

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to animal cruelty offenses; creating  
 3           s. 827.12, F.S.; prohibiting engaging in specified  
 4           acts of animal cruelty in the presence of a child or  
 5           causing or enticing a child to engage in such acts;  
 6           providing criminal penalties; amending s. 921.0022,  
 7           F.S.; increasing the offense severity ranking of the  
 8           offense of fighting or baiting animals; ranking the  
 9           offense of subjecting a child to animal cruelty on the  
 10          offense severity ranking chart of the Criminal  
 11          Punishment Code; providing an effective date.

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

15           **Section 1. Section 827.12, Florida Statutes, is created to**  
 16 **read:**

17           827.12 Subjecting a child to animal cruelty.—Any adult  
 18 who:

19           (1) Commits any act prohibited by s. 828.12(2), s.  
 20 828.122, or s. 828.126 in the presence of a child; or

21           (2) Causes or entices a child to commit any act prohibited  
 22 by s. 828.12(2), s. 828.122, or s. 828.126,

23  
 24 commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in  
 25 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

26           **Section 2. Paragraphs (a), (e), and (f) of subsection (3)**  
 27 **of section 921.0022, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

28           921.0022 Criminal Punishment Code; offense severity  
 29 ranking chart.—

30           (3) OFFENSE SEVERITY RANKING CHART

31           (a) LEVEL 1

32

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
24.118 (3) (a)	3rd	Counterfeit or altered state lottery ticket.
104.0616 (2)	3rd	Unlawfully distributing, ordering, requesting, collecting, delivering, or possessing vote-by-mail ballots.
212.054 (2) (b)	3rd	Discretionary sales surtax; limitations, administration, and collection.
212.15 (2) (b)	3rd	Failure to remit sales taxes, amount \$1,000 or more but less

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			than \$20,000.
37	316.1935 (1)	3rd	Fleeing or attempting to elude law enforcement officer.
38	319.30 (5)	3rd	Sell, exchange, give away certificate of title or identification number plate.
39	319.35 (1) (a)	3rd	Tamper, adjust, change, etc., an odometer.
40	320.26 (1) (a)	3rd	Counterfeit, manufacture, or sell registration license plates or validation stickers.
41	322.212 (1) (a) - (c)	3rd	Possession of forged, stolen, counterfeit, or unlawfully issued driver license; possession of simulated identification.
42	322.212 (4)	3rd	Supply or aid in supplying unauthorized driver license or identification card.

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43	322.212 (5) (a)	3rd	False application for driver license or identification card.
44	414.39 (3) (a)	3rd	Fraudulent misappropriation of public assistance funds by employee/official, value more than \$200.
45	443.071 (1)	3rd	False statement or representation to obtain or increase reemployment assistance benefits.
46	509.151 (1)	3rd	Defraud an innkeeper, food or lodging value \$1,000 or more.
47	517.302 (1)	3rd	Violation of the Florida Securities and Investor Protection Act.
48	713.69	3rd	Tenant removes property upon which lien has accrued, value \$1,000 or more.
49			

50	812.014 (3) (c)	3rd	Petit theft (3rd conviction); theft of any property not specified in subsection (2).
51	815.04 (4) (a)	3rd	Offense against intellectual property (i.e., computer programs, data).
52	817.52 (2)	3rd	Hiring with intent to defraud, motor vehicle services.
53	817.569 (2)	3rd	Use of public record or public records information or providing false information to facilitate commission of a felony.
54	826.01	3rd	Bigamy.
55	<del>828.122 (3)</del>	<del>3rd</del>	<del>Fighting or baiting animals.</del>
	831.04 (1)	3rd	Any erasure, alteration, etc., of any replacement deed, map, plat, or other document listed in s. 92.28.

