A bill to be entitled

CS/HB 829

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2022

2	An act relating to civil actions for deprivation of				
3	rights, privileges, or immunities; creating s. 760.52,				
4	F.S.; providing a cause of action for the deprivation				
5	of certain rights, privileges, or immunities under the				
6	State Constitution; prohibiting injunctive relief				
7	under certain circumstances; providing that the				
8	plaintiff is considered the prevailing party under				
9	certain circumstances; providing for damages and				
10	reasonable attorney fees and costs, including expert				
11	witness fees and contingency fees; providing that				
12	interest accrues on a judgement beginning on a certain				
13	date; providing a waiver of sovereign immunity under				
14	certain circumstances; providing an effective date.				
15					
16	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:				
17					
18	Section 1. Section 760.52, Florida Statutes, is created to				
19	read:				
20	760.52 Civil action for deprivation of rights, privileges,				
21	<u>or immunities</u>				
22	(1) It is unlawful for a person to, under color of law,				
23	including under any statute, ordinance, regulation, measure,				
24	directive, rule, enactment, order, or policy, whether written or				
25	<u>unwritten:</u>				

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26	(a) Promulgate or cause to be enforced any statute,
27	ordinance, regulation, measure, directive, rule, enactment,
28	order, or policy, whether written or unwritten, that deprives
29	any resident of the state or other person within the
30	jurisdiction thereof of any rights, privileges, or immunities
31	secured by s. 3, s. 4, s. 5, or s. 8, Art. I of the State
32	Constitution; or
33	(b) Otherwise cause any resident of the state or other
34	person within the jurisdiction thereof to be subjected to the
35	deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by
36	s. 3, s. 4, s. 5, or s. 8, Art. I of the State Constitution.
37	
38	A person who violates this subsection is liable to the injured
39	party in an action at law, suit in equity, or other proper
40	proceeding for redress. However, injunctive relief may not be
41	granted in an action brought against a judicial officer for an
42	act or omission taken in such officer's judicial capacity unless
43	a declaratory decree is violated or declaratory relief is
44	unavailable.
45	(2) If a defendant substantially modifies or repeals a
46	statute, ordinance, regulation, measure, directive, rule,
47	enactment, order, or policy, whether written or unwritten, with
48	or without court action, after a complaint has been filed
49	alleging a violation of this section based on such statute,
50	ordinance, regulation, measure, directive, rule, enactment,

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52 party for purposes of this section. 53 (3) In an action or proceeding brought under this section 54 (a) The court may award a prevailing plaintiff any or all 55 of the following, as appropriate: 56 <u>1. Compensatory damages.</u> 57 <u>2. Nominal damages.</u> 58 <u>3. Punitive damages.</u> 59 (b) The court shall award a prevailing plaintiff	
<ul> <li>54 (a) The court may award a prevailing plaintiff any or al</li> <li>55 of the following, as appropriate:</li> <li>56 <u>1. Compensatory damages.</u></li> <li>57 <u>2. Nominal damages.</u></li> <li>58 <u>3. Punitive damages.</u></li> </ul>	
<pre>55 of the following, as appropriate: 56 <u>1. Compensatory damages.</u> 57 <u>2. Nominal damages.</u> 58 <u>3. Punitive damages.</u></pre>	n :
56     1. Compensatory damages.       57     2. Nominal damages.       58     3. Punitive damages.	1
572. Nominal damages.583. Punitive damages.	
58 <u>3. Punitive damages.</u>	
59 (b) The court shall award a prevailing plaintiff	
60 reasonable attorney fees and costs, which may include a	
61 contingency fee multiplier as authorized by law, and expert	
62 witness fees.	
63 (4) Interest on the sums awarded by the court begins on	
64 the date the plaintiff filed the complaint with the clerk of	
65 court and accrues at the legal rate set forth in s. 55.03.	
66 (5) In accordance with s. 13, Art. X of the State	
67 Constitution, the state, for itself and for its agencies or	
68 political subdivisions, waives sovereign immunity for causes of	f
69 action brought under this section, but only to the extent	
70 specified herein.	
71 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.	
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