

**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.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Criminal Justice

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BILL: SB 1286

INTRODUCER: Senator Simmons

SUBJECT: Contraband in Specified Facilities

DATE: January 27, 2020

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Stokes	Jones	CJ	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.			JU	
3.			RC	

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**I. Summary:**

SB 1286 adds medical marijuana, hemp, industrial hemp, and vapor-generating electronic devices to the list of contraband that may not be introduced into or on the grounds of state correctional institutions, county detention facilities, juvenile detention facilities, juvenile commitment programs, and facilities operated by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD).

This bill provides that it is a third degree felony to introduce medical marijuana, hemp, or industrial hemp into or on the grounds of any of the above mentioned facilities and a first degree misdemeanor to introduce a vapor-generating electronic device into or on the grounds of any of the above mentioned facilities.

This bill also amends ss. 916.1085 and 985.711, F.S., to add cellular phones or portable communication devices, to the list of contraband that may not be introduced into or on the grounds of juvenile detention facilities, juvenile commitment programs, and facilities operated by the DCF or the APD. It is a first degree misdemeanor to introduce such contraband into or on the grounds of any of these facilities.

Additionally this bill amends s. 921.0022, F.S., ranking the previously unranked offense of introducing a firearm or deadly weapon, or a controlled substance into any of the above listed facilities as a level 4 offense.

This bill may have a positive indeterminate prison bed and jail bed impact (an unquantifiable increase). See Section V. Fiscal Impact Statement.

This bill is effective October 1, 2020.

## II. Present Situation:

Introduction of contraband is prohibited from certain government operated facilities. Specifically, Florida law prohibits the introduction of contraband into state correctional institutions, county detention facilities, juvenile detention and commitment programs, and facilities operated by the DCF or the APD.<sup>1</sup>

### **Introduction of Contraband at State Correctional Institutions (State Prisons)**

Section 944.47, F.S., provides that it is a third degree felony<sup>2</sup> to introduce into or on the grounds of a state correctional facility, any of the following items:

- Any written or recorded communication or any currency or coin given or transmitted, or intended to be given or transmitted, to any inmate.
- Any article of food or clothing given or transmitted, or intended to be given or transmitted, to any inmate.
- Any cellular telephone or other portable communication device intentionally and unlawfully introduced inside the secure perimeter of any state correctional institution without prior authorization or consent from the officer in charge of such correctional institution.<sup>3</sup>

A portable communication device is defined under this section as any device carried, worn, or stored which is designed or intended to receive or transmit verbal or written messages, access or store data, or connect electronically to the internet or any other electronic device and which allows communication in any form. Such devices include, but are not limited to, portable two-way pagers, hand-held radios, cellular telephones, Blackberry-type devices, personal digital assistants or PDA's, laptop computers, or any components of these devices which are intended to be used to assemble such devices. The term also includes any new technology that is developed for similar purposes. Excluded from this definition is any device having communication capabilities which has been approved or issued by the department for investigative or institutional security purposes or for conducting other state business.<sup>4</sup>

Additionally, it is a second degree felony<sup>5</sup> for a person to introduce into or on the grounds of a state correctional facility, any of the following items:

- Any intoxicating beverage or beverage which causes or may cause an intoxicating effect.
- Any controlled substance as defined in s. 893.02(4), F.S., or any prescription or nonprescription drug having a hypnotic, stimulating, or depressing effect.
- Any firearm or weapon of any kind or any explosive substance.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Sections 916.1085, 944.47, 951.22, and 985.711, F.S.

<sup>2</sup> A third degree felony is punishable by up to five years in state prison and a fine not exceeding \$5,000. Sections 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Section 944.47(1)(a)1., 2., and 6., F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Section 944.47(1)(a)6., F.S.

<sup>5</sup> A second degree felony is punishable by up to 15 years in state prison and a fine not exceeding \$10,000. Sections 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

<sup>6</sup> Section 944.47(1)(a)3.-5., F.S.

### **Introduction of Contraband at County Detention Facilities (County Jails)**

Section 951.22, F.S., provides that it is a first degree misdemeanor<sup>7</sup> to introduce into or on the grounds of a county detention facility, any of the following items:

- Any written or recorded communication.<sup>8</sup>
- Any currency or coin.
- Any article of food or clothing.
- Any tobacco products.
- Any cigarette.
- Any cigar.
- Any intoxicating beverage or beverage that causes or may cause an intoxicating effect.<sup>9</sup>

Additionally, it is a third degree felony to introduce into or on the grounds of a county detention facility, one of the following items:

