

By Senator Meek

36-704B-00

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to gun-free zones; defining the  
 3           term "gun-free zone"; authorizing the governing  
 4           body of a municipality or county to establish a  
 5           gun-free zone pursuant to an ordinance approved  
 6           by the governing body or approved by a vote of  
 7           the electors; requiring that signs be posted to  
 8           notify the public of a gun-free zone; requiring  
 9           that law enforcement officers and security  
 10          officers who carry firearms be exempt from any  
 11          ordinance establishing a gun-free zone;  
 12          providing a penalty; providing an effective  
 13          date.

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

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 17           Section 1. Establishment of gun-free zones.--  
 18           (1) As used in this section, the term "gun-free zone"  
 19 means the inside of a building or structure, excluding the  
 20 curtilage or parking lot, which contains any of the following:  
 21           (a) A child care facility, as defined in section  
 22 402.302, Florida Statutes.  
 23           (b) A physical place of worship at which a church or  
 24 religious organization regularly conducts religious services.  
 25           (c) A health care facility, as defined in section  
 26 408.07, Florida Statutes.  
 27           (2) The governing body of a municipality or county may  
 28 establish one or more gun-free zones within the municipality  
 29 or county pursuant to an ordinance approved by a vote of the  
 30 governing body or approved by a majority of the electors  
 31 within the municipality or county voting in a referendum held

1 on the question of the creation of the gun-free zone. A sign  
2 must be placed at each point of entry of any gun-free zone.  
3 However, a license issued under section 790.06, Florida  
4 Statutes, does not authorize any person to carry a concealed  
5 weapon or other firearm into a gun-free zone.

6 (3) Following the approval of a gun-free zone, the  
7 governing body shall provide for posting clearly legible signs  
8 at conspicuous locations to notify the public of the gun-free  
9 zone. A sign must be placed at each point of entry of any  
10 gun-free zone.

11 (4) The ordinance establishing the gun-free zone shall  
12 provide an exemption for any state or federal law enforcement  
13 officer or security officer, as defined in section 493.6101,  
14 Florida Statutes, who carries a firearm in the performance of  
15 his or her official duties. However, a license issued under  
16 section 790.06, Florida Statutes, does not authorize any  
17 person to carry a concealed weapon or other firearm into a  
18 gun-free zone.

19 (5) Any person who possesses a firearm in a gun-free  
20 zone in violation of the ordinance establishing the gun-free  
21 zone commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as  
22 provided in section 775.082, section 775.083, or section  
23 775.084, Florida Statutes.

24 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
25 law.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Provides for one or more gun-free zones to be established by the governing body of a municipality or county pursuant to an ordinance approved by the governing body or by vote of the electors. Defines the term "gun-free zone" to mean the inside of a building that houses a child care facility, a place of worship, or a health care facility. Requires that signs be posted to notify the public of the gun-free zone. Requires that the ordinance provide an exemption for law enforcement officers and security officers who carry firearms. Provides that it is a third-degree felony to violate an ordinance establishing a gun-free zone.