

By Senator Miller

21-221-02

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to neighborhood crime watch
3 programs; authorizing a county sheriff or
4 municipal police department to establish
5 neighborhood crime watch programs; providing
6 for residents and business owners located
7 within the county or municipality to
8 participate in the program; prohibiting the
9 harassment of a participant of a neighborhood
10 crime watch program; providing a penalty;
11 defining the term "harass"; providing an
12 effective date.

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14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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16 Section 1. Establishment of neighborhood crime watch
17 programs.--A county sheriff or municipal police department may
18 establish neighborhood crime watch programs within the county
19 or municipality. The participants of a neighborhood crime
20 watch program shall include, but need not be limited to,
21 residents of the county or municipality and owners of
22 businesses located within the county or municipality.

23 Section 2. Harassment of participant of neighborhood
24 crime watch program prohibited; penalty; definition.--

25 (1) It is a misdemeanor of the first degree for a
26 person to willfully harass a person who is a member of a
27 neighborhood crime watch group for the purpose of intimidating
28 or retaliating against that person for his or her
29 participation in a neighborhood crime watch program.

30 (2) As used in this section, the term "harass" means
31 to engage in a course of conduct directed at a specific person

1 which causes substantial emotional distress in that person and
2 serves no legitimate purpose.

3 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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6 SENATE SUMMARY

7 Authorizes the establishment of neighborhood crime watch
8 programs within a county or municipality by the sheriff
9 or municipal police department. Provides that it is a
10 first-degree misdemeanor to harass a participant of a
11 neighborhood crime watch program for the purpose of
12 intimidating or retaliating against that person for his
13 or her participation in the neighborhood crime watch
14 program.

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