

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to classified advertisement websites;  
3           creating s. 501.180, F.S.; defining the term "safe-  
4           haven facility"; requiring a specified number of safe-  
5           haven facilities to be designated in each county based  
6           upon population size; authorizing state buildings, or  
7           alternatively, local governmental buildings, to serve  
8           as safe-haven facilities; limiting the liability of an  
9           entity that provides a safe-haven facility; limiting  
10          actions against the state or local government related  
11          to transactions taking place at a safe-haven facility;  
12          providing an effective date.

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14          WHEREAS, there have been a number of cases throughout this  
15          state in which people selling cellphones, computers, or other  
16          valuable goods through classified advertisement websites have  
17          been targeted by criminals who intend to rob them when they meet  
18          to exchange goods for cash, and

19          WHEREAS, even when the victims of these crimes select  
20          public and populated locations for the transactions that they  
21          feel are safe, such as shopping centers or parks, they still  
22          fall prey to these criminals, and

23          WHEREAS, identifying locations to serve as safe havens for  
24          transactions related to classified advertisement websites will  
25          deter these crimes and provide greater safety throughout the  
26          state, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. Section 501.180, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

501.180 Safe-haven facilities.-

(1) As used in this section, the term "safe-haven facility" means a secure location open to the public for the purpose of conducting a sales transaction involving an item or a service that was offered for sale on a classified advertisement website.

(2) To promote the safety of an individual who is using a classified advertisement website that requires the seller and buyer to meet in person to conduct the transaction, there shall be at least:

(a) One safe-haven facility in each county with a population of less than 250,000 residents;

(b) Two safe-haven facilities in each county with at least 250,000, but less than 800,000 residents; and

(c) Four safe-haven facilities in each county with 800,000 or more residents.

(3) A safe-haven facility must be easily accessible so that an individual is not discouraged from using the location. A state building such as a college or university, Florida Highway Patrol station, or other state office building may serve as a safe-haven facility. A local governmental building, such as a

53 sheriff's office or a county courthouse, may serve as a safe-  
54 haven facility if the local governmental body approves of the  
55 use of such building.

56 (4) An entity or its officers, employees, or agents that  
57 provides a safe-haven facility is not responsible for overseeing  
58 the sales transaction or is not otherwise liable for the actions  
59 of the parties involved in the transaction.

60 (5) An action may not be initiated on a claim against the  
61 state or local government or any of its agencies or subdivisions  
62 based on an incident that occurs during a sales transaction at a  
63 safe-haven facility involving an individual that is not an  
64 officer, employee, or agent of the state or local government or  
65 of its agencies or subdivisions.

66 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.