

CHAPTER 2026-96

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 656

An act relating to the 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 ~~ageneies~~ to protect children.—

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

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

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

(c) “Internet crimes against children task force” means an Internet crimes against children task force located in this state which is recognized by the United States Department of Justice.

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

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

~~investigative or digital forensics training, hardware, or 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.

(4)(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. Section 943.0421, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

943.0421 Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Funding Program.—

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

(2) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.—The Legislature finds that the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program administered by the United States Department of Justice helps state and local law enforcement agencies develop an effective response to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and Internet crimes against children. This help encompasses forensic and investigative components, training and technical assistance, victim services, and community education. The program is a national network of 61 coordinated task forces representing over 5,400 federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies. The 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.

Approved by the Governor May 22, 2026.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 22, 2026.