

STORAGE NAME: h0363.ca

DATE: February 2, 1999

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
ANALYSIS**

BILL #: HB 363

RELATING TO: Local Governments/Buildings/Public Nuisance

SPONSOR(S): Representatives Stafford and others

COMPANION BILL(S): SB 966(i)

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:

- (1) COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
 - (2) CRIME & PUNISHMENT
 - (3) CRIMINAL JUSTICE APPROPRIATIONS
 - (4)
 - (5)
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I. SUMMARY:

This bill increases local governments' authority to: (1) declare that dealing in stolen property in any place or premises is a public nuisance, and (2) abate such nuisance. There appears to be no significant fiscal impact in implementing the provisions of this bill.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

Chapter 893, Florida Statutes, addresses drug-abuse prevention and control. Specifically, s. 893.138, Florida Statutes, 1998 Florida Supplement, establishes instances where local governments may declare certain illegal activity a public nuisance and abate such activity. Examples of such activities include prostitution and the sale and possession of illegal drugs.

This section authorizes the creation of administrative boards to hear certain public nuisance complaints and impose administrative fines and other non-criminal penalties against owners of premises experiencing public nuisance activity as described in s. 893.138, Florida Statutes, 1998 Florida Supplement. This section is intended to promote, protect, and improve the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the state's counties and municipalities.

The provisions of s. 893.138, Florida Statutes, 1998 Florida Supplements, effectively compels real property owners to be vigilant about preventing or abating activities related to drug-abuse, prostitution, and criminal street gangs .

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The bill provides that "any place or premises used for the purpose of dealing in stolen property may be declared to be a public nuisance." Such activity may be abated by local governments. This provision increases the existing list of activities that can be declared a public nuisance and abated by local governments.

The bill does not define "stolen property." However, s. 812.012(6), Florida Statutes, defines "stolen property" as "property that has been the subject of any criminally wrongful taking."

C. APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES:

1. Less Government:

a. Does the bill create, increase or reduce, either directly or indirectly:

(1) any authority to make rules or adjudicate disputes?

No.

(2) any new responsibilities, obligations or work for other governmental or private organizations or individuals?

Yes. Counties and municipalities may hear additional complaints pertaining to stolen goods activity. In areas, where applicable, owners of places or premises must take necessary steps to abate activity involving stolen property from their property pursuant to s. 893.138, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement.

- (3) any entitlement to a government service or benefit?

Yes. Florida citizens with valid nuisance complaints under s. 893.138, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, are entitled to have their complaints regarding stolen property activity heard by an administrative board where established by any county or municipality for that purpose.

- b. If an agency or program is eliminated or reduced:

- (1) what responsibilities, costs and powers are passed on to another program, agency, level of government, or private entity?

Not applicable.

- (2) what is the cost of such responsibility at the new level/agency?

Not applicable.

- (3) how is the new agency accountable to the people governed?

Not applicable.

2. Lower Taxes:

- a. Does the bill increase anyone's taxes?

No.

- b. Does the bill require or authorize an increase in any fees?

No.

- c. Does the bill reduce total taxes, both rates and revenues?

No.

- d. Does the bill reduce total fees, both rates and revenues?

No.

- e. Does the bill authorize any fee or tax increase by any local government?

No.

3. Personal Responsibility:

- a. Does the bill reduce or eliminate an entitlement to government services or subsidy?

No.

- b. Do the beneficiaries of the legislation directly pay any portion of the cost of implementation and operation?

No.

4. Individual Freedom:

- a. Does the bill increase the allowable options of individuals or private organizations/associations to conduct their own affairs?

Yes. It allows the citizens of the state to be proactive in promoting the health and safety of their communities from illegal activities relating to stolen property.

- b. Does the bill prohibit, or create new government interference with, any presently lawful activity?

No.

5. Family Empowerment:

- a. If the bill purports to provide services to families or children:

- (1) Who evaluates the family's needs?

Not applicable.

- (2) Who makes the decisions?

Not applicable.

- (3) Are private alternatives permitted?

Not applicable.

- (4) Are families required to participate in a program?

Not applicable.

- (5) Are families penalized for not participating in a program?

Not applicable.

- b. Does the bill directly affect the legal rights and obligations between family members?

Not applicable.

- c. If the bill creates or changes a program providing services to families or children, in which of the following does the bill vest control of the program, either through direct participation or appointment authority:

- (1) parents and guardians?

Not applicable.

- (2) service providers?

Not applicable.

- (3) government employees/agencies?

Not applicable.

D. STATUTE(S) AFFECTED:

Section 893.138, Florida Statutes, 1998 Florida Supplement.

E. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

Section 1. Amends s. 893.138, Florida Statutes, 1998 Florida Supplement;: increases county and municipal authority to abate stolen-property related to public nuisances.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 1999.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE AGENCIES/STATE FUNDS:

- 1. Non-recurring Effects:

None.

- 2. Recurring Effects:

None.

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

None.

4. Total Revenues and Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS A WHOLE:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

The increased authority to counties and municipalities has little or no impact on the non-recurring effects since participating local governments already have administrative boards to hear nuisance complaints under s. 893.139, Florida Statutes, 1998 Florida Supplement.

2. Recurring Effects:

Indeterminate. It is not known whether or not the bill will significantly increase the case load for complaints under this bill for all counties and municipalities with public nuisance administrative boards. However, the nuisance administrative boards from some large municipalities do not expect a significant case load increase for complaints under this bill. (See Fiscal Comments)

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

1. Direct Private Sector Costs:

None.

2. Direct Private Sector Benefits:

The bill allows individuals of the state to be proactive in promoting the health and safety of their communities from illegal activities relating to stolen property.

3. Effects on Competition, Private Enterprise and Employment Markets:

Crime-free neighborhoods will help maintain or increase real property values in communities with nuisance administrative boards. More people may frequent and spend in businesses that abate nuisances as prescribed in s. 893.138, Florida Statutes, 1998 Florida Supplement.

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D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

Public nuisance administrative boards from some of the large municipalities do not expect this bill to increase costs. Only an increase of one to two cases per year are anticipated due to this bill.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds. Counties and municipalities have the option of creating administrative boards pursuant to s. 893.138, Florida Statutes, 1998 Florida Supplement.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

The bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

The bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

As a technical matter, the catchline in the bill fails to reflect the additional nuisance of dealing in stolen property. The existing catchline includes all nuisances covered under s. 893.138, Florida Statutes, 1998 Florida Supplement.

The bill does not define "stolen property." However, s. 812.012(6), Florida Statutes, defines "stolen property" as "property that has been the subject of any criminally wrongful taking."

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

None.

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

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