

By Senator Berman

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to victims of domestic violence and dating violence; creating s. 741.317, F.S.; providing a short title; creating the Helping Abuse Victims Escape Now (HAVEN) Coordinating Council within the Department of Law Enforcement; requiring the department to provide certain services; defining terms; specifying the composition of the coordinating council; providing requirements for member appointments, election of a chair, and meetings; requiring that member appointments be completed and the first meeting of the coordinating council be held by a date certain; specifying duties of the coordinating council; requiring the coordinating council to submit certain reports to specified entities and persons, the Governor, and the Legislature by a specified date; providing for funding of the coordinating council; specifying that the act supersedes certain local regulations; providing for expiration of the coordinating council; amending s. 741.402, F.S.; defining the term "dating violence"; amending s. 741.403, F.S.; providing that victims of dating violence may apply to participate in the Attorney General's address confidentiality program; amending ss. 741.465, 741.4651, and 960.001, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Section 741.317, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

741.317 Helping Abuse Victims Escape Now Act; coordinating council; membership; duties; reports; funding; preemption.—

(1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Helping Abuse Victims Escape Now (HAVEN) Act.”

(2) CREATION.—The HAVEN Coordinating Council, a coordinating council as defined in s. 20.03, is created within the Department of Law Enforcement. The Department of Law Enforcement shall provide administrative and staff support services relating to the functions of the coordinating council.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Dating violence” has the same meaning as in s. 784.046(1)(d).

(b) “Domestic violence” has the same meaning as in s. 741.28.

(c) “Dynamic website” means a website that generates webpages in real time and which can change its content and layout depending on various parameters such as user preferences, time of day, and location.

(4) MEMBERSHIP; MEETINGS.—

(a) The HAVEN Coordinating Council is composed of the following members:

1. A representative from the Department of Law Enforcement, appointed by the executive director of the Department of Law Enforcement.

2. A representative from a local law enforcement agency, appointed by the sheriff of the county in which the law

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59 enforcement agency is located.

60 3. A representative from a victim services program,
61 appointed by the secretary of the Department of Children and
62 Families.

63 4. A representative from a domestic violence advocacy
64 group, appointed by the secretary of the Department of Children
65 and Families.

66 5. An expert in technology matters, appointed jointly by
67 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
68 Representatives.

69 6. An attorney in good standing with The Florida Bar and
70 who is a member of the Family Law Section of The Florida Bar,
71 appointed by the president of The Florida Bar.

72 7. Any other representative as determined by the HAVEN
73 Coordinating Council, appointed by the chair of the council.

74 (b) Appointments to the HAVEN Coordinating Council must be
75 made by September 1, 2025. Each member serves at the pleasure of
76 the official who appointed the member. A vacancy on the
77 coordinating council must be filled in the same manner as the
78 original appointment.

79 (c) The coordinating council shall elect a chair from among
80 its members.

81 (d) The first meeting of the coordinating council must be
82 held no later than October 1, 2025. The coordinating council may
83 hold its meetings through teleconference or other electronic
84 means.

85 (5) DUTIES.—The HAVEN Coordinating Council shall:

86 (a) Develop a dynamic website with all of the following
87 functions:

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88 1. The ability to synchronize with law enforcement
89 databases to ensure real-time data sharing and updates.

90 2. The ability to allow a person using the dynamic website
91 to generate a unique phone number from which the user can call a
92 911 emergency telephone number when he or she is in need of
93 assistance from law enforcement.

94 3. The ability for a user to choose a personalized
95 numerical code or phrase that discreetly alerts a law
96 enforcement agency or sheriff's office when the user calls his
97 or her uniquely generated phone number.

98 4. The ability to automatically transmit specified data to
99 a law enforcement agency or sheriff's office when a user calls
100 his or her generated phone number and uses his or her
101 personalized numerical code or phrase, which then triggers the
102 immediate dispatch of a law enforcement officer or sheriff to
103 the user's location.

104 (b) Establish a public awareness campaign to inform the
105 public about the dynamic website and its features.

106 (c) Coordinate with local law enforcement agencies and
107 sheriffs to develop and implement a training program to ensure
108 law enforcement officers are equipped to respond swiftly and
109 effectively to alerts that are generated through the dynamic
110 website.

111 (d) Meet at least quarterly to review relevant data,
112 identify trends, and determine alternative or additional avenues
113 of support for victims of domestic violence or dating violence.

114 (6) REPORTS.—The HAVEN Coordinating Council shall:

115 (a) Provide quarterly reports to local law enforcement
116 agencies and sheriff's offices.

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117 (b) By November 1 of each year, beginning in 2026, submit
118 to the Governor, the Attorney General, the executive director of
119 the Department of Law Enforcement, the President of the Senate,
120 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report that
121 compiles the progress and cost breakdowns relating to the
122 establishment of the dynamic website and, once the dynamic
123 website is functioning, statistics relating to the usage and
124 effectiveness of the website and the effectiveness of the
125 coordinating council.

126 (7) FUNDING.—

127 (a) The Legislature may appropriate funds annually to the
128 Department of Law Enforcement to be used to implement this act.

129 (b) The HAVEN Coordinating Council may apply for and
130 receive grants and accept donations to support the development
131 and maintenance of the dynamic website.

132 (8) PREEMPTION.—This section supersedes any local
133 government regulations on matters covered under this section. A
134 local government or political subdivision may not administer,
135 implement, or enforce any law, rule, regulation, standard, or
136 provision that conflicts with this section.

137 (9) REPEAL.—In accordance with s. 20.052(8), this section
138 is repealed October 2, 2028, unless reviewed and saved from
139 repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

140 Section 2. Section 741.402, Florida Statutes, is amended to
141 read:

142 741.402 Definitions; ss. 741.401-741.409.—Unless the
143 context clearly requires otherwise, as used in ss. 741.401-
144 741.409, the term:

145 (1) "Address" means a residential street address, school

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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.

(2) "Dating violence" means an act as defined in s. 784.046(1) (a) and includes a threat of such acts committed against an individual in a continuing and significant relationship as determined by the factors listed in s. 784.046(1) (d), 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.

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

Section 3. 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:

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(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 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 4. Section 741.465, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

741.465 Public records exemption for the Address Confidentiality Program for Victims of ~~Domestic~~ Violence.—

(1) For purposes of this section, the term "address" means a residential street address, school address, or work address, as specified on the individual's application to be a program participant in the Address Confidentiality Program for Victims of Violence.

(2)~~(1)~~ The addresses, corresponding telephone numbers, and social security numbers of program participants in the Address Confidentiality Program for Victims of ~~Domestic~~ Violence held by the Office of the Attorney General are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, except the information may be disclosed under the following circumstances: to a law enforcement agency for purposes of assisting in the execution of a valid arrest warrant; if directed by a court order, to a person identified in the order; or if the

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certification has been canceled. ~~For purposes of this section, the term "address" means a residential street address, school address, or work address, as specified on the individual's application to be a program participant in the Address Confidentiality Program for Victims of Domestic Violence.~~

(3)~~(2)~~ The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of participants in the Address Confidentiality Program for Victims of ~~Domestic~~ Violence contained in voter registration and voting records held by the supervisor of elections and the Department of State are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, except the information may be disclosed under the following circumstances: to a law enforcement agency for purposes of assisting in the execution of an arrest warrant or, if directed by a court order, to a person identified in the order. This exemption applies to information made exempt by this subsection before, on, or after the effective date of the exemption.

Section 5. 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~~ 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

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with the procedures in ss. 741.401-741.409.

Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 960.001, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.