

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the offense of possessing a
3 concealed handcuff key; creating s. 843.021,
4 F.S.; providing definitions; providing that it
5 is a third degree felony for a person placed in
6 custody to possess a concealed handcuff key;
7 providing that disclosure of such possession to
8 a law enforcement officer is a defense to the
9 charge of unlawfully possessing a concealed
10 handcuff key; amending s. 921.0022, F.S.,
11 relating to the Criminal Punishment Code;
12 including the offense of possessing a concealed
13 handcuff key on the offense severity ranking
14 chart; providing an effective date.

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

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18 Section 1. Section 843.021, Florida Statutes, is
19 created to read:

20 843.021 Unlawful possession of a concealed handcuff
21 key.--

22 (1) As used in this section, the term:

23 (a) "In custody" means any time while a person has
24 been placed by a law enforcement officer in handcuffs,
25 regardless of whether such person is under formal arrest.

26 (b) "Handcuff key" means any key, tool, device,
27 implement, or other thing used, designed, or intended to aid
28 in unlocking or removing handcuffs.

29 (c) "Concealed handcuff key" means any handcuff key
30 carried by a person in a manner that indicates an intent to
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- 1 prevent discovery of the key by a law enforcement officer,
2 including, but not limited to, a handcuff key carried:
- 3 1. In a pocket of a piece of clothing of a person, and
4 unconnected to any key ring;
 - 5 2. On a necklace of a person;
 - 6 3. On the body part of a person or on any item of
7 clothing of such person, when the handcuff key is secured on
8 the body part or item of clothing by use of tape, glue, line,
9 or other material;
 - 10 4. In or within any compartment, seam, fold, or other
11 encasement within any item of clothing, belt, shoe, or jewelry
12 of a person;
 - 13 5. In or within any sock, hose, shoe, belt,
14 undergarment, glove, hat, or similar item of clothing or
15 accessory of a person;
 - 16 6. By a person and disguised as jewelry or other
17 object; or
 - 18 7. In or within any body cavity of a person.
- 19 (2) Any person who possesses a concealed handcuff key
20 commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided
21 in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- 22 (3) It is a defense to a charge of violating this
23 section that, immediately upon being placed in custody, the
24 person in custody actually and effectively disclosed to the
25 law enforcement officer that he or she was in possession of a
26 concealed handcuff key.
- 27 (4)(a) It is a defense to a charge of violating this
28 section that the person in custody and in possession of a
29 concealed handcuff key is:
- 30 1. A federal, state, or local law enforcement officer,
31 including a reserve or auxiliary officer, a licensed security

1 officer, or a private investigator as defined in s. 493.6101;
 2 or
 3 2. A professional bail bond agent, temporary bail bond
 4 agent, runner, or limited surety agent as defined in s.
 5 648.25.
 6 (b) However, the defense is not available to any
 7 officer, investigator, agent, or runner listed in this
 8 subsection if the officer, investigator, agent, or runner,
 9 immediately upon being placed in custody, fails to actually
 10 and effectively disclose possession of the concealed handcuff
 11 key.

12 Section 2. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section
 13 921.0022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

14 921.0022 Criminal Punishment Code; offense severity
 15 ranking chart.--

16 (3) OFFENSE SEVERITY RANKING CHART

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
(d) LEVEL 4		
316.1935(3)	2nd	Driving at high speed or with wanton disregard for safety while fleeing or attempting to elude law enforcement officer who is in a marked patrol vehicle with siren and lights activated.
784.07(2)(b)	3rd	Battery of law enforcement officer, firefighter, intake officer, etc.

1	784.075	3rd	Battery on detention or
2			commitment facility staff.
3	784.08(2)(c)	3rd	Battery on a person 65 years of
4			age or older.
5	784.081(3)	3rd	Battery on specified official or
6			employee.
7	784.082(3)	3rd	Battery by detained person on
8			visitor or other detainee.
9	784.083(3)	3rd	Battery on code inspector.
10	787.03(1)	3rd	Interference with custody;
11			wrongly takes child from
12			appointed guardian.
13	787.04(2)	3rd	Take, entice, or remove child
14			beyond state limits with criminal
15			intent pending custody
16			proceedings.
17	787.04(3)	3rd	Carrying child beyond state lines
18			with criminal intent to avoid
19			producing child at custody
20			hearing or delivering to
21			designated person.
22	790.115(1)	3rd	Exhibiting firearm or weapon
23			within 1,000 feet of a school.
24	790.115(2)(b)	3rd	Possessing electric weapon or
25			device, destructive device, or
26			other weapon on school property.
27	790.115(2)(c)	3rd	Possessing firearm on school
28			property.
29	800.04(7)(c)	3rd	Lewd or lascivious exhibition;
30			offender less than 18 years.
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1	810.02(4)(a)	3rd	Burglary, or attempted burglary,
2			of an unoccupied structure;
3			unarmed; no assault or battery.
4	810.02(4)(b)	3rd	Burglary, or attempted burglary,
5			of an unoccupied conveyance;
6			unarmed; no assault or battery.
7	810.06	3rd	Burglary; possession of tools.
8	810.08(2)(c)	3rd	Trespass on property, armed with
9			firearm or dangerous weapon.
10	812.014(2)(c)3.	3rd	Grand theft, 3rd degree \$10,000
11			or more but less than \$20,000.
12	812.014		
13	(2)(c)4.-10.	3rd	Grand theft, 3rd degree, a will,
14			firearm, motor vehicle,
15			livestock, etc.
16	817.563(1)	3rd	Sell or deliver substance other
17			than controlled substance agreed
18			upon, excluding s. 893.03(5)
19			drugs.
20	828.125(1)	2nd	Kill, maim, or cause great bodily
21			harm or permanent breeding
22			disability to any registered
23			horse or cattle.
24	837.02(1)	3rd	Perjury in official proceedings.
25	837.021(1)	3rd	Make contradictory statements in
26			official proceedings.
27	<u>843.021</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>Possession of a concealed</u>
28			<u>handcuff key by a person in</u>
29			<u>custody.</u>
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1	843.025	3rd	Deprive law enforcement,
2			correctional, or correctional
3			probation officer of means of
4			protection or communication.
5	843.15(1)(a)	3rd	Failure to appear while on bail
6			for felony (bond estreature or
7			bond jumping).
8	874.05(1)	3rd	Encouraging or recruiting another
9			to join a criminal street gang.
10	893.13(2)(a)1.	2nd	Purchase of cocaine (or other s.
11			893.03(1)(a), (b), or (d), or
12			(2)(a) or (b) drugs).
13	914.14(2)	3rd	Witnesses accepting bribes.
14	914.22(1)	3rd	Force, threaten, etc., witness,
15			victim, or informant.
16	914.23(2)	3rd	Retaliation against a witness,
17			victim, or informant, no bodily
18			injury.
19	918.12	3rd	Tampering with jurors.

20 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

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