- Any narcotic, hypnotic, or excitative drug or drug of any kind or nature, including nasal inhalators, sleeping pills, barbiturates, and controlled substances as defined in s. 893.02(4), F.S.
- Any firearm or any instrumentality commonly used or intended to be a dangerous weapon.
- Any instrumentality of any nature which may be or is intended to be used as an aid in effecting or attempting to effect an escape from a county facility.
- Any cellular telephone or other portable communication device<sup>10</sup> as described in s. 944.47(1)(a)6., F.S.<sup>11</sup>

### **Introduction of Contraband at Juvenile Detention Facilities and Juvenile Commitment Programs**

Section 985.711, F.S., provides that it is a third degree felony to introduce into or on the grounds of a juvenile detention facility or a juvenile commitment program, any unauthorized food or clothing.<sup>12</sup>

Additionally, it is a second degree felony to introduce into or on the grounds of a juvenile detention facility or juvenile commitment program, any of the following items:

- Any intoxicating beverage or any beverage that causes or may cause an intoxicating effect.
- Any controlled substance as defined in s. 893.02(4), F.S., or any prescription or non-prescription drug that has a hypnotic, stimulating, or depressing effect.
- Any firearm or weapon of any kind or any explosive substance.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> A first degree misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year in county jail and a fine not exceeding \$1,000. Sections 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

<sup>8</sup> This does not apply to any document or correspondence exchanged between a lawyer, paralegal, or other legal staff and an inmate at a detention facility if the document or correspondence is otherwise lawfully possessed and disseminated and relates to the legal representation of the inmate. Section 951.22(1)(a), F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Sections 951.22(1)(a)-(g), F.S.

<sup>10</sup> This does not include any device which has been approved or issued by the sheriff or officer in charge for investigative or institutional security purposes or for conducting official business.

<sup>11</sup> Sections 951.22(1)(h)-(k), F.S.

<sup>12</sup> Sections 985.711(1)(a)1., F.S.

<sup>13</sup> Section 985.711(1)(a)2.-4., F.S.

### **Introduction of Contraband at the DCF and the APD Facilities**

The DCF and the APD supervise certain criminal defendants who have been found incompetent to proceed or not guilty by reason of insanity.

Section 916.1085, F.S., provides that it is a third degree felony to introduce into or on the grounds of any facility under the supervision or control of the DCF or the APD, any of the following items:

- Any controlled substance as defined in ch. 893, F.S.
- Any firearm or deadly weapon.<sup>14</sup>

Additionally, intoxicating beverages or any item determined by the DCF or the APD to be hazardous to the welfare of clients or the operation of the facility are considered contraband.<sup>15</sup> However, a violation of these items is not a criminal offense.

### **Florida's Controlled Substance Schedules**

Section 893.02(4), F.S., defines controlled substance as any substance named or described in Schedules I-V of s. 893.03, F.S. Section 893.03, F.S., classifies controlled substances into five categories or classifications, known as schedules. The schedules regulate the manufacture, distribution, preparation, and dispensing of substances listed in the schedules. The most important factors in determining which schedule may apply to a substance are the “potential for abuse”<sup>16</sup> of the substance and whether there is a currently accepted medical use for the substance.

### ***Cannabis, Medical Marijuana, and Hemp***

State correctional facilities, county detention facilities, juvenile detention and commitment programs, and facilities operated by the DCF and the APD currently prohibit any controlled substance as defined in ch. 893, F.S., including cannabis.

Section 893.02(3), F.S., defines cannabis as all parts of any plant of the genus *Cannabis*, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant or its seeds or resin.

Cannabis is prohibited contraband. However, recent changes made by the Legislature make prosecution of cannabis contraband offenses difficult. In 2014, the Legislature amended s. 893.02(3), F.S., to exclude medical marijuana as defined under s. 381.986, F.S.<sup>17</sup> Similarly, in 2019, the Legislature exempted hemp as defined in s. 581.217, F.S., and industrial hemp as defined in s. 1004.4473, F.S., from the definition of cannabis under s. 893.02(3), F.S.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Section 916.1085(1)(a), F.S.

<sup>15</sup> Section 916.1085(1)(a), F.S.

<sup>16</sup> Section 893.035(3)(a), F.S., defines “potential for abuse” as a substance that has properties as a central nervous system stimulant or depressant or a hallucinogen that create a substantial likelihood of the substance being: used in amounts that create a hazard to the user’s health or the safety of the community; diverted from legal channels and distributed through illegal channels; or taken on the user’s own initiative rather than on the basis of professional medical advice.

<sup>17</sup> Chapter 2014-157, L.O.F.

<sup>18</sup> Chapter 2019-132, L.O.F.

