

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 7025 PCB RUC 21-01 Florida Statutes

SPONSOR(S): Rules Committee, Clemons

TIED BILLS: IDEN./SIM. **BILLS:** SB 306

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION: 118 Y's 0 N's **GOVERNOR'S ACTION:** Approved

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 7025 passed the House on April 14, 2021, as SB 306.

The bill prospectively adopts all statutes of a general and permanent nature passed through the 2020 Regular Session together with corrections, changes, and amendments to and repeals of the provisions of the 2020 Florida Statutes enacted in additional Reviser's bill(s) by the 2021 Legislature. This bill adopts as official statutory law of the state those portions of the statutes that are carried forward from the regular edition published in 2020, which thus serve as the best evidence of the law.

Legislation passed in the 2021 Regular Session, which will have occurred since the publication of the 2020 edition, is not adopted as the official statutory law of the state and serves as prima facie evidence of the law until it is adopted in 2022.

This bill has no fiscal impact.

The bill was approved by the Governor on June 4, 2021, ch. 2021-50, L.O.F., and became effective on June 29, 2021.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

The 2021 adoption act is drafted by the Division of Law Revision and Information of the Office of Legislative Services to prospectively adopt the Florida Statutes 2021 and designate the portions thereof that are to constitute the official statutory law of the state. The adoption act amends ss. 11.2421, 11.2422, 11.2424, and 11.2425, F.S., and has the effect of curing any title or single subject defects that may have existed in an act as originally passed.¹ The adoption act is usually enacted annually during each regular session.

The adoption act provides a 1-year curing period for title or single subject defects before statutory material becomes the best evidence of the law. This is consistent with the decision by the Legislature, beginning in 2000, to publish the Florida Statutes on an annual basis and to have the Division of Law Revision submit an adoption act annually, rather than every 2 years.

The 2021 adoption act prospectively adopts all statutes of a general and permanent nature passed through the 2020 Regular Session together with corrections, changes, and amendments to and repeals of provisions of 2020 Florida Statutes enacted in additional Reviser's bill(s) by the 2021 Legislature. The bill adopts as official statutory law of the state those portions of the statutes that are carried forward from the regular edition published in 2020, which thus serve as the best evidence of the law.

Any "statute of a general and permanent nature" enacted prior to the period since publication of the last adopted regular edition of the Florida Statutes that does not appear in the current edition stands repealed, both by logic of the system and by the operation of s. 11.2422, F.S.²

The adopted statutes that have been enacted, amended, or repealed in a session occurring subsequent to publication of the 2020 edition are prima facie evidence of the law in all courts of the state. For this material, the enrolled acts stand as best evidence of the law. Therefore, legislation passed in the 2021 Regular Session, which will have occurred since the publication of the 2020 edition, is not adopted as the official statutory law of the state and serves as prima facie evidence of the law.

Material passed in a session occurring since publication of the 2020 edition must wait one more year before being adopted, and the session law form of that material will remain the best evidence of the law for that material.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

¹ The adoption of the *Florida Statutes* cures title defects that existed in an act as originally passed. *See State ex rel. Badgett v. Lee*, 156 Fla. 291, 22 So.2d 804 (1945). Thus, general legislation must be attacked on this ground only during the period between its original enactment and its subsequent adoption as the official law of the state. An act with a title defect is considered valid only from adoption and not from the date of original enactment. *See Thompson v. Intercountry Tel. & Tel. Co.*, 62 So.2d 16 (Fla. 1952). Analogously, once reenacted as a portion of the *Florida Statutes*, a statute is no longer subject to challenge on the ground that it violates the single subject requirement of s. 6, Art. III of the State Constitution. *See State v. Combs*, 388 So.2d 1029 (Fla. 1980); *Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District v. School Board of Palm Beach County*, 515 So.2d 217 (Fla. 1987); *State v. Johnson*, 616 So.2d 1 (Fla. 1993).

² *See National Bank v. Williams*, 38 Fla. 305, 20 So 931 (1896). Section 11.2423, F.S., provides that no special or local statute, or statute, local, limited or special in its nature, shall be repealed via reviser's bill.

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:
None
2. Expenditures:
None

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:
None
2. Expenditures:
None

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The adoption act prospectively adopts the Florida Statutes 2020 as an official document. It has no fiscal impact on state or local government or on the private sector.