

FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

BILL #: SB 240

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:

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SPONSOR: Sen. Joyner (Rep. Cruz and Rep. Bernard) **GOVERNOR'S ACTION:** Approved

COMPANION BILLS: HB 101

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

SB 240 passed the House on May 4, 2011. The bill was approved by the Governor on June 17, 2011, chapter 2011-146, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective July 1, 2011.

Currently, a person commits a first degree misdemeanor if the person willfully violates an injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence. This bill adds the following to the list of ways in which a person could violate such injunctions for protection:

- Knowingly and intentionally coming within 100 feet of the petitioner's motor vehicle, whether or not that vehicle is occupied;
- Defacing or destroying the petitioner's personal property, including the petitioner's motor vehicle; or
- Refusing to surrender firearms or ammunition if ordered to do so by the court.

The bill also adds the following to the existing list of ways in which a person could violate an injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence:

- Going to, or being within 500 feet of, the petitioner's residence, school, place of employment, or a specified place frequented regularly by the petitioner and any named family or household member.

The bill makes the list of ways in which a person could violate an injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence identical to the list of ways a person could violate an injunction for protection against domestic violence.

The bill provides additional ways in which a person can violate an injunction for protection, and that such violations are first degree misdemeanors. Therefore, this bill could have an impact on county jails.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

Current Situation

Section 784.046, F.S., relates to the issuance of injunctions for protection against repeat violence,¹ dating violence,² and sexual violence.³ The statute specifies the following:

- Petitions for injunctions for protection must allege the incidents of repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence and must include the specific facts and circumstances that form the basis upon which relief is sought.
- Upon the filing of the petition, the court must set a hearing to be held at the earliest possible time. The respondent must be personally served with a copy of the petition, notice of hearing, and temporary injunction, if any, prior to the hearing.
- When it appears to the court that an immediate and present danger of violence exists, the court may grant a temporary injunction which may be granted in an ex parte hearing, pending a full hearing, and may grant such relief as the court deems proper.
- The court must enforce, through a civil or criminal contempt proceeding, a violation of an injunction for protection.⁴
- The petitioner or the respondent may move the court to modify or dissolve an injunction at any time.⁵

Section 784.047, F.S., provides criminal penalties for violating a temporary or permanent injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence. The statute specifies that a person commits a first degree misdemeanor⁶ if they willfully violate an injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence by:

- Refusing to vacate the dwelling that the parties share;

¹ “Repeat violence” is defined as, “two incidents of violence or stalking committed by the respondent, one of which must have been within 6 months of the filing of the petition, which are directed against the petitioner or the petitioner’s immediate family member.” Section 784.046(1), F.S.

² “Dating violence” is defined as, “violence between individuals who have or have had a continuing and significant relationship of a romantic or intimate nature. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on the consideration of the following factors: a dating relationship must have existed within the past 6 months; the nature of the relationship must have been characterized by the expectation of affection or sexual involvement between the parties; and the frequency and type of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship must have included that the persons have been involved over time and on a continuous basis during the course of the relationship. The term does not include violence in a casual acquaintanceship or violence between individuals who only have engaged in ordinary fraternization in a business or social context.” *Id.*

³ “Sexual violence” is defined as, “any one incident of sexual battery, as defined in chapter 794; a lewd or lascivious act, as defined in chapter 800, committed upon or in the presence of a person younger than 16 years of age; luring or enticing a child, as described in chapter 787; sexual performance by a child, as described in chapter 827; or any other forcible felony wherein a sexual act is committed or attempted; regardless of whether criminal charges based on the incident were filed, reduced, or dismissed by the state attorney.” *Id.*

⁴ The court may impose monetary fines for noncompliance of a violation of injunction. Criminal penalties are imposed pursuant to s. 784.047, F.S.

⁵ Section 784.046(7)(c), F.S.

⁶ A first degree misdemeanor is punishable by a term of imprisonment not exceeding 1 year and a \$1,000 fine. *See ss.* 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

- Going to the petitioner's residence, school, place of employment, or a specified place frequented regularly by the petitioner and any named family or household member;
- Committing an act of repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence against the petitioner;
- Committing any other violation of the injunction through an intentional unlawful threat, word, or act to do violence to the petitioner; or
- Telephoning, contacting, or otherwise communicating with the petitioner directly or indirectly, unless the injunction specifically allows indirect contact through a third party.⁷

Effect of the Bill

The bill adds the following to the above list of ways in which a person could violate an injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence:

- Knowingly and intentionally coming within 100 feet of the petitioner’s motor vehicle, whether or not that vehicle is occupied;
- Defacing or destroying the petitioner’s personal property, including the petitioner’s motor vehicle;
- Refusing to surrender firearms or ammunition if ordered to do so by the court.

The bill also adds the following to the existing list of ways in which a person could violate an injunction for protection against repeat violence, sexual violence, or dating violence:

- Going to, or being within 500 feet of, the petitioner's residence, school, place of employment, or a specified place frequented regularly by the petitioner and any named family or household member.

It should be noted that s. 741.31, F.S., which provides penalties for violating an injunction for protection against domestic violence,⁸ contains the same provisions as those added by the bill.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

⁷ Section 784.047, F.S.

⁸ Section 741.28, F.S., defines “domestic violence” as “any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member.”

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

The bill provides additional ways in which a person can violate an injunction for protection, and that such violations are first degree misdemeanors. Therefore, this bill could have an impact on county jails.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.