Section 381.986(1)(f), F.S., defines marijuana as all parts of any plant of the genus *Cannabis*, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant or its seeds or resin, including low-THC cannabis, which are dispensed from a medical marijuana treatment center for medical use by a qualified patient.

Section 581.217(3)(d), F.S., defines hemp as the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds thereof, and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers thereof, whether growing or not, that has a total delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration that does not exceed 0.3 percent on a dry-weight basis.

Section 1004.4473(1)(c), F.S., defines industrial hemp as all parts and varieties of the *Cannabis sativa* plant, cultivated or possessed by an approved grower under the pilot project, whether growing or not, which contain a tetrahydrocannabinol concentration that does not exceed 0.3 percent on a dry-weight basis.

## Vaping

During the 2019 Legislative Session, CS/SB 7012<sup>19</sup> was adopted, to implement Amendment 9 to the State Constitution, which was approved by the voters of Florida on November 6, 2018, to ban the use of vapor-generating electronic devices, such as electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), in enclosed indoor workplaces, as part of the Florida Clean Indoor Air Act. The use of e-cigarettes is commonly referred to as vaping.

“Vape” or “vaping” means to inhale or exhale vapor<sup>20</sup> produced by a vapor-generating electronic device or to possess a vapor-generating electronic device while that device is actively employing an electronic, a chemical, or a mechanical means designed to produce vapor or aerosol from a nicotine product or any other substance. The term does not include the mere possession of a vapor-generating electronic device.<sup>21</sup>

A “vapor-generating electronic device” is any product that employs an electronic, a chemical, or a mechanical means capable of producing vapor or aerosol from a nicotine product or any other substance, including, but not limited to, an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or other similar device or product, any replacement cartridge for such device, and any other container of a solution or other substance intended to be used with or within an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or other similar device or product.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> See ch. 2019-14, L.O.F. This legislation was approved by the Governor and took effect July 1, 2019.

<sup>20</sup> “Vapor” means aerosolized or vaporized nicotine or other aerosolized or vaporized substance produced by a vapor-generating electronic device or exhaled by the person using such a device. Section 386.202(14), F.S.

<sup>21</sup> Section 386.203(13), F.S.

<sup>22</sup> Section 386.203(15), F.S. Electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) are “noncombustible tobacco products.” “These products use an ‘e-liquid’ that may contain nicotine, as well as varying compositions of flavorings, propylene glycol, vegetable glycerin, and other ingredients. The liquid is heated to create an aerosol that the user inhales.” “ENDS may be manufactured to look like conventional cigarettes, cigars, or pipes. Some resemble pens or USB flash drives. Larger devices, such as tank systems or mods, bear little or no resemblance to cigarettes.” *Vaporizers, E-Cigarettes, and other Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS)*, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, available at <https://www.fda.gov/tobacco->

## **Criminal Punishment Code**

The Criminal Punishment Code<sup>23</sup> (Code) is Florida's primary sentencing policy. Noncapital felonies sentenced under the Code receive an offense severity level ranking (levels 1-10). Points are assigned and accrue based upon the severity level ranking assigned to the primary offense, additional offenses, and prior offenses. Sentence points escalate as the severity level escalates. Points may also be added or multiplied for other factors such as victim injury or the commission of certain offenses like a level 7 or 8 drug trafficking offense. The lowest permissible sentence is any nonstate prison sanction in which total sentence points equal or are less than 44 points, unless the court determines that a prison sentence is appropriate. If total sentence points exceed 44 points, the lowest permissible sentence in prison months is calculated by subtracting 28 points from the total sentence points and decreasing the remaining total by 25 percent.<sup>24</sup> Absent mitigation,<sup>25</sup> the permissible sentencing range under the Code is generally the lowest permissible sentence scored up to and including the maximum penalty provided under s. 775.082, F.S.<sup>26</sup>

Offenses are either ranked in the offense severity level ranking chart in s. 921.0022, F.S., or are ranked by default based on a ranking assigned to the felony degree of the offense as provided in s. 921.0023, F.S. Currently a felony of the third degree is ranked as a level 1 offense.<sup>27</sup>

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

#### **Introduction of Contraband at State Correctional Institutions (State Prisons)**

This bill amends s. 944.47, F.S., to add medical marijuana, hemp, industrial hemp, and vapor-generating electronic devices to the list of contraband that is prohibited from being introduced into or on the grounds of any state correctional institution.

This bill defines a vapor-generating device as any product that employs an electronic, a chemical, or a mechanical means capable of producing vapor or aerosol from a nicotine product or any other substance, including, but not limited to, an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or other similar device or product; any replacement cartridge for such device; and any other container of a solution or other substance intended to be used with or within such device.