56	831.31 (1) (a)	3rd	Sell, deliver, or possess counterfeit controlled substances, all but s. 893.03(5) drugs.
57	832.041 (1)	3rd	Stopping payment with intent to defraud \$150 or more.
58	832.05 (2) (b) & (4) (c)	3rd	Knowing, making, issuing worthless checks \$150 or more or obtaining property in return for worthless check \$150 or more.
59	838.15 (2)	3rd	Commercial bribe receiving.
60	838.16	3rd	Commercial bribery.
61	843.18	3rd	Fleeing by boat to elude a law enforcement officer.
62	847.011 (1) (a)	3rd	Sell, distribute, etc., obscene, lewd, etc., material (2nd conviction).

63	849.09 (1) (a) - (d)	3rd	Lottery; set up, promote, etc., or assist therein, conduct or advertise drawing for prizes, or dispose of property or money by means of lottery.
64	849.23	3rd	Gambling-related machines; "common offender" as to property rights.
65	849.25 (2)	3rd	Engaging in bookmaking.
66	860.08	3rd	Interfere with a railroad signal.
67	860.13 (1) (a)	3rd	Operate aircraft while under the influence.
68	893.13 (2) (a) 2.	3rd	Purchase of cannabis.
69	893.13 (6) (a)	3rd	Possession of cannabis (more than 20 grams).
70	934.03 (1) (a)	3rd	Intercepts, or procures any

other person to intercept, any  
wire or oral communication.

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(e) LEVEL 5

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
316.027 (2) (a)	3rd	Accidents involving personal injuries other than serious bodily injury, failure to stop; leaving scene.
316.1935 (4) (a)	2nd	Aggravated fleeing or eluding.
316.80 (2)	2nd	Unlawful conveyance of fuel; obtaining fuel fraudulently.
322.34 (6)	3rd	Careless operation of motor vehicle with suspended license, resulting in death or serious bodily injury.
327.30 (5)	3rd	Vessel accidents involving personal injury; leaving scene.



79

379.365(2)(c)1.            3rd    Violation of rules relating to:  
willful molestation of stone  
crab traps, lines, or buoys;  
illegal bartering, trading, or  
sale, conspiring or aiding in  
such barter, trade, or sale, or  
supplying, agreeing to supply,  
aiding in supplying, or giving  
away stone crab trap tags or  
certificates; making, altering,  
forging, counterfeiting, or  
reproducing stone crab trap  
tags; possession of forged,  
counterfeit, or imitation stone  
crab trap tags; and engaging in  
the commercial harvest of stone  
crabs while license is  
suspended or revoked.

80

379.367(4)                3rd    Willful molestation of a  
commercial harvester's spiny  
lobster trap, line, or buoy.

81

379.407(5)(b)3.           3rd    Possession of 100 or more

82			undersized spiny lobsters.
	381.0041 (11) (b)	3rd	Donate blood, plasma, or organs knowing HIV positive.
83			
	440.10 (1) (g)	2nd	Failure to obtain workers' compensation coverage.
84			
	440.105 (5)	2nd	Unlawful solicitation for the purpose of making workers' compensation claims.
85			
	440.381 (2)	3rd	Submission of false, misleading, or incomplete information with the purpose of avoiding or reducing workers' compensation premiums.
86			
	624.401 (4) (b) 2.	2nd	Transacting insurance without a certificate or authority; premium collected \$20,000 or more but less than \$100,000.
87			
	626.902 (1) (c)	2nd	Representing an unauthorized insurer; repeat offender.

88	790.01 (3)	3rd	Unlawful carrying of a concealed firearm.
89	790.162	2nd	Threat to throw or discharge destructive device.
90	790.163 (1)	2nd	False report of bomb, explosive, weapon of mass destruction, or use of firearms in violent manner.
91	790.221 (1)	2nd	Possession of short-barreled shotgun or machine gun.
92	790.23	2nd	Felons in possession of firearms, ammunition, or electronic weapons or devices.
93	796.05 (1)	2nd	Live on earnings of a prostitute; 1st offense.
94	800.04 (6) (c)	3rd	Lewd or lascivious conduct; offender less than 18 years of age.

