

By Senator Evers

2-01148-14

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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Crime Stoppers Trust Fund;
 3 amending s. 16.555, F.S.; authorizing a county that is
 4 awarded funds from the trust fund to use such funds
 5 for promotional items; making technical changes;
 6 providing an effective date.

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 8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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10 Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 16.555, Florida
 11 Statutes, is amended to read:

12 16.555 Crime Stoppers Trust Fund; rulemaking.—

13 (5) (a) The department shall be the disbursing authority for
 14 the distribution of funding to units of local government that
 15 apply, ~~upon their application~~ to the department for funding
 16 assistance.

17 (b) Funds deposited in the trust fund pursuant to paragraph
 18 (4) (b) shall be disbursed as provided in this paragraph. A ~~Any~~
 19 county may apply to the department under s. 938.06 for a grant
 20 from the funds collected in the judicial circuit in which the
 21 county is located ~~under s. 938.06~~. A grant may be awarded only
 22 to counties that ~~which~~ are served by an official member of the
 23 Florida Association of Crime Stoppers and may ~~only~~ be used only
 24 to support Crime Stoppers and its ~~their~~ crime fighting programs.
 25 Only one such official member is ~~shall be~~ eligible for support
 26 within any county. In order to aid the department in determining
 27 eligibility, the secretary of the Florida Association of Crime
 28 Stoppers shall furnish the department with a schedule of
 29 authorized crime stoppers programs and shall update the schedule

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30 as necessary. The department shall award grants to eligible
31 counties from available funds and shall distribute funds as
32 equitably as possible, based on amounts collected within each
33 county, if ~~when~~ more than one county is eligible within a
34 judicial circuit.

35 (c) A county that is awarded funds under this section may
36 use such funds to purchase and distribute promotional items to
37 increase public awareness and educate the public about Crime
38 Stoppers.

39 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.