

By Representative Meadows

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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, 2001.

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SENATE SUMMARY

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