

By the Committee on Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs; and Senator Mitchell

316-1873-99

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Crime Stoppers funds;
3 creating s. 932.80, F.S.; specifying the
4 purposes for which special county trust fund
5 moneys may be expended by the Sheriff or other
6 law enforcement entity that operates a Crime
7 Stoppers program; amending s. 938.06, F.S.;
8 providing for the surcharge assessed as an
9 additional court cost to be deposited in the
10 special county trust funds for use as provided
11 in s. 932.80; repealing s. 16.555, F.S., which
12 provides for the Crime Stoppers Trust Fund in
13 the Department of Legal Affairs; providing for
14 the distribution of funds in the department's
15 trust fund; providing an effective date.

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

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19 Section 1. Section 932.80, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 932.80 Crime Stoppers funds.--

22 (1) All funds collected by the clerk of court under s.
23 938.06 shall be deposited into a special trust fund of the
24 county. Such moneys and interest accruing thereon, shall be
25 segregated in the special trust fund and may only be expended
26 for:

27 (a) Rewards for information leading to the arrest and
28 prosecution of persons who have committed, or are committing,
29 crimes;

30 (b) Community notification of the presence of sexual
31 predators, sexual offenders, or violent offenders;

1 (c) Crime prevention awareness;
2 (d) Publicity, advertisement and promotion of Crime
3 Stoppers programs and services;
4 (e) Administrative costs of Crime Stoppers programs
5 receiving funds pursuant to subsection (2); and
6 (f) Starting a new Crime Stoppers program in counties
7 where none exists.
8 (2) In any county in which a Crime Stoppers program is
9 operated in cooperation with the sheriff or the person in
10 charge of a county law enforcement agency and a majority of
11 the chiefs of police of municipalities within the county, in
12 consultation with the Florida Association of Crime Stoppers,
13 Inc., all funds relating to s. 938.06 in the county's special
14 trust fund shall be distributed to that Crime Stoppers program
15 for the purposes provided in subsection (1).
16 (3) If a Crime Stoppers program is not operated within
17 a county, the county may expend funds relating to s. 938.06 in
18 the special trust fund for the purposes provided in subsection
19 (1).
20 (4) In order to establish a multi-county Crime
21 Stoppers program, two or more counties may agree to approve a
22 single multi-county Crime Stoppers program that will receive
23 funds related to s. 938.06 from the special trust funds of the
24 respective counties.
25 (5) To ensure compliance with this section, each Crime
26 Stoppers program receiving funds relating to s. 938.06 from a
27 county's special trust fund shall, at the county's option and
28 at Crime Stoppers' expense, be subject to an annual audit of
29 expenditures of moneys from the special trust fund.
30 Section 2. Section 938.06, Florida Statutes, is
31 amended to read:

1 938.06 Additional cost for crime stoppers programs.--

2 (1) In addition to any fine prescribed by law for any
3 criminal offense, there is ~~hereby~~ assessed as a court cost an
4 additional surcharge of \$20 on such fine, which shall be
5 imposed by all county and circuit courts and collected by the
6 clerks of the courts together with such fine. No political
7 subdivision shall be held liable for payment of costs under
8 this section.

9 (2) The clerk of the court shall collect and forward,
10 on a monthly basis, all costs assessed under this section,
11 less \$3 per assessment as a service charge to be retained by
12 the clerk, to a special trust fund in the county and invested
13 in the same manner as other funds ~~the Department of Legal~~
14 ~~Affairs for deposit in the Crime Stoppers Trust Fund~~ to be
15 used as provided in s. 932.80 ~~s. 16.555~~.

16 Section 3. Section 16.555, Florida Statutes, as
17 amended by section 2 of chapter 98-319, Laws of Florida, is
18 repealed.

19 Section 4. All funds in the Department of Legal
20 Affairs' Crime Stoppers Trust Fund as of July 1, 1999, shall
21 be remitted to the counties where the funds were originally
22 collected and shall be deposited into each county's special
23 trust fund to be used as provided in section 932.80, Florida
24 Statutes.

25 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
Senate Bill 1478

The CS differs from the bill in the following ways:
It changes authorized uses of Crime Stopper funds;
It allows counties to create multi-county Crime Stopper programs;
Subjects Crime Stopper programs receiving surcharge revenues to an annual audit; and
It requires that all funds in the Department of Legal Affairs' Crime Stoppers Trust Fund as of July 1, 1999, be remitted to the counties where the funds were collected.