

CHAPTER 2024-72

House Bill No. 1131

An act relating to the Online Sting Operations Grant Program; creating s. 943.0411, F.S.; creating the Online Sting Operations Grant Program within the Department of Law Enforcement to support local law enforcement agencies in creating certain sting operations to protect children; requiring the department to annually award grant funds to local law enforcement agencies; providing funding requirements; authorizing the department to establish criteria and set specific time periods for the acceptance of applications and the selection process for awarding grant funds; providing an effective date.

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

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

943.0411 Online Sting Operations Grant Program for local law enforcement agencies to protect children.—

(1) There is created within the department the Online Sting Operations Grant Program to award grants to local law enforcement agencies to support their creation of sting operations to target individuals online preying upon children or attempting to do so.

(2) The department shall annually award to local law enforcement agencies any funds specifically appropriated for the grant program to cover expenses related to computers, electronics, software, and other related necessary supplies. Grants must be provided to local law enforcement agencies if funds are appropriated for that purpose by law. The total amount of grants awarded may not exceed funding appropriated for the grant program.

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

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor April 10, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 10, 2024.