

CHAPTER 2015-136

House Bill No. 193

An act relating to the Crime Stoppers Trust Fund; amending s. 16.555, F.S.; authorizing a county that is awarded a grant from the trust fund to use such funds for the purchase and distribution of promotional items; making technical changes; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 16.555, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16.555 Crime Stoppers Trust Fund; rulemaking.—

(5)(a) The department shall be the disbursing authority for the distribution of funding to units of local government which apply, ~~upon their application~~ to the department for funding assistance.

(b) Funds deposited in the trust fund pursuant to paragraph (4)(b) shall be disbursed as provided in this paragraph. ~~A Any~~ county may apply to the department under s. 938.06 for a grant from the funds collected in the judicial circuit in which the county is located ~~under s. 938.06~~. A grant may be awarded only to counties that ~~which~~ are served by an official member of the Florida Association of Crime Stoppers and may ~~only~~ only be used to support Crime Stoppers and ~~its their~~ crime fighting programs. Only one such official member ~~is~~ shall be eligible for support within any county. ~~In order~~ To aid the department in determining eligibility, the secretary of the Florida Association of Crime Stoppers shall furnish the department with a schedule of authorized crime stoppers programs and shall update the schedule as necessary. The department shall award grants to eligible counties from available funds and shall distribute funds as equitably as possible, based on amounts collected within each county, if ~~when~~ more than one county is eligible within a judicial circuit.

(c) A county that is awarded a grant under this section may use such funds to purchase and distribute promotional items to increase public awareness of, and to educate the public about, Crime Stoppers.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor June 11, 2015.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 11, 2015.