

CS/HB 709

2026

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

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

Section 1. Section 943.0411, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(1) As used in this section, the term:

26 (a) "Affiliate" means a local law enforcement agency in
27 this state which has a current memorandum of understanding with
28 an established Internet crimes against children task force or
29 which has been designated by the department as being in good
30 standing.

31 (b) "Good standing" means a local law enforcement agency
32 in this state that receives CyberTips from one of the task
33 forces and follows Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force
34 Program standards in its investigation of Internet crimes
35 against children.

36 (c) "Internet crimes against children task force" means an
37 Internet crimes against children task force located in this
38 state which is recognized by the United States Department of
39 Justice.

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

46 (3) (2) The department shall annually award to local law
47 enforcement affiliates agencies any funds specifically
48 appropriated for the grant program to cover expenses related to
49 their work to combat Internet crimes against children. The funds
50 may be awarded to cover overtime pay, travel, investigative or

51 digital forensics training, hardware, or computers, electronics,
52 ~~software, and other related necessary supplies.~~ Grants must be
53 provided to local law enforcement agencies if funds are
54 appropriated for that purpose by law. The total amount of grants
55 awarded may not exceed funding appropriated for the grant
56 program.

57 (4)(3) The department may establish criteria and set
58 specific time periods for the acceptance of applications and for
59 the selection process for awarding grant funds.

60 **Section 2. Section 943.0421, Florida Statutes, is created
61 to read:**

62 943.0421 Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force
63 Funding Program.—

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

67 (2) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.—The Legislature finds that the
68 Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program administered
69 by the United States Department of Justice helps state and local
70 law enforcement agencies develop an effective response to
71 technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and Internet
72 crimes against children. This help encompasses forensic and
73 investigative components, training and technical assistance,
74 victim services, and community education. The program is a
75 national network of 61 coordinated task forces representing over

76 5,400 federal, state, and local law enforcement and
77 prosecutorial agencies. The Legislature intends to create an
78 account dedicated to combating Internet crimes against children,
79 promoting education on Internet safety to minors and to the
80 public, and rescuing child victims from abuse and exploitation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

100 (5) RULEMAKING.—The department may adopt rules to

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101 implement and administer this section.

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