

By Senator Argenziano

3-764-03

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Department of  
3           Agriculture and Consumer Services; amending s.  
4           570.15, F.S.; requiring the department to  
5           establish rules authorizing nonagricultural  
6           vehicles to pass an agricultural inspection  
7           station without stopping and submitting to an  
8           inspection; amending s. 570.16, F.S.;  
9           prohibiting a person from impersonating an  
10          inspector, agent, or other employee of the  
11          department; providing a penalty; providing an  
12          effective date.

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

16           Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 570.15, Florida  
17 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (5) is added to that  
18 section, to read:

19           570.15 Access to places of business and vehicles.--

20           (2) It is unlawful for the driver of any vehicle,  
21 other than one exempted in sub-subparagraph (1)(a)1.g. or one  
22 authorized pursuant to subsection (5), to pass any official  
23 agricultural inspection station without first stopping and  
24 submitting the vehicle for inspection. A violation of this  
25 subsection constitutes a misdemeanor of the second degree,  
26 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

27           (5) The department shall establish by rule conditions  
28 and criteria by which nonagricultural laden vehicles may pass  
29 an agricultural inspection station without stopping for  
30 inspection.

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1           Section 2. Section 570.16, Florida Statutes, is  
2 amended to read:  
3           570.16 Interference with department employees in  
4 performance of duties.--No person shall attempt, by means of  
5 any threat or violence, to deter or prevent an inspector,  
6 agent, or other employee of the department from performing any  
7 duties imposed by law upon him or her or the department and no  
8 person shall impersonate an inspector, agent, or other  
9 employee of the department. Whoever violates this section  
10 commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as  
11 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

12           Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Requires that the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services establish rules allowing nonagricultural vehicles to pass agricultural inspection stations without stopping for inspection. Provides that it is a second-degree misdemeanor to impersonate an inspector, agent, or other employee of the department.