Florida Volunteer Search and Rescue Assistance Act

Proposed for the 2027 Florida Legislative Session · A summary from Peace River K9 Search and Rescue

THE PROBLEM

When someone goes missing in Florida, the people searching are very often volunteers: K9 handlers, divers, drone pilots, mounted searchers and field teams. They train for years on their own time and buy their own boats, fuel, dogs and equipment.

But there is no statewide list of which volunteer teams are trained, qualified and ready. So too often they are called too late, or not at all, and every hour lost makes a search harder for the family waiting at home.

WHAT THE BILL WOULD DO

1. Create a state registry of qualified volunteer search and rescue teams. Teams that meet clear qualification standards are listed, so sheriffs, police and emergency managers know exactly who is trained and who to call.

2. Fund readiness grants to help registered teams stay trained, equipped and ready. Grants require a local match and limit administrative costs, so the money goes to readiness.

WHY IT MATTERS

- **Faster help:** agencies can call trained, qualified teams in the first critical hours.
- **Trusted standards:** a registry gives agencies and families confidence in the teams that respond.
- **Good value for Floridians:** volunteers donate their time and skills; modest grants keep that capability ready.
- **Every community benefits:** rural and coastal counties gain access to specialized K9, dive and drone teams.

WHERE IT STANDS

Peace River K9 Search and Rescue wrote this proposal and is working to have it introduced in the Florida Legislature for the 2027 session. Details may change once a legislator sponsors and files the bill. When it is filed, we will post the bill number and official text at prsar.org.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. **Find your legislators.** Look up your state senator at flsenate.gov and your state representative at myfloridahouse.gov.
2. **Call or write.** Tell them you support the Florida Volunteer Search and Rescue Assistance Act. A short, polite message is enough.
3. **Share.** Visit prsar.org/until-all-come-home for a message you can copy, and share it with friends and family.