

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 339

Secondary Metals Recyclers

SPONSOR(S): Patterson

TIED BILLS:

IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 478

	REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1)	Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee		Fudge	Hoagland
2)	Agriculture & Natural Resources Policy Committee			
3)	Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council			
4)				
5)				

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

A secondary metals recycler is a scrap metal dealer. Secondary metal recyclers purchase used metals salvaged from building demolition, remodeling, etc. and refine those metals into raw materials used to make new products. Secondary metal recyclers are currently regulated under ch. 539, Part II, F.S., and must be registered with the Department of Revenue.

In 2008, the Legislature passed CS/CS/HB 105 increasing the regulation of secondary metal recyclers. Since the passage of this act, at least one local government has proposed more restrictive regulation of secondary metal recyclers that would require a 15 day "tag and hold". This increased regulation may increase the cost on these businesses.

HB 339 preempts local regulation of secondary metals recyclers which is more stringent or restrictive than the provisions of ch. 539, Part II, F.S.

HOUSE PRINCIPLES

Members are encouraged to evaluate proposed legislation in light of the following guiding principles of the House of Representatives

- Balance the state budget.
- Create a legal and regulatory environment that fosters economic growth and job creation.
- Lower the tax burden on families and businesses.
- Reverse or restrain the growth of government.
- Promote public safety.
- Promote educational accountability, excellence, and choice.
- Foster respect for the family and for innocent human life.
- Protect Florida's natural beauty.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Current Situation

A secondary metals recycler is a scrap metal dealer. Secondary metal recyclers purchase used metals salvaged from building demolition, remodeling, etc. and refine those metals into raw materials used to make new products. Secondary metal recyclers are currently regulated under ch. 539, Part II, F.S., and must be registered with the Department of Revenue.

In 2008, the Legislature passed CS/CS/HB 105 increasing the regulation of secondary metal recyclers by:

- Requiring secondary metals recyclers to gather more in depth information about the sellers of regulated metals and allows that information to be stored on an electronic database.
- Expanding the definition of regulated metals to include stainless steel beer kegs.
- Increasing the penalty for secondary metals recyclers face for repeated noncompliance with statutory requirements from a first degree misdemeanor to a third degree felony.
- Increasing the penalty for sellers of regulated metals who give false information to secondary metals recyclers to second and third degree felonies based on the dollar amount received by the seller.
- Requiring the Department of Revenue to release the names of any registered secondary metals recycler to a law enforcement official upon request.
- Requiring all regulated metals be transported to a secondary metals recycler in a motor vehicle.
- Requiring payments for all transactions in excess of \$1000 be made by check.

Effect of Proposed Changes

Between the passage of HB 105 and its enactment, the City of West Palm Beach proposed an ordinance that included a 15 day "tag and hold" which would require recycling facilities to hold the materials it receives for 15 days. The Institute for Scrap Recycling Industries and Trademark Metals Recycling contends that a 15 day "tag and hold" would required 15 times the land and facility to hold the material. Moreover, current law provides that if law enforcement suspects that an item is stolen, the metal recycler must hold the item for 15 days upon notification by law enforcement and for an additional 45 days if that hold is extended.¹

¹ Section 538.21, F.S.

The bill preempts local regulation of secondary metals recyclers which is more stringent or restrictive than the provisions of ch. 539, Part II, F.S.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Creates s. 538.27, F.S., preempting local regulation governing secondary metals recyclers which is more stringent or restrictive than the provision of ch. 539, Part II, F.S.

Section 2: Provides an effective date of July 1, 2009.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Preemption of local regulation would ensure uniform regulation throughout the state, which may reduce costs of recyclers who must comply with more stringent local regulations.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable because this bill does not appear to: require cities or counties to spend funds or take an action requiring expenditure of funds; reduce the authority that cities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate; or reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with cities or counties.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES