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CHAMBER ACTION
<u>Senate</u>   <u>House</u>
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1   Comm: RCS   .
   04/10/2007 07:08 PM   .
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11 The Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

12 (Haridopolos) recommended the following amendment:

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14   **Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

15   Delete everything after the enacting clause

16

17 and insert:

18   Section 1. <u>Lifesaver program grants.--</u>

19   <u>(1) A state grant program is established to encourage</u>

20 <u>each county in this state to implement a lifesaver program</u>

21 <u>that is modeled after Project Lifesaver, a search-and-rescue</u>

22 <u>program designed to quickly find a lost or wandering person</u>

23 <u>who is mentally impaired due to Alzheimer's disease, autism,</u>

24 <u>Downs syndrome, or other causes. The program uses small</u>

25 <u>transmitters, which are usually worn on a participant's wrist,</u>

26 <u>to electronically track lost or wandering participants. A</u>

27 <u>county sheriff's office or other lead agency is equipped with</u>

28 <u>receivers that track the transmitters.</u>

29   <u>(2) The Department of Law Enforcement shall administer</u>

30 <u>the grant program, manage the state moneys appropriated for</u>

31 <u>the purpose of starting county programs, and serve as a</u>

1 liaison to county lifesaver programs.

2   (3) To apply for state grant moneys to implement a

3 county lifesaver program, a county sheriff's office or other

4 lead agency must submit an application annually by October 1,

5 which includes:

6   (a) An estimate of the number of people who might

7 qualify for lifesaver assistance;

8   (b) An estimate of the startup cost;

9   (c) A statement of the number of personnel available

10 for tracking lost individuals; and

11   (d) The source or sources and the amount of local

12 funds available for matching state grant moneys.

13   (4) The department shall prioritize the grant moneys

14 in accordance with the respective counties' needs for tracking

15 services, the availability of local sources to provide

16 matching funds, and the date the application was received by

17 the department. The maximum grant that a county may receive

18 for startup is $10,000, and the amount awarded must be

19 matched, dollar for dollar, by local funds. Grants awarded to

20 qualifying counties must be prorated in accordance with the

21 availability of state funds.

22   (5) The county sheriff's office or other lead agency

23 shall use the grant money and matching funds to purchase the

24 necessary equipment and training to implement a county

25 lifesaver program. Through its community resource officer, the

26 sheriff's office or other lead agency shall solicit moneys

27 from private sources so as to assure that within 3 years the

28 lifesaver program is self-supporting and no longer requires

29 state funding.

30   Section 2. The sum of $670,000 is appropriated from

31 the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Law Enforcement

1 | for the purpose of awarding grants to counties that qualify

2 | under this act to start a county lifesaver program.

3 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

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6 | ================ T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T ===============

7 | And the title is amended as follows:

8 | Delete everything before the enacting clause

9 |

10 | and insert:

11 | A bill to be entitled

12 | An act relating to an electronic monitoring

13 | program for tracking lost persons; establishing

14 | a grant program to encourage counties to

15 | implement county lifesaver programs; describing

16 | the components of such a program; designating

17 | the Department of Law Enforcement as the

18 | administrative agency; providing for

19 | application for state grant funds and requiring

20 | local matching funds; providing a cap on the

21 | amount of the grant and for prioritizing and

22 | prorating grants; requiring the county

23 | sheriff's office or other lead agency to use

24 | the funds for purchasing equipment and

25 | training; requiring the solicitation of private

26 | moneys and the achievement of financial

27 | independence for the program within a specified

28 | time; providing an effective date.

29 |

30 | WHEREAS, more than 5 million United States residents

31 | have Alzheimer's disease and more than 50 percent of those

1 individuals wander and become lost, and

2   WHEREAS, autism is the fastest-growing serious

3 developmental disability in the United States, and many

4 autistic individuals wander and are attracted to water,

5 causing drowning to be the leading cause of death for children

6 who have autism, and

7   WHEREAS, Project Lifesaver is a search-and-rescue

8 program that can quickly find wandering individuals who have

9 Alzheimer's disease, autism, Downs syndrome, or other mental

10 impairments, and

11   WHEREAS, Project Lifesaver was established in Virginia

12 in 1999 and has been implemented by law enforcement agencies

13 and public safety agencies across the country, and

14   WHEREAS, agencies that sponsor local lifesaver programs

15 have stated that the program materially reduces the time

16 required to find lost persons, often to less than one-half

17 hour after the person is reported missing, within which period

18 there is a 100-percent recovery rate, and

19   WHEREAS, 16 Florida counties and 5 police departments

20 have implemented lifesaver programs, NOW, THEREFORE,

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