

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2026 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Criminal Justice

CS/CS/SB 436 — Felony Battery

by Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice; Criminal Justice Committee; and Senator Leek

The bill expands the list of qualifying prior offenses that allow for the reclassification of misdemeanor battery to a third degree felony. Specifically, the bill adds “resisting an officer with violence” to the list of prior convictions that may trigger felony reclassification.

The bill adds battery on a law enforcement officer resulting in bodily injury to the list of qualifying offenses for prison releasee reoffender status. A prison releasee reoffender is a person who committed any of the specified offenses within 3 years of being released from prison. If a court finds a person to be a prison releasee reoffender the defendant is not eligible for sentencing under the sentencing guidelines and must be sentenced to a specified mandatory prison sentence.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect on July 1, 2026.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 110-1