The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Criminal Justice

BILL: SB 164

INTRODUCER: Senator Evers

SUBJECT: Crime Stoppers Trust Fund

DATE: February 27, 2015   REVISED:

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE		ACTION
1.	Sumner	Cannon	CJ		**Pre-meeting**
2.			CA		
3.			ACJ		
4.			FP		

I. Summary:

SB 164 amends s. 16.555, F.S., to authorize a county that is awarded a grant from the Crime Stopper Trust Fund to purchase and distribute promotional items to increase public awareness and educate the public about Crime Stoppers.

II. Present Situation:

Section 16.555, F.S., provides a funding mechanism for Crime Stopper programs. The Department of Legal Affairs is required to make applications for all federal and state or private grants which meet the purposes of advancing Crime Stoppers in the state; establish a trust fund to administer grants to fund Crime Stoppers and its crime fighting programs within the units of local government; and administer and disburse the funds.

In 1998, the Legislature added a funding source in s. 938.06, F.S., by imposing a $20 court cost on persons convicted of any criminal offense.[1] The proceeds from the $20 court cost are deposited in a separate account within the trust fund. The clerks retain $3 per assessment as a service charge and forward the money to the Department of Revenue for deposit in the Crime Stoppers Trust Fund. The funds are to be designated according to the judicial circuit where it was collected. However, grants may be awarded only to counties which are served by an official member of the Florida Association of Crime Stoppers.

Crime Stoppers began in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1976. A homicide detective with the Albuquerque Police asked a local television station to broadcast a re-enactment of an unsolved murder on its newscast. A reward was offered and a caller contacted the police the next day with a tip that led the police to the two men who were responsible. The success of this concept

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[1] Ch. 98-319, L.O.F.

launched a program which is now internationally known as "Crime Stopper." There are now over 1,200 Crime Stoppers programs worldwide.[2]

The Central Florida Crime Watch Program, now Central Florida Crimeline, was formed one year after the first Crime Stoppers program. Today there are 32 programs in Florida operating under the name the Florida Association of Crime Stoppers, Inc.[3]

III.   Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 16.555, F.S., to authorize a county that is awarded a grant from the Crime Stopper Trust Fund to purchase and distribute promotional items to increase public awareness and educate the public about Crime Stoppers.

IV.   Constitutional Issues:

A.   Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B.   Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C.   Trust Funds Restrictions:

The bill would allow for trust funds to be used to purchase and distribute promotional items.

V.   Fiscal Impact Statement:

A.   Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B.   Private Sector Impact:

None.

C.   Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI.   Technical Deficiencies:

None.

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[2] Florida Association of Crime Stoppers, *Where It All Started,* http://www.floridacrimestoppers.com/pages/where (last visited February 25, 2015).

[3] Florida Association of Crime Stoppers, *Who We Are,* http://www.floridacrimestoppers.com/pages/who (last visited February 25, 2015).

VII. **Related Issues:**

None.

VIII. **Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends section 16.555 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. **Additional Information:**

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.