

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to local government cyber security;
3 creating s. 282.31855, F.S.; creating the Local
4 Government Cybersecurity Protection Program within the
5 University of South Florida, to be administered by the
6 Florida Center for Cybersecurity; providing the
7 purpose of the grant program; requiring the Florida
8 Center for Cybersecurity to enter into certain data-
9 sharing agreements with local governments and the
10 Florida Digital Service for a specified purpose;
11 requiring the Florida Center for Cybersecurity to
12 administer the grant program based on specified
13 criteria to provide information technology commodities
14 and services to local governments for a specified
15 purpose; requiring the Florida Center for
16 Cybersecurity to contract for information technology
17 commodities and services and award such commodities
18 and services to local governments; establishing
19 preference for certain counties under the grant
20 program; requiring grants to be annually awarded by a
21 certain date; prohibiting grants from being awarded to
22 local governments for more than two consecutive fiscal
23 years; authorizing local governments to purchase
24 information technology commodities and services under
25 specified criteria; providing local governments are

26 responsible for all costs associated with such
 27 purchases; requiring the Florida Center for
 28 Cybersecurity to prepare and submit a specified report
 29 to the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget and the
 30 chairs of the legislative appropriations committees;
 31 authorizing the Florida Center for Cybersecurity to
 32 apply for and accept certain funds or grants;
 33 prohibiting the total administrative expenses to
 34 support the grant program from exceeding a certain
 35 percentage of the total funds appropriated to the
 36 program; providing for future repeal unless saved by
 37 the Legislature through reenactment; providing an
 38 effective date.

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

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42 **Section 1. Section 282.31855, Florida Statutes, is created**
 43 **to read:**

44 282.31855 Local Government Cybersecurity Protection
 45 Program.—

46 (1) The Local Government Cybersecurity Protection Program
 47 is created within the University of South Florida, to be
 48 administered by the Florida Center for Cybersecurity. The
 49 purpose of the grant program is to assist eligible local

50 governments in mitigating and defending against cybersecurity
51 threats, including, but not limited to, ransomware incidents.

52 (2) Under the grant program, the Florida Center for
53 Cybersecurity shall enter into data-sharing agreements with
54 local governments and the Florida Digital Service necessary to
55 facilitate the collection, analysis, and exchange of security-
56 related information to support the detection, prevention, and
57 response to cybersecurity incidents consistent with s. 282.318.

58 (3) (a) The Florida Center for Cybersecurity shall
59 administer the grant program based on objective eligibility and
60 evaluation criteria to provide information technology
61 commodities and services directly to local governments for the
62 purpose of developing and enhancing cybersecurity risk
63 management programs consistent with s. 282.3185.

64 (b) The Florida Center for Cybersecurity shall contract
65 for information technology commodities and services and shall
66 award such commodities and services to local governments
67 eligible under the grant program criteria.

68 (c) In awarding information technology commodities and
69 services, the Florida Center for Cybersecurity shall give
70 preference to fiscally constrained counties as described in s.
71 218.67(1).

72 (d) Grants shall be awarded to eligible local governments
73 by October 1 of each year.

74 (e) A local government may not receive a grant under this
75 section for more than two consecutive fiscal years in which the
76 grant program awards are made.

77 (f) A local government may purchase information technology
78 commodities and services from the contracts managed by the
79 Florida Center for Cybersecurity to administer this section even
80 if it does not apply for or receive a grant award. The local
81 government shall be solely responsible for all costs associated
82 with such purchases.

83 (g) Beginning December 15, 2027, and each year thereafter,
84 the Florida Center for Cybersecurity shall prepare and submit to
85 the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget and the chairs of the
86 legislative appropriations committees a report on the
87 implementation and outcomes of the grant program for the
88 preceding fiscal year. The report must include:

89 1. The total number of grant applications received and
90 number and dollar amount of grants awarded, as well as the
91 number of applications denied, withdrawn, or deemed ineligible.

92 2. A list of the local governments awarded a grant,
93 identifying the cybersecurity commodities or services funded by
94 each grant and their purpose.

95 3. A description of federal and other funds received and
96 used in furtherance of the grant program.

97 4. A detailed accounting of administrative expenses
98 directly relating to the management of the grant program.

99 (4) The Florida Center for Cybersecurity may apply for and
100 accept any funds or grants made available to it by any agency or
101 department of the Federal Government to further the grant
102 program.

103 (5) The total administrative expenses authorized for the
104 management, oversight, and operational support of the grant
105 program by the Florida Center for Cybersecurity may not exceed 4
106 percent of the total funds appropriated to the grant program
107 during a fiscal year.

108 (6) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2031,
109 unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the
110 Legislature.

111 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.