

**STORAGE NAME:** h0917.hcl

**DATE:** March 10, 1999

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE LICENSING & REGULATION  
ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 917

**RELATING TO:** Medical treatment of certain wounds

**SPONSOR(S):** Representative Cantens

**COMPANION BILL(S):** SB 1182(s)

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

- (1) COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE LICENSING & REGULATION
  - (2) CRIME & PUNISHMENT
  - (3) HEALTH CARE SERVICES
  - (4)
  - (5)
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**I. SUMMARY:**

HB 917 requires physicians, nurses, or their employees, and any employee of a hospital, sanitarium, clinic, or nursing home to report to the sheriff's department only life-threatening injuries indicating an act of violence. Currently, s. 790.24, F.S., mandates health care providers to report "wounds indicating violence" regardless of the severity of the wounds.

Failure to report such information to law enforcement is a first degree misdemeanor.

There is no fiscal impact on state or local government, or the private sector.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

Section 790.24, F.S., requires that health care practitioners, health care facilities and employees of both to report victims suffering from gunshot wounds or other wounds indicating violence to the sheriff's department in the county where the treatment or request to treat was received. All physicians, nurses, personnel employed by them, and any employee of a hospital., sanitorium, clinic or nursing home, who fails to report, are guilty of a first degree misdemeanor.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

This bill clarifies that health care practitioners shall report only those wounds that result from a gunshot or knife or other life-threatening injury indicating violence.

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?

Not Applicable.

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

This bill requires that health care practitioners and employees of health care facilities to report any request for treatment of a wound or treatment that indicates violence.

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

Not Applicable.

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?

Not Applicable.

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

Not Applicable.

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

Not Applicable.

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

Not Applicable.

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

Not Applicable.

3. Personal Responsibility:

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

Not Applicable.

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

Not Applicable.

4. Individual Freedom:

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

No.

- 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?

No.

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 790.24, F.S.

E. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

Section 1. Amends. s. 790.24, F.S., to require health care practitioners and employees of health care facilities to report any treatment or request for treatment of any life-threatening wounds to the sheriff's department of the county in which said treatment is administered.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of October 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:

None.

2. Recurring Effects:

None

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:

None.

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

None.

**D. FISCAL COMMENTS:**

None.

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

**A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:**

This bill does not required counties or municipalities to spend funds or to take action requiring the expenditure of funds.

**B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:**

This 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:**

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

**V. COMMENTS:**

In Chapter 790, F.S., there is no definition for "life-threatening injury"; the Department of Health is requesting a definition to be established.

The Domestic Violence Task Force on Fatality Prevention within the Department of Community Affairs reports that, "A strict interpretation of the statute requires all wounds indicating violence to be reported creating a situation that may be more detrimental to a domestic violence victim who could be endangered if law enforcement receives a report. Also the victim may forego necessary medical treatment in order to avoid being reported. This bill will allow health care practitioners to report only those wounds that result from a gunshot or knife or other life-threatening injury indicating violence."

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VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

None.

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE LICENSING & REGULATION:

Prepared by:

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