This bill provides that a person who introduces contraband including medical marijuana, hemp, or industrial hemp commits a second degree felony.

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[products/products-ingredients-components/vaporizers-e-cigarettes-and-other-electronic-nicotine-delivery-systems-ends](https://www.flcourts.gov/products/products-ingredients-components/vaporizers-e-cigarettes-and-other-electronic-nicotine-delivery-systems-ends) (last visited Jan. 15, 2020).

<sup>23</sup> Sections 921.002-921.0027, F.S. See chs. 97-194 and 98-204, L.O.F. The Code is effective for offenses committed on or after October 1, 1998.

<sup>24</sup> Section 921.0024, F.S. Unless otherwise noted, information on the Code is from this source.

<sup>25</sup> The court may "mitigate" or "depart downward" from the scored lowest permissible sentence, if the court finds a mitigating circumstance. Section 921.0026, F.S., provides a list of mitigating circumstances.

<sup>26</sup> If the scored lowest permissible sentence exceeds the maximum penalty in s. 775.082, F.S., the sentence required by the Code must be imposed. If total sentence points are greater than or equal to 363 points, the court may sentence the offender to life imprisonment. Section 921.0024(2), F.S.

<sup>27</sup> Section 921.0023(1), F.S.

This bill provides that a person who introduces contraband including a vapor-generating electronic device commits a first degree misdemeanor.

#### **Introduction of Contraband at County Detention Facilities (County Jails)**

This bill amends s. 951.22, F.S., to add medical marijuana, hemp, industrial hemp, and vapor-generating electronic devices to the list of contraband that is prohibited from being introduced into or on the grounds of any county detention facility.

This bill provides that a person who introduces contraband including medical marijuana, hemp, or industrial hemp commits a third degree felony.

This bill provides that a person who introduces contraband including a vapor-generating electronic device commits a first degree misdemeanor.

#### **Introduction of Contraband at Juvenile Detention Facilities and Juvenile Commitment Programs**

This bill amends s. 985.711, F.S., to add medical marijuana, hemp, industrial hemp, cellular phones or portable communication devices, and vapor-generating electronic devices to the list of contraband that is prohibited from being introduced into a juvenile detention facility or commitment program.

This bill provides that a person who introduces contraband including medical marijuana, hemp, or industrial hemp commits a third degree felony.

This bill provides that a person who introduces contraband including cellular phones or portable communication devices, or vapor-generating electronic devices commits a first degree misdemeanor.

#### **Introduction of Contraband at the DCF and the APD Facilities**

This bill amends s. 916.1085, F.S., to add medical marijuana, hemp, industrial hemp, cellular phones or portable communication devices, and vapor-generating electronic devices, to the list of contraband that is prohibited from being introduced into or on the grounds of a facility under the supervision or control of the DCF or the APD.

This bill provides that a person who introduces contraband including medical marijuana, hemp, or industrial hemp commits a third degree felony.

This bill provides that a person who introduces contraband including cellular phones or portable communication devices, or vapor-generating electronic devices commits a first degree misdemeanor.

**Criminal Punishment Code**

Additionally, this bill amends s. 921.0022, F.S., ranking the previously unranked offense of introducing a firearm or deadly weapon, or a controlled substance into a facility operated or controlled by the DCF or the APD, as a level 4 offense. Currently this offense is an unranked third degree felony which means it has a level 1 offense ranking.

This bill is effective October 1, 2020.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:****A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

**B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

**C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

**D. State Tax or Fee Increases:**

None.

**E. Other Constitutional Issues:**

None identified.

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

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The Criminal Justice Impact Conference, which provides the final, official estimate of the prison bed impact, if any, has not reviewed this bill. However, the bill will likely have a positive indeterminate prison bed impact (an unquantifiable increase in prison beds) because the bill makes introducing medical marijuana, hemp, industrial hemp, and vapor-generating electronic devices into a state correction institution a second degree felony. This bill makes introducing the same contraband listed above into a county detention



facility, juvenile detention or commitment program, or a facility operated by the DCF or the APD, a third degree felony.

Additionally, the bill may have a positive indeterminate jail bed impact (an unquantifiable increase in jail beds) because the bill makes introducing a vapor-generating electronic device into a state correctional institution, county detention facility, juvenile detention facility or juvenile commitment program, or a facility operated by the DCF or the APD, a first degree misdemeanor.

Additionally, the bill may have a positive indeterminate jail bed impact (an unquantifiable increase in jail beds) because the bill makes introducing a cellular phone or portable communication device into a juvenile detention or commitment program, or a facility operated by the DCF or the APD, a first degree misdemeanor.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 916.1085, 944.47, 951.22, 985.711, and 921.0022.

**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.