

STORAGE NAME: h0983s1.tr

DATE: March 22, 2000

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AS REVISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION
ANALYSIS**

BILL #: CS/HB 983

RELATING TO: DUI and BUI Treatment, Prevention, and Punishment

SPONSOR(S): Committee on Judiciary and Representative Byrd

TIED BILL(S):

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

- (1) JUDICIARY YEAS 8 NAYS 0
 - (2) TRANSPORTATION
 - (3) CRIMINAL JUSTICE APPROPRIATIONS
 - (4)
 - (5)
-

I. SUMMARY:

This bill amends the driving under the influence (DUI) and boating under the influence (BUI) statutes to make a third offense of either crime a third degree felony. Currently, DUI and BUI do not become felonies until the fourth offense.

It clarifies the DUI and BUI causing property damage, serious bodily injury, or death to make clear that the driver or operator can be convicted of those crimes even if he or she is not the sole cause of the incident.

It allows police officers to take certain DUI and BUI offenders into protective custody and provides further criteria for a court to determine whether involuntary assessment and stabilization or involuntary treatment are required. If an indigent person is admitted by court order, funds from the surtax collected pursuant to s. 212.055(4), F.S., would be used to pay for the assessment, stabilization or treatment.

The bill makes refusal to submit to a breath or blood-alcohol test a first degree misdemeanor. Currently, persons who refuse are subject only to civil sanctions. The bill requires officers to tell defendants that refusal to submit to testing is a misdemeanor.

It requires law enforcement officers to order breath or blood-alcohol tests in accidents involving death or serious bodily injury where there is probable cause to believe the driver is impaired.

The bill amends the Criminal Punishment Code to include BUI offenses and shows that only three prior convictions are required for felony DUI and BUI, rather than the current four.

The bill amends s. 938.07, F.S., to impose court costs imposed in DUI cases and in BUI cases as well.

The bill provides a one time appropriation of \$3,500,000 to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for the purchase of breath testing equipment. See Fiscal Analysis and Fiscal Comments III.

The bill takes effect on January 1, 2001.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

Section 1: Section 316.193, F.S., prohibits driving under the influence (DUI). The first three times a person commits DUI, he or she is subject to imprisonment of up to one year and fines up to \$2,500 as provided in s. 316.193(2), F.S. Potential fines and imprisonment are increased if the offender has a blood or breath-alcohol level greater than 0.20 or if a person under age 18 is present in the vehicle as provided in s. 316.193(4), F.S. Pursuant to s. 316.193(2)(b), F.S., a fourth DUI conviction is a felony and the offender faces up to five years in a state prison and up to a \$5,000 fine as provided in ss. 775.082, 775.083, F.S. The minimum fine for felony DUI is \$1,000 as provided in s. 316.193(2)(b), F.S.

Section 316.193(3), F.S., provides increased penalties for a DUI offender who, by reason of operation of a vehicle, causes damage to property, serious bodily injury to another, or the death of another. The standard jury instruction in DUI manslaughter cases (prosecutions under s. 316.193(3), F.S., where a death is involved) provides that the state must prove that a DUI offender “caused or contributed to the cause” of the death.

Section 316.193(9), F.S., provides that a person arrested for DUI shall not be released until the person is no longer impaired, until the person’s blood or breath-alcohol level is less than 0.05, or until eight hours have elapsed from the time of arrest.

Section 2: Section 316.1932, F.S., explains that a person who accepts the privilege of driving in this state is deemed to have consented to an appropriate test (blood, urine, or breath) for alcohol, chemical substances, or controlled substances if the person is arrested for driving under the influence. The statute details testing requirements and requires that the person be told that the failure to submit to “any lawful test of his or her [breath, urine, or blood], will result in the suspension of the person’s privilege to operate a motor vehicle for a period of 1 year for a first refusal, or for a period of 18 months if the driving privilege of such person has been previously suspended as a result of a refusal to submit to such a test or tests”, as provided in ss. 316.1932(1)(a), 316.1932(1)(c), F.S. The refusal to submit to an appropriate test is admissible in criminal prosecutions.

Currently, the penalty for refusal is a suspension of the person’s driver’s license and use of the refusal as evidence in prosecutions. There are no criminal sanctions for refusal.

Section 3: Section 316.1933(1), F.S., permits a law enforcement officer, if the officer has probable cause to believe that a motor vehicle driven by or in actual physical control of a person under the influence of alcohol, chemical substances, or controlled substances caused the death or serious bodily injury of a person, to require the person to submit to a blood test.

The officer can use reasonable force to require submission to the test. The statute defines "serious bodily injury" as an injury "which consists of a physical condition that creates a substantial risk of death, serious personal disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ."

