

By the Committee on Criminal Justice; and Senator Cowin

307-1280-02

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to the United States flag;  
creating s. 256.15, F.S.; providing that it is  
unlawful to prohibit the display of the flag of  
the United States; providing an exception;  
providing penalties; providing an effective  
date.

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

Section 1. Section 256.15, Florida Statutes, is  
created to read:

256.15 Display of U.S. flag; prohibition unlawful;  
penalty.--

(1) It is unlawful for any person to prohibit the  
display of the flag of the United States unless the display  
would constitute a threat to the health or safety of any  
person.

(2) A violation of this section constitutes a  
noncriminal violation. The first violation shall be punished  
by fine in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. A second violation  
shall be punished by fine in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.  
However, a third or subsequent violation constitutes a  
misdemeanor of the second degree and is punishable as provided  
in s. 775.082 and by a fine in the amount of \$10,000.

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

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
Senate Bill 150

- Provides an exception where display of the United States flag would constitute a threat to the health and safety of any person.
- Provides that a first or second violation is a noncriminal violation punishable by a specified fine.
- Provides that a third or subsequent violation is a second degree misdemeanor punishable as provided in s. 775.082, F.S., and by a specified fine.