

By Senator Silver

38-885-98

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to bail bond agents and
3 runners; amending s. 648.44, F.S.; increasing
4 the criminal penalty for certain prohibited
5 acts; providing an effective date.

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

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9 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and
10 subsection (9) of section 648.44, Florida Statutes, are
11 amended to read:

12 648.44 Prohibitions; penalty.--

13 (1) A bail bond agent, temporary bail bond agent, or
14 runner may not:

15 (b) Directly or indirectly solicit business in or on
16 the property or grounds of a jail, prison, or other place
17 where prisoners are confined or in or on the property or
18 grounds of any court. The term "solicitation" includes the
19 distribution of business cards, print advertising, or other
20 written information directed to prisoners or potential
21 indemnitors, unless a request is initiated by the prisoner or
22 a potential indemnitor. Permissible print advertising in the
23 jail is strictly limited to a listing in a telephone directory
24 and the posting of the bail bond agency's name, address, and
25 telephone number in a designated location within the jail.

26 (9)(a) Any person who violates any provisions of
27 paragraph (1)(b), paragraph (1)(d), paragraph (1)(e),
28 paragraph (1)(f), paragraph (1)(i), or paragraph (1)(m) or
29 subsection (2) commits a felony of the third degree,
30 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s.
31 775.084.

1 (b) Any person who violates the provisions of
2 paragraph (1)(a), ~~paragraph (1)(b)~~, paragraph (1)(g),
3 paragraph (1)(j), or paragraph (1)(l), subsection (3),
4 subsection (4), or subsection (5) commits a misdemeanor of the
5 first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.
6 775.083.

7 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998.

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SENATE SUMMARY

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Provides that a bail bond agent, temporary bail bond
12 agent, or runner who solicits business at a place where
13 prisoners are confined is guilty of a third-degree felony
rather than a first-degree misdemeanor.

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