

Committee on Criminal Justice

CS/HB 363 — Privileged Communications Made to Crime Stoppers Organizations

by Criminal Justice and Public Safety Subcommittee and Reps. Chambliss, Gregory, and others (CS/CS/SB 1868 by Judiciary Committee; Criminal Justice Committee; and Senator Bean)

The bill amends s. 16.557, F.S., providing that a person who knowingly and willfully attempts to obtain, obtains, or discloses privileged communication, protected information, or information concerning a privileged communication or protected information commits a third degree felony. Section 16.557, F.S., currently provides that only the person who discloses such information commits a third degree felony.

Currently, the disclosure of such information does not apply to certain people. The bill adds an employee, board member, or volunteer of a crime stoppers organization while acting in the course and scope of the person's duties or functions and a person complying with criminal discovery rules to the list of persons to whom this provision does not apply.

The bill also provides immunity from civil liability for a person who, in the course and scope of his or her duties or functions receives, forwards, or acts on a privileged communication.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect October 1, 2021.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 116-0