

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to Internet crimes against children  
3 programs; amending s. 943.0411, F.S.; defining terms;  
4 renaming the Online Sting Operations Grant Program  
5 created within the Department of Law Enforcement as  
6 the Internet Crimes Against Children Grant Program;  
7 revising the purpose of the grant program; revising  
8 the authorized uses for grant program funds; creating  
9 s. 943.0421, F.S.; providing a short title; providing  
10 legislative findings; defining the term "task force";  
11 creating the Internet Crimes Against Children Task  
12 Force Funding Program within the Department of Law  
13 Enforcement; specifying how program funds may be used;  
14 requiring specified percentage distribution of program  
15 moneys; authorizing the department to adopt rules;  
16 providing an effective date.

17  
18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

19  
20 **Section 1. Section 943.0411, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
21 **to read:**

22 943.0411 Internet Crimes Against Children ~~Online Sting~~  
23 ~~Operations~~ Grant Program for local law enforcement affiliates  
24 ~~agencies~~ to protect children.—

25 (1) As used in this section, the term "affiliate" means a

26 local law enforcement agency in this state which has a current  
27 memorandum of understanding with an established Internet crimes  
28 against children task force or which has been designated by the  
29 department as being in good standing. As used in this  
30 subsection, the term "Internet crimes against children task  
31 force" means an Internet crimes against children task force  
32 located in this state which is recognized by the United States  
33 Department of Justice.

34 (2) There is created within the department the Internet  
35 Crimes Against Children ~~Online Sting Operations~~ Grant Program to  
36 award grants to local law enforcement affiliates ~~agencies~~ to  
37 support their work to combat online child exploitation and  
38 ~~creation of sting operations~~ to target individuals online  
39 preying upon children or attempting to do so.

40 (3)~~(2)~~ The department shall annually award to local law  
41 enforcement affiliates ~~agencies~~ any funds specifically  
42 appropriated for the grant program to cover expenses related to  
43 their work to combat Internet crimes against children. The funds  
44 may be awarded to cover overtime pay, travel, investigative or  
45 digital forensics training, hardware, or ~~computers, electronics,~~  
46 ~~software, and other related necessary supplies.~~ Grants must be  
47 provided to local law enforcement agencies if funds are  
48 appropriated for that purpose by law. The total amount of grants  
49 awarded may not exceed funding appropriated for the grant  
50 program.

51        ~~(4)(3)~~ The department may establish criteria and set  
52 specific time periods for the acceptance of applications and for  
53 the selection process for awarding grant funds.

54        **Section 2. Section 943.0421, Florida Statutes, is created**  
55 **to read:**

56        943.0421 Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force  
57 Funding Program.—

58        (1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Florida  
59 Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Funding Program  
60 Act."

61        (2) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.—The Legislature finds that:

62        (a) The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force  
63 program, run through the United States Department of Justice,  
64 helps state and local law enforcement agencies develop an  
65 effective response to technology-facilitated child sexual  
66 exploitation and Internet crimes against children. This help  
67 encompasses forensic and investigative components, training and  
68 technical assistance, victim services, and community education.  
69 The program is a national network of 61 coordinated task forces  
70 representing over 5,400 federal, state, and local law  
71 enforcement and prosecutorial agencies.

72        (b) There is a lack of dedicated state resources to combat  
73 Internet crimes against children. As a result, many of the cases  
74 involving Internet crimes are not adequately investigated. The  
75 Legislature intends to create an account dedicated to combating

Internet crimes against children, promoting education on Internet safety to minors and to the public, and rescuing child victims from abuse and exploitation.

(3) DEFINITION.—The term "task force" means an Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force program located in this state which is recognized by the United States Department of Justice.

(4) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Funding Program is created within the department to provide a stable funding source for the task forces.

(a) Funding for the program shall consist of moneys appropriated by the Legislature. Program funds may be used only to support the administration and activities of law enforcement agencies in their efforts to combat Internet crimes against children, including the funding of personnel, overtime pay, training, travel, and technology purchases.

(b) Moneys appropriated to the program must be distributed in the following amounts:

1. Eighty percent divided equally among the task forces;  
and

2. Twenty percent to the department to support its efforts in combating Internet crimes against children.

(5) RULEMAKING.—The department may adopt rules to implement and administer this section.

**Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.