HB 841 2014

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Crime Stoppers Trust Fund; amending s. 16.555, F.S.; authorizing a county that is awarded funds from the trust fund to use the funds for promotional items; 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 that 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 be used only 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

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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, <u>if</u> when more than one county is eligible within a judicial circuit.

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

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.