

State Creates Cybersecurity Grant Program for Counties and Other Local Governments

HB 1085 – Rep. Monique Miller (SB 576 – Sen. Gayle Harrell)

General Bill Summary

CS/CS/HB 1085, as passed by both chambers, created s. 282.31855, F.S., establishing the Local Government Cybersecurity Protection Program within the Florida Digital Service. The program was designed to help eligible local governments mitigate and defend against cybersecurity threats, including ransomware. The Florida Digital Service was directed to administer the program, enter data-sharing agreements with local governments, procure cybersecurity commodities and services, and award those services using objective eligibility and evaluation criteria. The bill gave preference to fiscally constrained counties, required annual awards by December 1, allowed local governments to buy from program contracts even without receiving a grant, and required an annual implementation report beginning December 15, 2027. The program was also scheduled to sunset on July 1, 2031, unless reenacted. The Legislature passed the bill on March 12, 2026, after the House concurred in the Senate amendment as amended.

Potential County Impact

For counties, the bill would have created a new state-run pathway to obtain cybersecurity tools and services, which could be especially helpful for smaller or fiscally constrained counties that lack in-house cyber capacity. The preference for fiscally constrained counties suggests some counties may have had an advantage in receiving assistance. Counties also would have been expected to participate in data-sharing arrangements with the Florida Digital Service to support incident detection, prevention, and response. Even counties that did not receive grants could have purchased from the state-managed contracts, but they would have been responsible for all associated costs. Operationally, the bill pointed toward more standardized cybersecurity support and procurement at the state level, which may have reduced local procurement burdens while also increasing coordination with state cyber officials. Because the bill created a support program rather than a direct mandate on county operations, any county fiscal impact would likely have depended on whether a county pursued grant participation or optional contract purchases.

Effective Date

The bill's effective date was July 1, 2026. The program also was set to repeal on July 1, 2031, unless the Legislature reenacted it.

Primary Statutory References

- s. 282.31855, F.S.