

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"; authorizing local governmental bodies  
5           to designate a specified number of safe-haven  
6           facilities in each county based upon population size;  
7           authorizing a local governmental body to approve the  
8           use of local government buildings to serve as safe-  
9           haven facilities; limiting the liability of any local  
10          governmental entity that provides a safe-haven  
11          facility; limiting actions against the state or local  
12          government related to transactions taking place at a  
13          safe-haven facility; providing an effective date.

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

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

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

27 | state, NOW, THEREFORE,

28 |

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

30 |

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

33 | 501.180 Safe-haven facilities.-

34 | (1) As used in this section, the term "safe-haven  
35 | facility" means a public local government building approved by  
36 | the local governmental body to be used by the public for the  
37 | purpose of conducting a sales transaction involving an item or a  
38 | service that was offered for sale on a classified advertisement  
39 | website.

40 | (2) Local governmental bodies may designate at least:

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

43 | (b) Two safe-haven facilities in each county with at least  
44 | 250,000 but less than 800,000 residents.

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

47 | (3) A safe-haven facility must be easily accessible so  
48 | that an individual is not discouraged from using the location. A  
49 | local governmental body may approve the use of a public local  
50 | government building, such as a sheriff's office or a county  
51 | courthouse, to serve as a safe-haven facility.

52 | (4) A local governmental entity, or its officers,

53 employees, or agents, that provides a safe-haven facility is not  
54 responsible for overseeing the sales transaction and is not  
55 otherwise liable for the actions of the parties involved in the  
56 transaction or nonparties present at the transaction.

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

63 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.