

By Senator Meek

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to defamation actions; allowing
law enforcement officers to bring defamation
actions against persons who have filed certain
false complaints against the officers;
providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a law enforcement officer may bring an action for defamation against a person who has filed a complaint with that officer's employing agency alleging misconduct, criminal conduct, or incompetence if the complaint is false, was made with knowledge that it was false, and was made with spite, hatred, or ill will. Knowledge that the complaint is false may be proven by showing that the complainant had no reasonable grounds for believing the statement was true and that the complainant exhibited a reckless disregard for ascertaining the truth.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

SENATE SUMMARY

Allows a law enforcement officer to bring a defamation action against a person who has filed certain false complaints against the officer.