By Senator Wise

20091166 5-01413-09

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to proceeds of forfeitures; amending s. 932.7055, F.S.; increasing the minimum percentage of such proceeds that must go to non-law enforcement organizations; revising the types of organizations that may receive such funds and the purposes for which such funds may be expended; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section 932.7055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

932.7055 Disposition of liens and forfeited property.-

(5)

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(c) Every county or municipality must expend or donate no less than 25 percent of such proceeds for the support or operation of local, community-based nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations. The local law enforcement agency has the discretion to determine which community organizations will receive the designated proceeds. An agency or organization, other than the seizing agency, that wishes to receive such funds shall apply to the sheriff or chief of police for an appropriation and its application shall be accompanied by a written certification that the moneys will be used for an authorized purpose. Such requests for expenditures shall include

a statement describing anticipated recurring costs for the

organization agency for subsequent fiscal years. An agency or

organization that receives money pursuant to this subsection

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shall provide an accounting for such moneys and shall furnish the same reports as an agency of the county or municipality that receives public funds. Such funds may be expended in accordance with the following procedures:

- 1. Such funds may be used only for <u>educational</u>, school resource officer, crime prevention, safe neighborhood, drug abuse education, or drug prevention programs or <u>any such</u> other <u>law enforcement</u> purposes <u>that benefit the community</u> as the board of county commissioners or governing body of the municipality deems appropriate.
- 2. Such funds shall not be a source of revenue to meet normal operating needs of \underline{a} the law enforcement agency.
- 3. After July 1, 1992, and during every fiscal year thereafter, any local law enforcement agency that acquires at least \$15,000 pursuant to the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act within a fiscal year must expend or donate no less than 15 percent of such proceeds for the support or operation of any drug treatment, drug abuse education, drug prevention, crime prevention, safe neighborhood, or school resource officer program(s). The local law enforcement agency has the discretion to determine which program(s) will receive the designated proceeds.

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Notwithstanding the drug abuse education, drug treatment, drug prevention, crime prevention, safe neighborhood, or school resource officer minimum expenditures or donations, the sheriff and the board of county commissioners or the chief of police and the governing body of the municipality may agree to expend or donate such funds over a period of years if the expenditure or

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donation of such minimum amount in any given fiscal year would exceed the needs of the county or municipality for such <u>programs</u> program(s). Nothing in this section precludes the expenditure or donation of forfeiture proceeds in excess of the minimum amounts established herein.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.