

CHAPTER 97-302

Senate Bill No. 156

An act relating to the Violent Crime Emergency Account; amending ss. 943.031, 943.042, F.S.; changing terminology to conform to the renaming of the Violent Crime Investigative Emergency Account as the Violent Crime Emergency Account by ch. 94-215, Laws of Florida; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) and paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 943.031, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, are amended to read:

943.031 Florida Violent Crime Council.—The Legislature finds that there is a need to develop and implement a statewide strategy to address violent criminal activity. In recognition of this need, the Florida Violent Crime Council is created within the department. The council shall serve in an advisory capacity to the department.

(2) TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP; OFFICERS; COMPENSATION; STAFF.—

(d) Members of the council shall serve without compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061. Reimbursements made pursuant to this paragraph shall be paid from the Violent Crime ~~Investigative~~ Emergency Account within the Department of Law Enforcement Operating Trust Fund.

(4) DUTIES OF COUNCIL.—The council shall provide advice and make recommendations, as necessary, to the executive director of the department.

(b) Additionally, the council shall:

1. Advise the executive director on the creation of regional violent crime investigation coordinating teams.

2. Develop criteria for the disbursement of funds from the Violent Crime ~~Investigative~~ Emergency Account within the Department of Law Enforcement Operating Trust Fund.

3. Review and approve all requests for disbursement of funds from the Violent Crime Emergency Account within the Department of Law Enforcement Operating Trust Fund. An expedited approval procedure shall be established for rapid disbursement of funds in emergency situations.

4. Advise the executive director on the development of a statewide violent crime information system.

Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 943.042, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

943.042 Violent Crime Emergency Account within the Department of Law Enforcement Operating Trust Fund.—

(1) There is created a Violent Crime ~~Investigative~~ Emergency Account within the Department of Law Enforcement Operating Trust Fund. The account shall be used to provide emergency supplemental funds to:

(a) State and local law enforcement agencies which are involved in complex and lengthy violent crime investigations;

(b) State and local law enforcement agencies which are involved in violent crime investigations which constitute a significant emergency within the state; or

(c) Counties which demonstrate a significant hardship or an inability to cover extraordinary expenses associated with a violent crime trial.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Became a law without the Governor's approval June 4, 1997.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 3, 1997.