Section 4: Currently, Florida imposes administrative driver's license suspensions if a driver refuses to submit to a lawful blood or breath-alcohol test as provided in s. 322.2615, F.S. Suspensions last for up to 18 months, depending on whether there has been a prior refusal as provided in s. 322.2615(1)(b), F.S. While the fact that a person refused to submit to a blood or breath-alcohol test is admissible in criminal proceedings for other crimes, the refusal itself is not a crime.

Sections 5-8: Section 327.35, F.S., prohibits boating under the influence (BUI) and provides for penalties. It is analogous to the DUI statute. The laws for failing to submit to a blood or breath-alcohol test parallel those in a DUI situation. The discussions of Sections 1-4 of the bill apply to Sections 5-8.

Section 9: Part V of Chapter 397, F.S., deals with involuntary admissions for evaluations of persons who may have substance abuse problems. Section 397.675, F.S., explains that a person meets the criteria for involuntary admission if there is a good faith basis to believe that the person is substance abuse impaired and, because of the impairment, has lost the power of self-control with respect to substance use and (a) inflicted, attempted to inflict, or threatened physical harm on the person or others or (b) is in need of substance abuse treatment and unable to recognize the need for such treatment. Pursuant to s. 397.677, F.S., when a person appears to meet these conditions and is brought to the attention of law enforcement, a law enforcement officer may take the person into protective custody. Within 72 hours after being taken into protective custody, the person must be evaluated by an attending physician and can only be retained in custody if a petition is filed with the court as provided in s. 397.6773, F.S. The court must hold a hearing on the petition and can issue an order authorizing involuntary assessment and stabilization or involuntary treatment if the person meets the criteria of s. 397.675, F.S.

There are currently no procedures in place that deal specifically with involuntary admissions for persons whose alcohol or drug impairment prevents them from realizing they should not drive automobiles or operate vessels while impaired.

Section 10: The Criminal Punishment Code does not score BUI offenses. Felony DUI is a Level 6 Offense and DUI manslaughter is a Level 9 Offense as provided in s. 921.0022, F.S.

Section 11: Section 938.07, F.S., imposes an additional \$135 court cost on fines imposed pursuant to DUI violations. It does not impose the court cost for BUI violations. The statute also contains an incorrect statutory reference to the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Trust Fund. The Fund is now created in s. 381.79, F.S., and not s. 413.613, F.S.

C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Section 1: Amends s. 316.193, F.S., to make a third DUI conviction a felony. Potentially, offenders convicted of a third DUI could be sentenced to five years imprisonment and fined \$5,000 as provided in ss. 775.082, 775.083, F.S. If an offender's blood or breath-alcohol level exceeds 0.20, the minimum fine for felony DUI would be increased to \$2,000. According to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, there were 1,536 convictions for a third time DUI in 1998. Under this bill, those convictions could have been felony convictions.

The bill amends s. 316.193(9), F.S., to permit a law enforcement officer to place a person in protective custody pursuant to s. 397.6772, F.S., if the person has previously been convicted of a DUI or BUI offense, if the person's blood or breath-alcohol level is 0.20 or greater, or if the person is on pretrial release for a previous DUI or BUI offense. If the person is subsequently convicted of DUI, the court shall order the person to pay the costs of evaluation and treatment. The bill does not alter any of the requirements of 316.193(5), F.S.

Section 2: Amends s. 316.1932, F.S., to require that law enforcement officers inform a person arrested for DUI that a refusal of a blood or breath test requested by a law enforcement officer is a misdemeanor. This warning is in addition to the other warnings required by s. 316.1932, F.S.

Section 3: Amends s. 316.1933, F.S. Under the bill, if a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe a vehicle driven by a person under the influence of alcohol, chemical substances, or controlled substances has caused the death or serious bodily injury of a person, the officer must require the driver to submit to a blood test for alcohol, chemical substances, or controlled substances. Current law states that if the officer had probable cause to believe that the driver who caused the incident was under the influence, the officer could require a blood test. This bill requires the officer to order the testing of the driver if the officer has probable cause to believe the driver of the vehicle that caused the death or serious bodily injury is under the influence. The bill also states that the testing need not be incident to a lawful arrest.

The law enforcement officer is required to offer any person subject to a blood test the opportunity to submit to a breath test, if the person is conscious and capable of submitting to the breath test. If the person submits to a breath test and a valid reading is obtained, the blood test shall be waived.

Section 4: Creates s. 316.1939, F.S., which would make it a crime for refusing to submit to a breath, blood or urine test as described in s. 316.1932, F.S., when the officer requesting the test has reasonable cause to believe the person was driving or in actual physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of alcoholic beverages, chemical substances, or controlled substances.

A person convicted of refusing a test is guilty of a first degree misdemeanor and subject to up to one year in the county jail and a \$1,000 fine. Currently, drivers who refuse are subject to administrative suspensions of their drivers licenses. Under the bill, such suspensions are not affected by the outcome of any criminal proceedings and any administrative proceedings will not affect any criminal proceedings.

