

By Senator Geller

29-507-99

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to collective bargaining;
3 amending s. 30.53, F.S.; prescribing procedures
4 by which specified deputy sheriffs may be
5 designated as public employees who are entitled
6 to collective bargaining; providing an
7 effective date.

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

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11 Section 1. Section 30.53, Florida Statutes, is amended
12 to read:

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30.53 Independence of constitutional officials.--

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(1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the

15 independence of the sheriffs shall be preserved concerning the
16 purchase of supplies and equipment, selection of personnel,
17 and the hiring, firing, and setting of salaries of such
18 personnel; provided that nothing herein contained shall
19 restrict the establishment or operation of any civil service
20 system or civil service board created pursuant to s. 14, Art.
21 III, of the Constitution of Florida, provided, further that
22 nothing contained in ss. 30.48-30.53 shall be construed to
23 alter, modify or change in any manner any civil service system
24 or board, state or local, now in existence or hereafter
25 established.

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(2)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to

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the contrary, a sheriff may designate full-time deputy

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sheriffs below the rank of major to be public employees as

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defined in part II of chapter 447, who thereafter are entitled

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to all rights, privileges, and obligations granted by law,

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including the right to organize and collectively bargain under

1 part II of chapter 447. Alternatively by local option,
2 notwithstanding any other provision of the law to the
3 contrary, in counties having a population of 100,000 or more,
4 full-time deputy sheriffs below the rank of major are
5 designated as public employees as defined in part II of
6 chapter 447, who thereafter are entitled to all rights,
7 privileges, and obligations granted by law, including the
8 right to organize and collectively bargain under part II of
9 chapter 447, if a majority of those voting in a county-wide
10 referendum vote affirmatively to grant such status to the
11 deputy sheriffs. Once granted through act of the sheriff or
12 referendum of the people, such status as public employees and
13 the right to engage in collective bargaining is irrevocable.

14 (b) This section may not be construed to limit or
15 otherwise alter the existing status of deputies as public
16 employees and their right to engage in collective bargaining
17 in Broward, Miami-Dade, Duval, Escambia, and Volusia counties;
18 nor does this section limit the right of deputies to secure
19 public-employee status and collective bargaining rights
20 through general or special acts of the Legislature.

21 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
22 law.

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25 SENATE SUMMARY

26 Grants specified deputy sheriffs the status of public
27 employees who are entitled to collective bargaining
28 either through action by a sheriff or by local option
29 referendum.
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