95	800.04 (7) (b)	2nd	Lewd or lascivious exhibition; offender 18 years of age or older.
96	806.111 (1)	3rd	Possess, manufacture, or dispense fire bomb with intent to damage any structure or property.
97	810.145 (4) (c)	3rd	Commercial digital voyeurism dissemination.
98	810.145 (7) (a)	2nd	Digital voyeurism; 2nd or subsequent offense.
99	810.145 (8) (a)	2nd	Digital voyeurism; certain minor victims.
100	812.014 (2) (d) 3.	2nd	Grand theft, 2nd degree; theft from 20 or more dwellings or their unenclosed curtilage, or any combination.
101	812.0145 (2) (b)	2nd	Theft from person 65 years of

age or older; \$10,000 or more  
but less than \$50,000.

102

812.015 3rd Retail theft; property stolen  
(8) (a) & (c) - is valued at \$750 or more and  
(e) one or more specified acts.

103

812.015 (8) (f) 3rd Retail theft; multiple thefts  
within specified period.

104

812.015 (8) (g) 3rd Retail theft; committed with  
specified number of other  
persons.

105

812.019 (1) 2nd Stolen property; dealing in or  
trafficking in.

106

812.081 (3) 2nd Trafficking in trade secrets.

107

812.131 (2) (b) 3rd Robbery by sudden snatching.

108

812.16 (2) 3rd Owning, operating, or  
conducting a chop shop.

109

817.034 (4) (a) 2. 2nd Communications fraud, value

\$20,000 to \$50,000.

110

817.234 (11) (b)            2nd    Insurance fraud; property value  
\$20,000 or more but less than  
\$100,000.

111

817.2341 (1) ,            3rd    Filing false financial  
      (2) (a) &            statements, making false  
      (3) (a)            entries of material fact or  
                              false statements regarding  
                              property values relating to the  
                              solvency of an insuring entity.

112

817.568 (2) (b)            2nd    Fraudulent use of personal  
                              identification information;  
                              value of benefit, services  
                              received, payment avoided, or  
                              amount of injury or fraud,  
                              \$5,000 or more or use of  
                              personal identification  
                              information of 10 or more  
                              persons.

113

817.611 (2) (a)            2nd    Traffic in or possess 5 to 14  
                              counterfeit credit cards or

related documents.

114

817.625 (2) (b)            2nd    Second or subsequent fraudulent use of scanning device, skimming device, or reencoder.

115

825.1025 (4)            3rd    Lewd or lascivious exhibition in the presence of an elderly person or disabled adult.

116

828.12 (2)            3rd    Tortures any animal with intent to inflict intense pain, serious physical injury, or death.

117

828.122 (3)            3rd    Fighting or baiting animals.

118

836.14 (4)            2nd    Person who willfully promotes for financial gain a sexually explicit image of an identifiable person without consent.

119

839.13 (2) (b)            2nd    Falsifying records of an individual in the care and

custody of a state agency  
involving great bodily harm or  
death.

120 843.01 (1) 3rd Resist officer with violence to  
person; resist arrest with  
violence.

121 847.0135 (5) (b) 2nd Lewd or lascivious exhibition  
using computer; offender 18  
years or older.

122 847.0137 3rd Transmission of pornography by  
(2) & (3) electronic device or equipment.

123 847.0138 3rd Transmission of material  
(2) & (3) harmful to minors to a minor by  
electronic device or equipment.

124 874.05 (1) (b) 2nd Encouraging or recruiting  
another to join a criminal  
gang; second or subsequent  
offense.

125 874.05 (2) (a) 2nd Encouraging or recruiting



person under 13 years of age to  
join a criminal gang.

126

893.13(1)(a)1.            2nd    Sell, manufacture, or deliver  
cocaine (or other s.  
893.03(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(d),  
(2)(a), (2)(b), or (2)(c)5.  
drugs).

127

893.13(1)(c)2.            2nd    Sell, manufacture, or deliver  
cannabis (or other s.  
893.03(1)(c), (2)(c)1.,  
(2)(c)2., (2)(c)3., (2)(c)6.,  
(2)(c)7., (2)(c)8., (2)(c)9.,  
(2)(c)10., (3), or (4) drugs)  
within 1,000 feet of a child  
care facility, school, or  
state, county, or municipal  
park or publicly owned  
recreational facility or  
community center.

128

893.13(1)(d)1.            1st    Sell, manufacture, or deliver  
cocaine (or other s.  
893.03(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(d),

(2) (a), (2) (b), or (2) (c) 5.  
 drugs) within 1,000 feet of  
 university.

129

893.13 (1) (e) 2.

2nd

Sell, manufacture, or deliver  
 cannabis or other drug  
 prohibited under s.  
 893.03 (1) (c), (2) (c) 1.,  
 (2) (c) 2., (2) (c) 3., (2) (c) 6.,  
 (2) (c) 7., (2) (c) 8., (2) (c) 9.,  
 (2) (c) 10., (3), or (4) within  
 1,000 feet of property used for  
 religious services or a  
 specified business site.

130

893.13 (1) (f) 1.

1st

Sell, manufacture, or deliver  
 cocaine (or other s.  
 893.03 (1) (a), (1) (b), (1) (d),  
 or (2) (a), (2) (b), or (2) (c) 5.  
 drugs) within 1,000 feet of  
 public housing facility.

131

893.13 (4) (b)

2nd

Use or hire of minor; deliver  
 to minor other controlled  
 substance.

132	893.1351(1)	3rd	Ownership, lease, or rental for trafficking in or manufacturing of controlled substance.
133			
134	(f) LEVEL 6		
135			
	Florida	Felony	
	Statute	Degree	Description
136			
	316.027(2)(b)	2nd	Leaving the scene of a crash involving serious bodily injury.
137			
	316.193(2)(b)	3rd	Felony DUI, 4th or subsequent conviction.
138			
	400.9935(4)(c)	2nd	Operating a clinic, or offering services requiring licensure, without a license.
139			
	499.0051(2)	2nd	Knowing forgery of transaction history, transaction information, or transaction statement.

140	499.0051 (3)	2nd	Knowing purchase or receipt of prescription drug from unauthorized person.
141	499.0051 (4)	2nd	Knowing sale or transfer of prescription drug to unauthorized person.
142	775.0875 (1)	3rd	Taking firearm from law enforcement officer.
143	784.021 (1) (a)	3rd	Aggravated assault; deadly weapon without intent to kill.
144	784.021 (1) (b)	3rd	Aggravated assault; intent to commit felony.
145	784.041	3rd	Felony battery; domestic battery by strangulation.
146	784.048 (3)	3rd	Aggravated stalking; credible threat.
147	784.048 (5)	3rd	Aggravated stalking of person

under 16.

148

784.07(2)(c) 2nd Aggravated assault on law enforcement officer.

149

784.074(1)(b) 2nd Aggravated assault on sexually violent predators facility staff.

150

784.08(2)(b) 2nd Aggravated assault on a person 65 years of age or older.

151

784.081(2) 2nd Aggravated assault on specified official or employee.

152

784.082(2) 2nd Aggravated assault by detained person on visitor or other detainee.

153

784.083(2) 2nd Aggravated assault on code inspector.

154

787.02(2) 3rd False imprisonment; restraining with purpose other than those in s. 787.01.

155	790.115 (2) (d)	2nd	Discharging firearm or weapon on school property.
156	790.161 (2)	2nd	Make, possess, or throw destructive device with intent to do bodily harm or damage property.
157	790.164 (1)	2nd	False report concerning bomb, explosive, weapon of mass destruction, act of arson or violence to state property, or use of firearms in violent manner.
158	790.19	2nd	Shooting or throwing deadly missiles into dwellings, vessels, or vehicles.
159	794.011 (8) (a)	3rd	Solicitation of minor to participate in sexual activity by custodial adult.
160	794.05 (1)	2nd	Unlawful sexual activity with

specified minor.

