

By Senator Wright

14-00381-20

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to crimes against veterans; providing  
3       a short title; amending s. 775.0844, F.S.; providing  
4       an enhanced sentence for any person who commits  
5       aggravated white collar crimes against a certain  
6       number of veterans by obtaining or attempting to  
7       obtain a specified amount of money; providing criminal  
8       penalties; providing an effective date.

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10   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12       Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Florida Veterans  
13 Protection Act."

14       Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 775.0844, Florida  
15 Statutes, is amended, and subsections (4) and (6) of that  
16 section are republished, to read:

17       775.0844 White Collar Crime Victim Protection Act.—

18       (4) As used in this section, "aggravated white collar  
19 crime" means engaging in at least two white collar crimes that  
20 have the same or similar intents, results, accomplices, victims,  
21 or methods of commission, or that are otherwise interrelated by  
22 distinguishing characteristics and are not isolated incidents,  
23 provided that at least one of such crimes occurred after the  
24 effective date of this act.

25       (5) Any person who commits an aggravated white collar crime  
26 as defined in this section and in so doing either:

27       (a) Victimizes 10 or more elderly persons, as defined in s.  
28 825.101;

29       (b) Victimizes 10 or more veterans, as defined in s. 1.01;

14-00381-20

2020294\_\_

30        (c) ~~(b)~~ Victimizes 20 or more persons, as defined in s.  
31 1.01; or

32        (d) ~~(e)~~ Victimizes the State of Florida, any state agency,  
33 any of the state's political subdivisions, or any agency of the  
34 state's political subdivisions,

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36 and thereby obtains or attempts to obtain \$50,000 or more,  
37 commits a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in  
38 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

39        (6) Notwithstanding any other provision of chapter 921 or  
40 any other law, an aggravated white collar crime shall be ranked  
41 within the offense severity ranking chart at offense severity  
42 level 9.

43        Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2020.