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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate . House

. . . . .

The Committee on Criminal Justice (Berman) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Domestic and dating violence 911 alert system feasibility study.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Division" means the Division of Telecommunications within the Department of Management Services.

(b) "Enhanced 911" has the same meaning as in s.

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365.172(3), Florida Statutes.

(c) "Next Generation 911" has the same meaning as in s. 365.172(3), Florida Statutes.

(d) "Public safety agency" has the same meaning as in s. 365.172(3), Florida Statutes.

(e) "Public safety answering point" or "PSAP" has the same meaning as in s. 365.172(3), Florida Statutes.

(2) The division shall consult with enhanced 911 and Next Generation 911 service providers; state, county, and municipal PSAPs; and state and local public safety agencies to conduct a feasibility study regarding the creation of a web-based 911 alert system for use by victims of domestic violence and dating violence which is capable of:

(a) Ensuring real-time data-sharing between PSAPs and law enforcement agencies.

(b) Creating a unique telephone number for each user which will connect the user to a PSAP.

(c) Creating a user-generated numerical code or phrase that can be utilized by the user after contacting a PSAP and that indicates the user's need for immediate law enforcement assistance.

(d) Transmitting specified data to law enforcement agencies when a user calls from his or her unique telephone number and enters his or her numerical code or phrase.

(3) By January 31, 2027, the division shall report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives the results of the feasibility study.

Section 2. Section 741.401, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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741.401 Legislative findings; purpose.—The Legislature finds that persons attempting to escape from actual or threatened domestic violence or dating violence frequently establish new addresses in order to prevent their assailants or probable assailants from finding them. The purpose of ss. 741.401-741.409 is to enable state and local agencies to respond to requests for public records without disclosing the location of a victim of domestic violence or dating violence, to enable interagency cooperation with the Attorney General in providing address confidentiality for victims of domestic violence and dating violence, and to enable state and local agencies to accept a program participant's use of an address designated by the Attorney General as a substitute mailing address.

Section 3. Section 741.402, Florida Statutes, is reordered and amended to read:

741.402 Definitions; ss. 741.401-741.409.—Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, as used in ss. 741.401-741.409, the term:

(1) "Address" means a residential street address, school address, or work address of an individual, as specified on the individual's application to be a program participant under ss. 741.401-741.409.

(4)~~(2)~~ "Program participant" means a person certified as a program participant under s. 741.403.

(2) "Dating violence" means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death, or the threat of any such act, committed by an

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individual who has or has had a continuing and significant relationship of a romantic or intimate nature as determined by the factors listed in s. 784.046(1)(d) with the victim, regardless of whether these acts or threats have been reported to law enforcement officers.

(3) "Domestic violence" means an act as defined in s. 741.28 and includes a threat of such acts committed against an individual in a domestic situation, regardless of whether these acts or threats have been reported to law enforcement officers.

Section 4. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (1) of section 741.403, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

741.403 Address confidentiality program; application; certification.—

(1) An adult person, a parent or guardian acting on behalf of a minor, or a guardian acting on behalf of a person adjudicated incapacitated under chapter 744 may apply to the Attorney General to have an address designated by the Attorney General serve as the person's address or the address of the minor or incapacitated person. To the extent possible within funds appropriated for this purpose, the Attorney General shall approve an application if it is filed in the manner and on the form prescribed by the Attorney General and if it contains all of the following:

(a) A sworn statement by the applicant that the applicant has good reason to believe that the applicant, or the minor or incapacitated person on whose behalf the application is made, is a victim of domestic violence or dating violence, and that the applicant fears for his or her safety or his or her children's safety or the safety of the minor or incapacitated person on

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whose behalf the application is made.

(d) A statement that the new address or addresses that the applicant requests must not be disclosed for the reason that disclosure will increase the risk of domestic violence or dating violence.

Section 5. Section 741.408, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

741.408 Assistance for program applicants.—The Attorney General shall designate state and local agencies and nonprofit agencies that provide counseling and shelter services to victims of domestic violence and dating violence to assist persons applying to be program participants. Assistance and counseling rendered by the Office of the Attorney General or its designees to applicants does not constitute legal advice.

Section 6. Section 741.4651, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

741.4651 Public records exemption; victims of stalking or aggravated stalking.—The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of persons who are victims of stalking or aggravated stalking are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution in the same manner that the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of participants in the Address Confidentiality Program for Victims of Domestic and Dating Violence which are held by the Attorney General under s. 741.465 are exempt from disclosure, provided that the victim files a sworn statement of stalking with the Office of the Attorney General and otherwise complies with the procedures in ss. 741.401-741.409.

Section 7. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 960.001, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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960.001 Guidelines for fair treatment of victims and witnesses in the criminal justice and juvenile justice systems.—

(1) The Department of Legal Affairs, the state attorneys, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Florida Commission on Offender Review, the State Courts Administrator and circuit court administrators, the Department of Law Enforcement, and every sheriff's department, police department, or other law enforcement agency as defined in s. 943.10(4) shall develop and implement guidelines for the use of their respective agencies, which guidelines are consistent with the purposes of this act and s. 16(b), Art. I of the State Constitution and are designed to implement s. 16(b), Art. I of the State Constitution and to achieve the following objectives:

(c) *Information concerning protection available to victim or witness.*—A victim or witness shall be furnished, as a matter of course, with information on steps that are available to law enforcement officers and state attorneys to protect victims and witnesses from intimidation. Victims of domestic violence and dating violence shall also be given information about the address confidentiality program provided under s. 741.403.

Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

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

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to victims of domestic violence and dating violence; defining terms; requiring the

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Division of Telecommunications within the Department of Management Services to consult with certain entities to conduct a feasibility study regarding a specified alert system; providing requirements for such alert system; requiring the division to report to the Legislature the results of the feasibility study by a specified date; amending s. 741.401, F.S.; revising legislative findings to include victims of dating violence; reordering and amending s. 741.402, F.S.; defining the term "dating violence"; amending s. 741.403, F.S.; authorizing victims of dating violence to apply to participate in the Attorney General's address confidentiality program; amending s. 741.408, F.S.; requiring the Attorney General to designate certain entities to assist victims of dating violence applying to be address confidentiality program participants; amending ss. 741.4651 and 960.001, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.