CS/CS/HB 11 2016

1 A bill to be entitled

An act relating to missing persons with special needs; creating s. 937.041, F.S.; creating a pilot project in specified counties to provide personal devices to aid search-and-rescue efforts for persons with special needs; providing for administration of the project; requiring reports; providing for expiration; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 937.041, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

937.041 Missing persons with special needs pilot project.-

(1) There is created a pilot project in Alachua, Baker, Columbia, Hamilton, and Suwannee Counties to be known as

"Project Leo" to provide personal devices to aid search-andrescue efforts for persons with special needs in the case of

elopement.

(2) Participants for the pilot project shall be selected based on criteria developed by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the University of Florida. Criteria for participation shall include, at a minimum, the person's risk of elopement. The qualifying participants shall be selected on a first-come, first-served basis by the center to the extent of available funding within the center's existing resources. The

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project shall be voluntary and free to participants.

- (3) Under the pilot project, personal devices to aid search-and-rescue efforts that are attachable to clothing or otherwise worn shall be provided by the center to the sheriff's offices of the participating counties. The devices shall be distributed to project participants by the county sheriff's offices in conjunction with the center. The center shall fund any costs associated with monitoring the devices.
- December 1, 2016, and a final report by December 15, 2017, to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives describing the implementation and operation of the pilot project. At a minimum, the report shall include the criteria used to select participants, the number of participants, the age of the participants, the nature of the participants' special needs, the number of participants who elope, the amount of time taken to rescue such participants following elopement, and the outcome of any rescue attempts. The final report shall also provide recommendations for modification or continued implementation of the project.
- (5) The project shall operate to the extent of available funding within the center's existing resources.
 - (6) This section expires June 30, 2018.
- Section 2. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the sum of \$100,000 in nonrecurring general revenue funds is appropriated to the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the

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| University | of | Florida | for | the | pur | chase | of | personal | l devi | ices | to |
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| aid search- | -and | d-rescue | eff | orts | for | miss | ing | persons | with | spec | cial |
| needs. | | | | | | | | | | | |

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Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.

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