

**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 510

INTRODUCER: Senator Wright

SUBJECT: Bail Pending Appellate Review

DATE: November 8, 2019

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

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Stokes	Jones	CJ	<b>Favorable</b>
2.	_____	_____	JU	_____
3.	_____	_____	RC	_____

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**I. Summary:**

SB 510 amends s. 903.133, F.S., to prohibit bail on appeal for any offense requiring sexual offender registration under s. 943.0435(1)(h), F.S., or sexual predator registration under s. 775.21(4), F.S., when the offender is over 18 years of age and the victim is a minor.

Section 903.133, F.S., prohibits bail on appeal for any person adjudicated guilty of a first degree felony under ss. 782.04(2) or (3), 787.01, 794.011(4), 806.01, 893.13, and 893.135, F.S.

This bill is effective October 1, 2020.

**II. Present Situation:**

Bail includes any form of pretrial release, but frequently requires a monetary or cash component.<sup>1</sup> Bail on appeal may be set post-conviction if a defendant appeals the conviction. Bail is set by the court to ensure the appearance of the defendant at subsequent proceedings and to protect the community against unreasonable danger from the defendant.<sup>2</sup>

**Bail on Appeal**

Bail on appeal is a separate undertaking than the original bail issued pre-trial. If a defendant is convicted and the case is appealed, the court may issue bail on appeal, because bail issued at first appearance may not be continued for appeal. A new bail is considered to reflect the increased risk and longer time considerations.<sup>3</sup> A defendant may be granted bail on appeal at the discretion of the trial court.<sup>4</sup> However, defendants who are convicted of capital felony offenses are not

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<sup>1</sup> Section 903.11, F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Section 903.046(1), F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Section 903.132(3), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> *Greene v. State*, 238 So. 2d 296, 298 (Fla. 1970).

eligible for bail on appeal.<sup>5</sup> If a defendant is denied bail on appeal, he or she has a right to appeal the denial.<sup>6</sup>

The Legislature has prohibited certain crimes from being eligible to receive bail on appeal. Section 903.132, F.S., provides that a defendant may be granted bail on appeal from a conviction of a felony only if the defendant establishes that the appeal is in good faith, is fairly debatable, and not frivolous.

A defendant may not receive bail on appeal if probable cause has been found for another pending felony, or if the defendant has a previous felony conviction, and:

- The commission of the previous conviction occurred before the crime that is being appealed; and
- The defendant's civil rights have not been restored.<sup>7</sup>

Section 903.133, F.S., prohibits bail on appeal for defendants convicted of specified crimes. Any defendant adjudicated guilty of a first degree felony of:

- Second degree murder or felony murder (s. 782.04(2) or (3), F.S.).
- Kidnapping (s. 787.01, F.S.).
- Sexual battery (s. 794.011(4), F.S.).
- Arson (s. 806.01, F.S.).
- Sale, manufacture, deliver or possess with intent to sell a controlled substance (s. 893.13, F.S.).
- Drug trafficking (s. 893.135, F.S.).

If a defendant commits and is convicted of a separate felony offense while free on bail on appeal, that bail must be revoked.<sup>8</sup>

### **Florida's Sexual Predator and Sexual Offender Registration Laws**

Florida law requires registration of any person who has been convicted or adjudicated delinquent of a specified sex offense or offenses and who meets other statutory criteria that qualify the person for designation as a sexual predator or classification as a sexual offender.<sup>9</sup> The registration laws also require reregistration and provide for public and community notification of certain information about sexual predators and sexual offenders. The laws span several different chapters and numerous statutes,<sup>10</sup> and are implemented through the combined efforts of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), all Florida sheriffs, the Department of Corrections (DOC), the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), and the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

A person is designated as a sexual predator by a court if the person:

<sup>5</sup> *Rowe v. State*, 417 So. 2d 981, 983 (Fla. 1982), (holding that Fla. R. Crim. Pro. 3.961 prohibits the granting of bail on appeal for a defendant convicted of a capital offense and sentenced to life in prison).

<sup>6</sup> Section 903.132(2), F.S.

<sup>7</sup> Section 903.132(1), F.S.

<sup>8</sup> Section 903.131, F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Sections 775.21 and 943.0435, F.S.

<sup>10</sup> Sections 775.21-775.25, 943.043-943.0437, 944.606, 944.607, and 985.481-985.4815, F.S.

