

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to crime stoppers programs; amending  
 3           s. 16.555, F.S.; providing for reallocation of  
 4           unencumbered funds returned to the Crime Stoppers  
 5           Trust Fund; specifying permissible uses for funds  
 6           awarded to counties from the trust fund; creating s.  
 7           16.557, F.S.; providing definitions; providing  
 8           criminal penalties for disclosure of privileged  
 9           communications or protected information or information  
 10          concerning such communications or information;  
 11          providing exceptions; providing effective dates.

12  
 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
 14

15           Section 1. Effective July 1, 2019, paragraph (c) is added  
 16          to subsection (4) and paragraph (e) is added to subsection (5)  
 17          of section 16.555, Florida Statutes, to read:

18           16.555 Crime Stoppers Trust Fund; rulemaking.—

19           (4)

20           (c) After initial distribution of funds to the judicial  
 21          circuit in which they were collected, up to 50 percent of the  
 22          unencumbered funds returned to the Crime Stoppers Trust Fund  
 23          from that circuit from a previous grant year, may, in subsequent  
 24          grant years, be reallocated to other judicial circuits for  
 25          special crime stoppers initiatives or other programs of the

26 Florida Association of Crime Stoppers, as prioritized and  
 27 determined by the department and the Florida Association of  
 28 Crime Stoppers.

29 (5)

30 (e) A county that is awarded a grant under this section  
 31 may use such funds to pay rewards for tips that result in any of  
 32 the following:

33 1. An arrest.

34 2. Recovery of stolen property.

35 3. Recovery of illegal narcotics.

36 4. Recovery of the body of a homicide victim.

37 5. Recovery of a human trafficking victim or a missing  
 38 person connected to criminal activity.

39 6. Recovery of an illegal firearm or an illegal weapon on  
 40 a K-12 school campus.

41 7. Prevention of a terrorist act.

42 8. Solving and closing a homicide or other violent felony  
 43 offense that remains unsolved for 1 year or more after being  
 44 reported to a law enforcement agency and that has no viable and  
 45 unexplored investigatory leads.

46 Section 2. Section 16.557, Florida Statutes, is created to  
 47 read:

48 16.557 Crime stoppers organizations; disclosure of  
 49 privileged communications or protected information.-

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

51 (a) "Crime stoppers organization" means a private not-for-  
52 profit organization that collects and expends donations for  
53 rewards to persons who report to the organization information  
54 concerning criminal activity and forwards that information to  
55 appropriate law enforcement agencies.

56 (b) "Privileged communication" means the act of providing  
57 information to a crime stoppers organization for the purpose of  
58 reporting alleged criminal activity.

59 (c) "Protected information" includes the identity of a  
60 person who engages in privileged communication with a crime  
61 stoppers program and any records, recordings, oral or written  
62 statements, papers, documents, or other tangible things provided  
63 to or collected by a crime stoppers organization, a law  
64 enforcement crime stoppers coordinator or his or her staff, or a  
65 law enforcement agency in connection with such privileged  
66 communication.

67 (2) (a) Except pursuant to criminal discovery or as  
68 provided in paragraph (b), a person who discloses a privileged  
69 communication or protected information or any information  
70 concerning a privileged communication or protected information  
71 commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in  
72 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

73 (b) This subsection does not apply to:

74 1. The person who provides the privileged communication or  
75 protected information; or

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76        2. A law enforcement officer or an employee of a law  
77 enforcement agency or the Department of Legal Affairs when  
78 acting within the scope of his or her official duties.

79        (c) This subsection does not limit the right of any  
80 criminal defendant to criminal discovery.

81        Section 3. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
82 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon  
83 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect October 1,  
84 2019.