

By Senator Evers

2-00188-15

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

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

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

13 16.555 Crime Stoppers Trust Fund; rulemaking.—

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

18 (b) Funds deposited in the trust fund pursuant to paragraph
 19 (4) (b) shall be disbursed as provided in this paragraph. A ~~Any~~
 20 county may apply to the department under s. 938.06 for a grant
 21 from the funds collected in the judicial circuit in which the
 22 county is located ~~under s. 938.06~~. A grant may be awarded only
 23 to counties that ~~which~~ are served by an official member of the
 24 Florida Association of Crime Stoppers and may ~~only~~ be used only
 25 to support Crime Stoppers and its ~~their~~ crime fighting programs.
 26 Only one such official member is ~~shall be~~ eligible for support
 27 within any county. ~~In order~~ To aid the department in determining
 28 eligibility, the secretary of the Florida Association of Crime
 29 Stoppers shall furnish the department with a schedule of

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30 authorized crime stoppers programs and shall update the schedule
31 as necessary. The department shall award grants to eligible
32 counties from available funds and shall distribute funds as
33 equitably as possible, based on amounts collected within each
34 county, ~~if when~~ more than one county is eligible within a
35 judicial circuit.

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

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