

By Senator Dyer

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to the statewide crime watch program; amending s. 230.23185, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education to create and use uniform numbers for a statewide toll-free school safety hotline; requiring the department to provide public-service announcements regarding the use of the hotline; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (2) and (4) of section 230.23185, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

230.23185 Statewide crime watch program.--

(2)(a) A toll-free school safety hotline shall ~~may~~ be created and maintained to provide an avenue for students to report criminal activity, such as violations of the code of student conduct, and to enhance the safety and welfare of students, faculty, and staff.

(b) The department shall provide public-service announcements to educate students and parents regarding the availability and use of the hotline.

(4)(a) The department shall ~~may~~ contract with the Florida Sheriffs Association or any other appropriate entity to establish and operate a statewide toll-free school safety hotline that uses a uniform single or combination of telephone numbers throughout the state for the purpose of reporting incidents that affect the safety and well-being of the school's population.

1 (b) The toll-free school safety hotline is to be a  
2 conduit for any person to anonymously report activity that  
3 affects the safety and well-being of the school's population.

4 (c) There may not be an award or monetary benefit for  
5 reporting an incident through the toll-free school safety  
6 hotline.

7 (d) The toll-free school safety hotline shall be  
8 operated in a manner that ensures that a designated school  
9 official is notified of a complaint received through the  
10 hotline if the complaint concerns that school. A complaint  
11 that concerns an actionable offense must be reported to the  
12 designated official within a reasonable time after the  
13 complaint is made. An actionable offense is an incident that  
14 could directly affect the safety or well-being of a person or  
15 property within a school.

16 (e) If a toll-free school safety hotline is  
17 established by contract with the Florida Sheriffs Association,  
18 the Florida Sheriffs Association shall produce a quarterly  
19 report that evaluates the incidents that have been reported to  
20 the hotline. This information may be used to evaluate future  
21 school safety educational needs and the need for prevention  
22 programs as the school board considers necessary.

23 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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26 SENATE SUMMARY

27 Requires the Department of Education to create a  
28 statewide toll-free school safety hotline and to provide  
29 public-service announcements regarding its use.  
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