

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to knowingly and willfully giving
 3 false information to a law enforcement officer;
 4 amending s. 837.055, F.S.; providing that it is a
 5 third-degree felony for a person to knowingly and
 6 willfully give false information to a law enforcement
 7 officer conducting a missing person investigation
 8 involving a child 16 years of age or younger with the
 9 intent to mislead the officer or impede the
 10 investigation if the child suffers great bodily harm,
 11 permanent disability, permanent disfigurement, or
 12 death; providing criminal penalties; providing an
 13 effective date.

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

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 17 Section 1. Section 837.055, Florida Statutes, is amended
 18 to read:

19 837.055 False information to law enforcement during
 20 investigation.—

21 (1) Whoever knowingly and willfully gives false
 22 information to a law enforcement officer who is conducting a
 23 missing person investigation or a felony criminal investigation
 24 with the intent to mislead the officer or impede the
 25 investigation commits a misdemeanor of the first degree,
 26 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

27 (2) Whoever knowingly and willfully gives false
 28 information to a law enforcement officer who is conducting a

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29 missing person investigation involving a child 16 years of age
30 or younger with the intent to mislead the officer or impede the
31 investigation, and the child who is the subject of the
32 investigation suffers great bodily harm, permanent disability,
33 permanent disfigurement, or death, commits a felony of the third
34 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s.
35 775.084.

36 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2012.