

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

BILL #: [CS/CS/HB 1053](#)

TITLE: Department of Law Enforcement

SPONSOR(S): Plakon

COMPANION BILL: [SB 1268](#) (Simon)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION: 114 Y's

0 N's

GOVERNOR'S ACTION: Pending

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

CS/CS/HB 1053 makes the following changes related to and affecting the Florida Department of Law Enforcement:

- Repeals sections of law pertaining to a defunct council and accompanying implementation account.
- Expands the scope of and renames the Crimes Against Children Criminal Profiling Program to the Child Exploitation and Crimes Against Children Program to align with current operations.
- Revises membership and reporting requirements of the Domestic Security Oversight Council.
- Revises reporting requirements of the Chief of Domestic Security.
- Increases the annual reimbursement amount available to former handlers or adopters of retired police dogs for veterinary care of such dogs through the Care for Retired Police Dogs Program.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill may have an indeterminate positive fiscal impact on former handlers or adopters of retired police dogs who participate in the Care for Retired Police Dogs Program as it increases the maximum amount of reimbursement that a handler or adopter may request annually for the cost of the dog's veterinary care from \$1,500 to \$5,000. The bill has no fiscal impact on state or local governments.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

CS/CS/HB 1053 makes the following changes related to and affecting the Florida Department of Law Enforcement:

- Repeals sections of law related to the [Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council](#) and the [Violent Crime Investigative Emergency and Drug Control Strategy Implementation Account](#), as both this council and this account are currently unfunded and inactive. (Section [1](#))
- Expands and updates the purpose and scope of the [Crimes Against Children Criminal Profiling Program](#) to align with current operations which focus more on child exploitation and no longer regularly utilize criminal profiling techniques. The bill renames the program to the Child Exploitation and Crimes Against Children Program. (Section [2](#))
- Revises membership of the [Domestic Security Oversight Council](#) to replace a position on the council that was required to be filled by the chair of the Statewide Domestic Security Intelligence Committee, as this committee has been dissolved, with a statewide domestic security intelligence representative selected by the chair of the Florida Fusion Center Executive Advisory Board. (Section [4](#))
- Updates reporting requirements of the Domestic Security Oversight Council to require the council to include suggestions for security enhancements submitted by the [Chief of Domestic Security](#) in its annual report. (Section [4](#))
- Requires the Chief of Domestic Security to submit his or her suggestions for security enhancements to the Domestic Security Oversight Council for inclusion in its annual report, instead of submitting his or her own annual report to the Governor, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. (Section [5](#))
- Increases the annual disbursement available to a former handler or an adopter of a retired police dog from the [Care for Retired Police Dogs Program](#) to reimburse him or her for the cost of the dog's veterinary care from \$1,500 to \$5,000 per dog. (Section [6](#))

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The bill makes other conforming changes. (Sections [3](#), [7](#), and [8](#))

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2025. (Section [9](#))

FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:

PRIVATE SECTOR:

The bill may have an indeterminate positive fiscal impact on former handlers or adopters of retired police dogs who participate in the Care for Retired Police Dogs Program. To the extent that such handlers or adopters are incurring more than \$1,500 in annual veterinary care expenses, the bill may allow them to be reimbursed for more expenses as it increases the amount of reimbursement the handler or adopter may request annually from \$1,500 to \$5,000.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

[Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council](#)

In 1993, the Florida Violent Crime Council (FVCC) was established within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to serve as an advisory council regarding the development and implementation of a statewide strategy to address violent criminal activity.¹ In 2001, the Legislature expanded the scope of FVCC and renamed it the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council (VCDCC), in order to include support for drug control efforts, including investigations of illicit money laundering.²

The VCDCC is tasked with advising the Executive Director of FDLE on the feasibility of law enforcement grant and training programs related to violent crime prevention, drug control, criminal gang elimination, and illicit money laundering investigative efforts or task force efforts.³ Additionally, the VCDCC is tasked with maintaining and disbursing funds from the [Violent Crime Investigative Emergency and Drug Control Strategy Implementation Account](#). Funds in this account are used to provide emergency supplemental funds to state and local law enforcement agencies that are involved in complex and lengthy violent crime investigations, to match funding for multiagency or statewide drug control or illicit money laundering investigative efforts, or to provide funds to implement significant criminal gang investigative efforts as authorized by the Drug Control Strategy and Criminal Gang Committee or the Victim and Witness Protection Review Committee.⁴ The Victim and Witness Protection Review Committee also maintains and disburses funds to reimburse law enforcement agencies for costs associated with providing victim and witness temporary protective or temporary relocation services.⁵

FDLE reports that while the Legislature supports the funding of the VCDCC on an annual basis, it has not provided an appropriation for VCDCC since Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-2009.⁶ FDLE further reports that seven of the 14 statutorily prescribed member positions of the VCDCC are vacant and that due to budgetary constraints, the VCDCC has not funded victim and witness protection reimbursement requests since September 2008.⁷

[Crimes Against Children Criminal Profiling Program](#)

In 1994, the Crimes Against Children Criminal Profiling Program was created within FDLE.⁸ The program is tasked with performing investigative, intelligence, research, and training activities related to crimes against children.⁹ FDLE reports that as technology has advanced and the distribution of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) has become more prevalent, the focus of the program has shifted to internet crimes against children, which involves

¹ Ch. 1993-203, L.O.F.

