

## CHAPTER 2018-54

### Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 591

An act relating to missing persons; amending s. 683.231, F.S.; making technical changes; abrogating the scheduled repeal of provisions governing the citizen support organization for Florida Missing Children's Day; amending s. 937.041, F.S.; expanding a project for missing persons with special needs to all centers for autism and related disabilities at state universities; revising requirements for personal devices used in the project; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (6) and subsections (7) and (8) of section 683.231, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

683.231 Citizen support organization for Florida Missing Children's Day.—

(6)

(c) The department may not authorize ~~permit~~ the use of any administrative services, property, or facilities of the state by a citizen support organization that does not provide equal membership and employment opportunities to all persons regardless of race, color, religion, gender, age, or national origin.

(7) The citizen support organization shall provide for an independent annual financial audit in accordance with s. 215.981. Copies of the audit shall be provided to the department, the Office of Policy and Budget in the Executive Office of the Governor, and the ~~Florida~~ Cabinet.

~~(8) This section is repealed October 1, 2018, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.~~

Section 2. Section 937.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

937.041 Missing persons with special needs pilot projects.—

(1)(a) There is created a statewide pilot project in Alachua, Baker, Columbia, Hamilton, and Suwannee Counties, to be known as "Project Leo," through a center for autism and related disabilities established under section 1004.55. Each center that opts to join the project shall distribute to provide personal devices to aid search-and-rescue efforts for persons with special needs in the case of elopement.

~~(b) There is created an additional pilot project in Palm Beach County to provide personal devices to aid search and rescue efforts for persons with special needs in the case of elopement.~~

~~(c) There is created an additional pilot project in Hillsborough County to provide personal devices to aid search and rescue efforts for persons with special needs in the case of elopement.~~

~~(2)(a)1. Participants for the pilot project specified in paragraph (1)(a) shall be selected based on criteria developed by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities based on the specific needs of each center's service area counties prescribed under s. 1004.55 at the University of Florida.~~

~~2. Participants for the pilot project specified in paragraph (1)(b) shall be selected based on criteria developed by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at Florida Atlantic University.~~

~~3. Participants for the pilot project specified in paragraph (1)(c) shall be selected based on criteria developed by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the University of South Florida.~~

~~(b) Criteria for participation in the project pilot projects must 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 respective centers to the extent of available funding within their existing resources. The ~~Each~~ project must be voluntary and free of charge to participants.~~

~~(3) Under the each pilot project, personal devices to aid search and rescue efforts which are attachable to clothing or otherwise worn shall be provided by the respective 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 respective center. The respective center shall fund any costs associated with monitoring the devices.~~

~~(4) Each center shall submit a preliminary report by 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 its pilot project. At a minimum, each report must include the criteria used to select participants, the number of 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. Each final report shall also provide recommendations for modification or continued implementation of the project.~~

~~(4)(5) The ~~Each~~ project shall operate to the extent of available funding within the respective center's existing resources.~~

~~(5)(6) This section expires June 30, 2019 2018.~~

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor March 21, 2018.

Filed in Office Secretary of State March 21, 2018.