

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Commerce and Tourism

BILL: SB 684

INTRODUCER: Senator Grimsley

SUBJECT: Convenience Businesses

DATE: March 9, 2015

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Siples	McKay	CM	Favorable
2.			ACJ	
3.			FP	

I. Summary:

SB 684 revises the Convenience Business Security Act. The bill exempts certain family-owned and operated convenience businesses from the enhanced security provisions required under the law. The bill repeals administrative fees associated with the approval of a mandated safety training curriculum, and repeals the requirement that the safety-training curriculum be submitted biennially for reapproval. The bill also deletes obsolete language.

II. Present Situation:

Convenience Business Security Act¹

In 1990, the Legislature passed the Convenience Business Security Act (the act) to deter violent crime and provide uniform, statewide protection for employees and patrons at late night convenience businesses.² The provisions of the act are enforced by the Department of Legal Affairs (Office of Attorney General).³

¹ Sections 812.1701-812.175, F.S. A “convenience business” is defined as any place of business that is primarily engaged in the retail sale of groceries, or both groceries and gasoline, that is open for business at any time between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. A convenience business does not include a business that is primarily a restaurant, a business that has at least 5 employees on the premises between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m., a business that has at least 10,000 square feet of retail for space, or a business in which the owner or a member of the owner’s family work between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

² Section 812.172, F.S.

³ Section 812.175(4), F.S., authorizes the Office of Attorney General to enter into agreements with local governments to assist in the enforcement of the act.

Minimum Security Standards

The act requires a convenience business to utilize the following minimum standards:⁴

- A security camera system that is capable of recording and retrieving an image to assist in offender identification and apprehension;
- A drop safe or management device for restricted access to cash receipts;
- A lighted parking lot;
- A conspicuous notice at the entrance that states that the cash register contains \$50 or less;
- Window signage that allows a clear and unobstructed view from outside the building and in a normal line of sight of the cash register and sales transaction area;
- Height markers at the entrance of the convenience business that display height measures;
- A cash management policy that limits cash on hand between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.;
- Window tinting that allows for identification of all persons in the sales transaction area from outside the business; and
- A silent alarm.⁵

Enhanced Security Standards⁶

The act requires any convenience business at which a murder, robbery, sexual batter, aggravated assault, aggravated battery, or kidnapping or false imprisonment has occurred, to comply with additional security measures. These security measures must be provided at all times between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m., and include:

- Providing at least two employees on the premises;
- Installing a transparent security enclosure for use by the employees;
- Providing a security guard on the premises; or
- Locking the premises and transacting business through an indirect pass-through window.

After complying with these provisions for 24 months with no additional occurrence of the type of crimes indicated above, a business may file a notice of exemption from the enhanced security measures with the Office of Attorney General.

Training Requirements⁷

The act requires all employees to receive robbery deterrence and safety training within 60 days of employment. The convenience business must submit a proposed training curriculum to the Office of Attorney General, along with an administrative fee not to exceed \$100, for review and approval. The training curriculum must be submitted biennially, along with the appropriate administrative fee, for reapproval.

⁴ See Office of the Attorney General Pam Bondi, *Convenience Business Security Act – Helping to Create Safer Florida Convenience Businesses* (rev. Aug. 2010), available at [http://www.fcpti.com/fcpti.nsf/pics/01029BCED8A92DD0852578BD0062499E/\\$file/2011_Revised_Convenience_Store_Brochure.pdf](http://www.fcpti.com/fcpti.nsf/pics/01029BCED8A92DD0852578BD0062499E/$file/2011_Revised_Convenience_Store_Brochure.pdf) (last visited Mar. 3, 2015).

⁵ Pursuant to s. 812.171(3), F.S., a business may apply for an exemption to the silent alarm requirement with the Office of the Attorney General. The application for exemption must be in writing and must be accompanied by a \$25 administrative fee for each store for which the exemption is requested.

⁶ Section 812.173, F.S.

⁷ Section 812.174, F.S.

Enforcement⁸

The Office of Attorney General enforces the provisions of the act. Upon finding a violation, the convenience business is provided with a notice and has 30 days to cure the violation. If the convenience business fails to correct the violation within 30 days, it may be subject to a civil fine of up to \$5,000. If the violation is determined to be a threat to health, safety, and public welfare, the Office of Attorney General is authorized to pursue an injunction against the convenience business.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 812.171, F.S., to delete a provision which excludes a business in which the owner or a member of the owner's family work the hours between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m., from the definition of "convenience business."

Section 2 amends s. 812.172(5), F.S., to provide that a convenience business at which the owner or a member of the owner's family work the hours between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m., does not have to comply with the enhanced security measures required under the law when certain crimes occur at the business.⁹ The bill also deletes an obsolete provision that required the Office of Attorney General to provide notice to any business that required the additional security measures, as of the date the act became law in 1992.

Section 3 amends s. 812.174, F.S., to delete obsolete language and repeal a requirement that a convenience business submit a safety training curriculum to the Office of Attorney General biennially. The bill also repeals an administrative fee associated with submission of approval of the safety training curriculum.

Section 4 provides an effective date of July 1, 2015.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

⁸ Section 812.175, F.S.

⁹ See s. 812.173(4), F.S. Under this provision, if a murder, robbery, sexual battery, aggravated assault, aggravated battery, or kidnapping occur in connection with the operation of the business, the business must employ one of the following security measures between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.: (1) have at least two employees on the premises; (2) provide a secured, transparent, polycarbonate safety enclosure; (3) have a security officer on the premises; or (4) lock the premises and conduct business through an indirect pass-through.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

The bill may have a positive fiscal impact for convenience businesses, as they will no longer be subject to the administrative fee required upon submission of training curriculum for initial approval and reapproval.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Indeterminate. To the extent that the Office of Attorney General is receiving the administrative fee at the time of submission of the training curriculum required by the act, the bill may have a negative fiscal impact. However, the bill's repeal of the requirement for submission of training curriculum biennially for reapproval may have a positive fiscal impact due to the reduction of costs incurred by the Office of Attorney General that may be attributed to that process.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 812.171, 812.173, and 812.174.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.