² Ch. 2001-127, L.O.F.

³ S. [943.031\(5\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

⁴ S. [943.031\(5\)\(b\)2., F.S.](#), and S. [943.042\(1\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

⁵ S. [943.031\(8\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

⁶ FDLE, Agency Analysis of 2025 HB 1053, p. 2 (Mar. 7, 2025)(on file with the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Ch. 1994-265, L.O.F.

⁹ S. [943.041, F.S.](#)

the use of highly technical investigative tools to target the distributors and distribution networks of CSAM, and relies less on profiling techniques.¹⁰

Domestic Security Oversight Council

Section [943.0313, F.S.](#), establishes the Domestic Security Oversight Council (DSOC), which acts as an advisory council providing guidance to the state's regional domestic security task forces and other domestic security working groups; making recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature regarding the expenditure of funds and allocation of resources related to counterterrorism; and cooperating with and providing assistance to the Federal Government in the enforcement of federal immigration laws and domestic security efforts.

The council is currently required to have one voting member who is the chair of the Statewide Domestic Security Intelligence Committee,¹¹ however according to FDLE this committee was abolished several years ago,¹² and has subsequently caused a vacancy in the membership positions of the council that cannot be filled.

As part of its duties, DSOC is required to report annually on its activities on or before December 31 of each calendar year to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the chairs of the committees having principal jurisdiction over domestic security in the Senate and House of Representatives.¹³

Chief of Domestic Security

Pursuant to [s. 943.0311, F.S.](#), the Executive Director of FDLE, or his or her designee, is required to serve as the Chief of Domestic Security (CDS). The CDS is required to:

- Coordinate the efforts of FDLE in the ongoing assessment of the state's vulnerability to, and ability to detect, prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from, acts of terrorism and immigration enforcement incidents within or affecting the state.
- Prepare recommendations for the Governor, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, which are based on ongoing assessments to limit the vulnerability of the state to terrorism and immigration enforcement incidents, and coordinate the collection of such assessments.¹⁴

In furtherance of his or her duties, the CDS must:

- Conduct or cause to be conducted security assessments of buildings, facilities, and structures owned or leased by state agencies, state universities, and community colleges.¹⁵
- Communicate to local governments and water management districts the importance of conducting security assessments of buildings, facilities, and structures they own or lease.¹⁶

The CDS is also required to submit an annual report by November 1 of each year to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives which details suggestions for specific and significant security enhancements of any building, facility, or structure owned or leased by a state agency, state university, community college, local government, or water management district.¹⁷

Care for Retired Police Dogs Program

Section [943.69, F.S.](#), establishes the Care for Retired Police Dogs Program within FDLE to provide funding for veterinary care for retired police dogs. The program currently provides reimbursement up to \$1,500 annually, per dog, for veterinary care to any former handler or adopter of a retired police dog. FDLE receives an annually recurring appropriation from the General Revenue Fund of \$300,000 to implement and administer the program.¹⁸ FDLE reports that, in FY 2022-2023, reimbursements totaled \$67,965.60 for the care of 65 dogs; in FY 2023-2024,

¹⁰ FDLE, *supra*, at note 6, pp. 2-3.

¹¹ S. [943.0313\(1\)\(a\)15, F.S.](#)

¹² FDLE, *supra*, at note 6, p. 3.

¹³ S. [943.0313\(6\), F.S.](#)

¹⁴ S. [943.0311\(1\), F.S.](#)

¹⁵ S. [943.0311\(3\), F.S.](#)

¹⁶ S. [943.0311\(6\), F.S.](#)

¹⁷ S. [943.0311\(4\), F.S.](#)

¹⁸ S. [943.69\(8\), F.S.](#)

reimbursements totaled \$97,564.50 for the care of 89 dogs; and as of February of the current FY, 61 dogs have received care totaling \$56,062.15 in reimbursements.¹⁹

RECENT LEGISLATION:

YEAR	BILL #	HOUSE SPONSOR(S)	SENATE SPONSOR	OTHER INFORMATION
2022	CS/SB 226	Killebrew	Powell	Took effect on July 1, 2022.

¹⁹ FDLE, *supra*, at note 6, p. 3.