161

800.04 (5) (d) 3rd Lewd or lascivious molestation;  
victim 12 years of age or older  
but less than 16 years of age;  
offender less than 18 years.

162

800.04 (6) (b) 2nd Lewd or lascivious conduct;  
offender 18 years of age or  
older.

163

806.031 (2) 2nd Arson resulting in great bodily  
harm to firefighter or any  
other person.

164

810.02 (3) (c) 2nd Burglary of occupied structure;  
unarmed; no assault or battery.

165

810.145 (8) (b) 2nd Digital voyeurism; certain  
minor victims; 2nd or  
subsequent offense.

166

812.014 (2) (b) 1. 2nd Property stolen \$20,000 or  
more, but less than \$100,000,  
grand theft in 2nd degree.

167	812.014 (2) (c) 5.	3rd	Grand theft; third degree; firearm.
168	812.014 (6)	2nd	Theft; property stolen \$3,000 or more; coordination of others.
169	812.015 (9) (a)	2nd	Retail theft; property stolen \$750 or more; second or subsequent conviction.
170	812.015 (9) (b)	2nd	Retail theft; aggregated property stolen within 120 days is \$3,000 or more; coordination of others.
171	812.015 (9) (d)	2nd	Retail theft; multiple thefts within specified period.
172	812.015 (9) (e)	2nd	Retail theft; committed with specified number of other persons and use of social media platform.
173			



174	812.13 (2) (c)	2nd	Robbery, no firearm or other weapon (strong-arm robbery).
175	817.4821 (5)	2nd	Possess cloning paraphernalia with intent to create cloned cellular telephones.
176	817.49 (2) (b) 2.	2nd	Willful making of a false report of a crime resulting in death.
177	817.505 (4) (b)	2nd	Patient brokering; 10 or more patients.
178	817.5695 (3) (b)	2nd	Exploitation of person 65 years of age or older, value \$10,000 or more, but less than \$50,000.
179	825.102 (1)	3rd	Abuse of an elderly person or disabled adult.
180	825.102 (3) (c)	3rd	Neglect of an elderly person or disabled adult.
	825.1025 (3)	3rd	Lewd or lascivious molestation

of an elderly person or disabled adult.

181

825.103 (3) (c) 3rd Exploiting an elderly person or disabled adult and property is valued at less than \$10,000.

182

827.03 (2) (c) 3rd Abuse of a child.

183

827.03 (2) (d) 3rd Neglect of a child.

184

827.071 (5) 3rd Possess, control, or intentionally view any photographic material, motion picture, etc., which includes child pornography.

185

827.12 3rd Subjecting a child to animal cruelty.

186

828.126 (3) 3rd Sexual activities involving animals.

187

836.05 2nd Threats; extortion.

188

189	836.10	2nd	Written or electronic threats to kill, do bodily injury, or conduct a mass shooting or an act of terrorism.
190	843.12	3rd	Aids or assists person to escape.
191	847.011	3rd	Distributing, offering to distribute, or possessing with intent to distribute obscene materials depicting minors.
192	847.012	3rd	Knowingly using a minor in the production of materials harmful to minors.
193	847.0135 (2)	3rd	Facilitates sexual conduct of or with a minor or the visual depiction of such conduct.
	893.131	2nd	Distribution of controlled substances resulting in overdose or serious bodily injury.

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194	914.23	2nd	Retaliation against a witness, victim, or informant, with bodily injury.
195	918.13 (2) (b)	2nd	Tampering with or fabricating physical evidence relating to a capital felony.
196	944.35 (3) (a) 2.	3rd	Committing malicious battery upon or inflicting cruel or inhuman treatment on an inmate or offender on community supervision, resulting in great bodily harm.
197	944.40	2nd	Escapes.
198	944.46	3rd	Harboring, concealing, aiding escaped prisoners.
199	944.47 (1) (a) 5.	2nd	Introduction of contraband (firearm, weapon, or explosive) into correctional facility.
200			

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951.22(1)(i) 3rd Firearm or weapon introduced  
into county detention facility.

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202

**Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.