, the term: "Autism spectrum disorder" has the same meaning as 18 19 provided in s. 627.6686. "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as 20 21 provided in s. 943.10. "Qualified professional" means a mental health 2.2 23 counselor, a behavioral therapist, or a related professional 24 with professional experience in teaching, treating, or caring 25 for patients or clients with autism spectrum disorder, or a 26 psychiatrist or psychologist.

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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2/	(2) A qualified professional must be present to assist a
28	law enforcement officer, if practicable, during an interview of
29	an individual if:
30	(a) The individual is a suspect or defendant in a criminal
31	case;
32	(b) The individual has been diagnosed with autism spectrum
33	disorder; and
34	(c) The law enforcement officer knows or should know that
35	the individual has been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.
36	Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.