

By the Committee on Criminal Justice and Senator Meek

307-1944-99

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to privacy; prohibiting
merchants from directly observing or using
video cameras or other surveillance equipment
to observe customers in dressing rooms, fitting
rooms, changing rooms, or rest rooms; defining
the term "merchant"; providing penalties;
providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. (1) It is unlawful for any merchant to directly observe or make use of video cameras or other surveillance devices to observe or record customers in the merchant's dressing room, fitting room, changing room, or rest room when such room provides a reasonable expectation of privacy. As used in this subsection, the term "merchant" means an owner or operator, or the agent, consignee, employee, lessee, or officer of an owner or operator, of any premises or apparatus used for retail purchase or sale of any merchandise.

(2) Any merchant who violates subsection (1) is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in section 775.082 or section 775.083, Florida Statutes.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
Senate Bill 1706

- Deletes the term "retail sales establishment" and uses in its place the term "merchant."
- Defines the term "merchant" by using the definition contained in section 812.015, F.S.
- Specifies that the merchant's dressing room, fitting room, changing room or rest room must provide a reasonable expectation of privacy in order to subject the merchant to the bill's provisions.