Section 5: Amends the boating under the influence statute (BUI), s. 327.35, F.S., to conform to the changes made by Section 1 to the DUI statute. As described in the analysis of Section 1, it makes a third offense a felony. It also amends statutory references to apply to the boating under the influence statute rather than the driving under the influence statute.

Section 6: Amends the BUI statute to conform to the changes made by Section 2 to the DUI statute. This section requires the law enforcement officer to inform the defendant, in addition to the other warnings already required, that refusal to submit to required test is a misdemeanor.

Section 7: Amends the BUI statute to conform to the changes made by Section 3 to the DUI statute. Under this bill, if a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe a vessel has caused the death or serious bodily injury of a person and the operator of the vessel is under the influence, the officer must require the operator to submit to a blood test for alcohol,

chemical substances, or controlled substances. If the operator submits to a breath test and a valid reading is obtained, the blood test requirement is waived.

Section 8: Makes a refusal to submit to a lawful test for drugs or alcohol in a BUI situation a misdemeanor as in Section 4.

Section 9: Adds new conditions for which a court may find to meet the criteria for involuntary admission under s. 387.675, F.S. Under this bill, a court may find that a person has lost the power of self-control with regard to substance abuse and is likely to inflict physical harm on himself, herself, or others if the person has been arrested for DUI or BUI and the person:

- Has a prior DUI or BUI conviction;
- Has a blood or breath-alcohol level of 0.20 or greater;
- Has, by reason of operation of a motor vehicle or vessel, caused death or serious bodily injury; or
- Is on pretrial release for prior DUI or BUI arrest.

Once such a finding has been made, the court may order involuntary admission and stabilization or involuntary treatment if, after a hearing, it finds it necessary as provided in ss. 397.6811-397.6977, F.S.

The bill provides that if a person is placed in protective custody, meets the criteria for involuntary admission, and is a qualified resident pursuant to s. 212.055(4)(d), F.S., if he or she could have the costs of evaluation and treatment paid for by the funds from the surtax. Under s. 212.055(4), F.S., counties can collect an indigent health care sales surtax. Under this bill, funds from this surtax would be used to pay for the costs of evaluation and treatment of qualified residents, as defined by s. 212.055(4)(d), F.S. If a person who is treated with these funds is subsequently convicted of DUI or BUI, the court shall enter a civil judgment against the person for the cost of evaluation and treatment.

Section 10: Amends s. 921.0022, F.S., to score BUI offenses in the Criminal Punishment Code (Code). Under the bill, felony BUI is a Level 6 offense and BUI manslaughter is a Level 9 offense. The offense severity ranking chart lists 10 offense levels with Level 10 being the most severe of the offenses. The bill also amends references to felony DUI in the Code to show that only 3 convictions are required rather than the current 4 convictions.

Section 11: Amends s. 938.07, F.S., to impose additional court costs of \$135 in cases of BUI. The court costs are currently imposed in DUI cases. The bill also corrects a statutory reference to the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Trust Fund.

Section 12: Provides for a one time appropriation of \$3,500,000 to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for the purchase of breath testing equipment.

Section 13: Provides an effective date of January 1, 2001.

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

See Section II.C. - Effect of Proposed Changes.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

Revenues may be generated through fines associated with DUI and BUI prosecutions.

2. Expenditures:

The bill provides a one time appropriation of \$3,500,000 to FDLE for the purchase of breath testing equipment for state and local law enforcement agencies.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

Revenues may be generated through fines associated with DUI and BUI prosecutions.

2. Expenditures:

Counties may experience expenses for treatment of indigent residents placed in involuntary treatment. Some of the cost may be recovered since a judgment will be entered against the residents if they are subsequently convicted of a DUI or BUI offense.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

N/A

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

There is an indeterminate fiscal impact to the criminal justice system due to the uncertainty of the number of DUI and BUI offenders that will be held in protective custody.

There is also an indeterminate amount of revenue that would be generated due to the unknown amount and number of increased fines imposed by the courts.

The department will require modifications to the driver license software system costing approximately \$10,750.

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

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

N/A

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B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

N/A

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

N/A

V. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

N/A

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

N/A

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

N/A

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

The House Committee on Judiciary heard the bill on March 14, 2000. As originally filed, the bill required law enforcement officers to order testing of all drivers or operators of vessels involved in accidents involving death or serious bodily injury to submit to blood or breath-alcohol testing. The bill was amended to require a law enforcement officer to order blood or breath testing if the officer has probable cause to believe a vehicle or vessel operated by a person under the influence of alcohol, chemical substances, or controlled substances has caused the death or serious bodily injury of a human being. The bill was reported favorably as a committee substitute.

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY:

Prepared by:

L. Michael Billmeier, J.D.

Staff Director:

P.K. Jameson, J.D.

AS REVISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION:

Prepared by:

Jennifer L. Sexton-Bartelme

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John R. Johnston