

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to sexually violent predators; amending s.
 3 394.916, F.S.; providing that a trial in a proceeding to
 4 commit a sexually violent predator may be continued once
 5 if specified conditions are met; providing that no
 6 additional continuances may be granted unless a court
 7 finds that a manifest injustice would occur; creating s.
 8 394.932, F.S.; requiring the Justice Administrative
 9 Commission to maintain a registry of mental health and
 10 other experts; providing for advertising of the registry;
 11 requiring the commission to advise registry users that it
 12 is their responsibility to verify a listed person's
 13 qualifications; providing for electronic publication;
 14 providing an effective date.

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

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 18 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 394.916, Florida
 19 Statutes, is amended to read:

20 394.916 Trial; counsel and experts; indigent persons;
 21 jury.--

22 (2) The trial may be continued once upon the request of
 23 either party for not more than 120 days upon ~~and~~ a showing of
 24 good cause, or by the court on its own motion in the interests
 25 of justice, when the person will not be substantially
 26 prejudiced. No additional continuances may be granted unless the
 27 court finds that a manifest injustice would otherwise occur.

28 Section 2. Section 394.932, Florida Statutes, is created

29 to read:

30 394.932 Registry of experts.--The Justice Administrative
31 Commission shall maintain a registry of mental health and other
32 experts who are available and willing to provide examinations
33 and expert testimony in proceedings held under this part. The
34 commission shall advertise the registry in professional trade
35 publications on a periodic basis and shall list the name and
36 contact information for all persons holding themselves out to be
37 qualified to provide examinations and expert testimony pursuant
38 to this part upon request. It shall be the sole responsibility
39 of parties using the services of a person listed on the registry
40 to verify the qualifications of that person. The commission
41 shall advise all parties that use the registry that it has not
42 verified the professional qualifications of the persons listed
43 on the registry and that it is the party's responsibility to
44 verify the person's professional qualifications. The commission
45 may electronically publish the names and contact information of
46 persons requesting to be listed on the registry.

47 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.