- Has been convicted of a current qualifying capital, life, or first degree felony sex offense committed on or after October 1, 1993;<sup>11</sup>
- Has been convicted of a current qualifying sex offense committed on or after October 1, 1993, and has a prior conviction for a qualifying sex offense; or
- Was found to be a sexually violent predator in a civil commitment proceeding.<sup>12</sup>

A person is classified as a sexual offender if the person:

- Has been convicted of a qualifying sex offense and has been released on or after October 1, 1997, from the sanction imposed for that offense;
- Establishes or maintains a Florida residence and is subject to registration or community or public notification in another state or jurisdiction or is in the custody or control of, or under the supervision of, another state or jurisdiction as a result of a conviction for a qualifying sex offense; or
- On or after July 1, 2007, has been adjudicated delinquent of a qualifying sexual battery or lewd offense committed when the person was 14 years of age or older.<sup>13</sup>

Qualifying offenses for registration as a sexual offender, which subsumes all offenses required for registration as a sexual predator, include:

- Sexual misconduct with a person having a developmental disability (s. 393.135(2), F.S.);
- Sexual misconduct with a mental health patient by an employee (s. 394.4593(2), F.S.);
- Specified violations of kidnapping or falsely imprisoning a minor (s. 787.01 or s. 787.02, F.S.);<sup>14</sup>
- Luring or enticing a child, by a person with a prior sexual conviction (s. 787.025(2), F.S.);
- Human trafficking for commercial sexual activity (s. 787.06(3)(b), (d), (f), or (g), F.S.);
- Sexual battery (s. 794.011, excluding s. 794.011(10), F.S.);
- Unlawful sexual activity with a minor (s. 794.05, F.S.);
- Lewd or lascivious battery, molestation, conduct, or exhibition (s. 800.04, F.S.);
- Video voyeurism, involving a minor victim (s. 810.145(8), F.S.);
- Lewd or lascivious offense on an elderly or disabled person (s. 825.1025, F.S.);
- Sexual performance by a child (s. 827.071, F.S.);
- Providing obscene materials to a minor (s. 847.0133, F.S.);
- Computer pornography involving a minor (s. 847.0135(2), F.S.);
- Soliciting a minor over the Internet (s. 847.0135(3), F.S.);
- Traveling to meet a minor (s. 847.0135(4), F.S.);
- Lewd or lascivious exhibition over the Internet (s. 847.0135(5), F.S.);
- Transmitting child pornography by electronic device or equipment (s. 847.0137, F.S.);

<sup>11</sup> Examples of qualifying sex offenses are sexual battery by an adult on a child under 12 years of age (s. 794.011(2)(a), F.S.) and lewd battery by an adult on a child 12 years of age or older but under 16 years of age (s. 800.04(4)(a), F.S.).

<sup>12</sup> Section 775.21(4) and (5), F.S. The Jimmy Ryce Involuntary Civil Commitment for Sexually Violent Predators' Treatment and Care Act, part V, ch. 394, F.S., provides for the civil confinement of a group of sexual offenders who, due to their criminal history and the presence of mental abnormality, are found likely to engage in future acts of sexual violence if they are not confined in a secure facility for long-term control, care, and treatment.

<sup>13</sup> Sections 943.0435(1)(h) and 985.4815(1)(h), F.S. Sections 944.606(1)(f) and 944.607(1)(f), F.S., which address sexual offenders in the custody of or under the DOC's supervision, also define the term "sexual offender."

<sup>14</sup> However, the Florida Supreme Court has held there must be a sexual element to the kidnapping or false imprisonment when the victim is a minor.

- Transmitting material harmful to a minor by electronic device (s. 847.0138, F.S.);
- Selling or buying a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct (s. 847.0145, F.S.);
- Racketeering involving a sexual offense (s. 895.03, F.S.);
- Sexual misconduct with a forensic client (s. 916.1075(2), F.S.); and
- Sexual misconduct by an employee with a juvenile offender (s. 985.701(1), F.S.).

The FDLE, through its agency website, provides a searchable database that contains information about sexual predators and sexual offenders, including residence information.<sup>15</sup> Further, local law enforcement agencies may also provide access to this information, such as providing a link to the state public registry webpage.

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 903.133, F.S., to prohibit bail on appeal for any offense requiring sexual offender registration under s. 943.0435(1)(h), F.S., or sexual predator registration under s. 775.21(4), F.S., when the offender is over 18 years of age and the victim is a minor.

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.

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<sup>15</sup> The FDLE is the central repository for registration information. The department also maintains the state public registry and ensures Florida's compliance with federal laws. The Florida sheriffs handle in-person registration and reregistration. *About Us*, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, available at <http://offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/About.jsp> (last visited on Nov. 5, 2019). The FDLE maintains a database that allows members of the public to search for sexual offenders and sexual predators through a variety of search options, including name, neighborhood, and enrollment, employment, or volunteer status at an institute of higher education. See <http://offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/Search.jsp> (last visited on Nov. 5, 2019).

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

## A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

## B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

## C. Government Sector Impact:

The Department of Corrections may see a positive indeterminate prison bed impact due to defendants' ineligibility to receive bail on appeal.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends s. 903.133, F.S.

**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.