

HB511

2004
CS

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Committee on Public Safety & Crime Prevention recommends the
2 following:

3
4 **Committee Substitute**

5 Remove the entire bill and insert:

6 A bill to be entitled

7 An act relating to neighborhood crime watch programs;
8 authorizing a county sheriff or municipal police
9 department to establish neighborhood crime watch programs;
10 providing for residents and business owners located within
11 the county or municipality to participate in the program;
12 prohibiting the harassment of a participant of a
13 neighborhood crime watch program; providing criminal
14 penalties; defining the term "harass"; providing an
15 effective date.

16
17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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19 Section 1. Establishment of neighborhood crime watch
20 programs.--A county sheriff or municipal police department may
21 establish neighborhood crime watch programs within the county or
22 municipality. The participants of a neighborhood crime watch
23 program shall include, but need not be limited to, residents of

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24 | the county or municipality and owners of businesses located
25 | within the county or municipality.

26 | Section 2. Harassment of participant of neighborhood crime
27 | watch program prohibited; penalty; definition.--

28 | (1) It shall be a misdemeanor of the first degree,
29 | punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, for any
30 | person to willfully harass a member of a neighborhood crime
31 | watch program for the purpose of intimidating or retaliating
32 | against the member for his or her participation in a
33 | neighborhood crime watch program. It shall be a misdemeanor of
34 | the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.
35 | 775.083, for a person to harass a member of a neighborhood crime
36 | program while such member is traveling to or from a neighborhood
37 | crime watch meeting, actively participating in a neighborhood
38 | crime watch meeting or activity, or actively participating in an
39 | ongoing criminal investigation, as designated by a law
40 | enforcement officer.

41 | (2) As used in this section, the term "harass" means to
42 | engage in a course of conduct directed at a specific person
43 | which causes substantial emotional distress in that person and
44 | serves no legitimate purpose.

45 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.