

Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

HB 7071 — Public Corruption

by Rules, Calendar and Ethics Committee and Rep. Workman and others (CS/SB 582 by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee and Senators Gaetz and Altman)

This bill amends the laws relating to public corruption. Specifically, the bill:

- Defines “governmental entity” as an agency or entity of the state, a county, municipality, or special district or any other public entity created or authorized by law;
- Defines “public contractor” as any person who has entered into a contract with a governmental entity or any officer or employee of a person who has entered into a contract with a governmental entity;
- Changes the mens rea element for certain public corruption crimes from “corruptly” to “knowingly and intentionally;”
- Expands the application of the official misconduct law in s. 838.022, F.S., to public contractors; and
- Expands the application of the bid tampering law in s. 838.22, F.S., to public contractors who contract to assist a governmental entity in a competitive procurement.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect October 1, 2016.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 118-0