



885072

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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Floor: 1/AD/3R

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04/08/2015 04:35 PM

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Senator Simmons moved the following:

Senate Amendment

Delete lines 15 - 32

and insert:

(SLAPP) ~~suits by governmental entities~~ prohibited.-

(1) ~~This section may be cited as the "Citizen Participation in Government Act."~~

(2) It is the intent of the Legislature to protect the right in Florida ~~of Florida's citizens~~ to exercise the their rights of free speech in connection with public issues, and the rights to peacefully assemble, instruct ~~their~~ representatives,



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12 and petition for redress of grievances before the various
13 governmental entities of this state as protected by the First
14 Amendment to the United States Constitution and s. 5, Art. I of
15 the State Constitution. ~~The Legislature recognizes that~~
16 ~~"Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation" or "SLAPP"~~
17 ~~suits, as they are typically called, have increased over the~~
18 ~~last 30 years and are mostly filed by private industry and~~
19 ~~individuals. However,~~ It is the public policy of this state that
20 a person or governmental entity ~~government entities~~ not engage
21 in SLAPP suits because such actions are inconsistent with the
22 right of persons ~~individuals~~ to exercise such constitutional