

By the Committee on Criminal Justice; and Senator Leek

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to aggravated animal cruelty;
3 providing a short title; amending s. 828.12, F.S.;
4 requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to post on
5 its website the names of certain individuals who have
6 violated specified animal cruelty provisions; amending
7 s. 921.0024, F.S.; providing a sentencing multiplier
8 for specified offenses of aggravated animal cruelty;
9 providing applicability; providing an effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. This act may be cited as "Dexter's Law."

14 Section 2. Subsection (7) is added to section 828.12,
15 Florida Statutes, to read:

16 828.12 Cruelty to animals.—

17 (7) Beginning January 1, 2026, the Department of Law
18 Enforcement shall post on its website, in a searchable format
19 prescribed by the department, the names of those individuals who
20 have been convicted of, or who have entered a plea of guilty or
21 nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a violation of
22 this section.

23 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 921.0024, Florida
24 Statutes, is amended to read:

25 921.0024 Criminal Punishment Code; worksheet computations;
26 scoresheets.—

27 (1) (a) The Criminal Punishment Code worksheet is used to
28 compute the subtotal and total sentence points as follows:
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FLORIDA CRIMINAL PUNISHMENT CODE
WORKSHEET

OFFENSE SCORE

Primary Offense

Level	Sentence Points		Total
10	116	=
9	92	=
8	74	=
7	56	=
6	36	=
5	28	=
4	22	=
3	16	=
2	10	=
1	4	=

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60
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Total

Additional Offenses

Level	Sentence Points		Counts		Total
10	58	x	=
9	46	x	=
8	37	x	=
7	28	x	=
6	18	x	=
5	5.4	x	=
4	3.6	x	=
3	2.4	x	=
2	1.2	x	=
1	0.7	x	=

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75

M 0.2 x =

Total

Victim Injury

Level	Sentence Points		Number		Total
2nd degree murder- death	240	x	=
Death	120	x	=
Severe	40	x	=
Moderate	18	x	=
Slight	4	x	=
Sexual penetration	80	x	=

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Sexual

contact

40

x

....

=

....

76

77

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85

86

87

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89

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91

92

Total

Primary Offense + Additional Offenses + Victim Injury =

TOTAL OFFENSE SCORE

PRIOR RECORD SCORE

Prior Record

Level

Sentence Points

Number

Total

10

29

x

....

=

....

9

23

x

....

=

....

8

19

x

....

=

....

7

14

x

....

=

....

6

9

x

....

=

....

5

3.6

x

....

=

....

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93	4	2.4	x	=
94	3	1.6	x	=
95	2	0.8	x	=
96	1	0.5	x	=
97	M	0.2	x	=
98						
99						Total
100						
101						TOTAL OFFENSE SCORE
102						TOTAL PRIOR RECORD SCORE
103						
104						LEGAL STATUS
105						COMMUNITY SANCTION VIOLATION
106						PRIOR SERIOUS FELONY
107						PRIOR CAPITAL FELONY
108						FIREARM OR SEMIAUTOMATIC WEAPON
109						SUBTOTAL.....
110						
111						PRISON RELEASEE REOFFENDER (no) (yes)
112						VIOLENT CAREER CRIMINAL (no) (yes)
113						HABITUAL VIOLENT OFFENDER (no) (yes)
114						HABITUAL OFFENDER (no) (yes)

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115	<u>AGGRAVATED ANIMAL CRUELTY</u> (no) (yes) (x multiplier)
116	DRUG TRAFFICKER (no) (yes) (x multiplier)
117	LAW ENF. PROTECT. (no) (yes) (x multiplier)
118	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT (no) (yes) (x multiplier)
119	CRIMINAL GANG OFFENSE (no) (yes) (x multiplier)
120	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE PRESENCE OF RELATED CHILD (no) (yes)
121	(x multiplier).....
122	ADULT-ON-MINOR SEX OFFENSE (no) (yes) (x multiplier)
123
124	TOTAL SENTENCE POINTS.....

(b) WORKSHEET KEY:

Legal status points are assessed when any form of legal status existed at the time the offender committed an offense before the court for sentencing. Four (4) sentence points are assessed for an offender's legal status.

Community sanction violation points are assessed when a community sanction violation is before the court for sentencing. Six (6) sentence points are assessed for each community sanction violation and each successive community sanction violation, unless any of the following apply:

1. If the community sanction violation includes a new felony conviction before the sentencing court, twelve (12) community sanction violation points are assessed for the violation, and for each successive community sanction violation involving a new felony conviction.

2. If the community sanction violation is committed by a

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144 violent felony offender of special concern as defined in s.
145 948.06:

146 a. Twelve (12) community sanction violation points are
147 assessed for the violation and for each successive violation of
148 felony probation or community control where:

149 I. The violation does not include a new felony conviction;
150 and

151 II. The community sanction violation is not based solely on
152 the probationer or offender's failure to pay costs or fines or
153 make restitution payments.

154 b. Twenty-four (24) community sanction violation points are
155 assessed for the violation and for each successive violation of
156 felony probation or community control where the violation
157 includes a new felony conviction.

158
159 Multiple counts of community sanction violations before the
160 sentencing court shall not be a basis for multiplying the
161 assessment of community sanction violation points.

162
163 Prior serious felony points: If the offender has a primary
164 offense or any additional offense ranked in level 8, level 9, or
165 level 10, and one or more prior serious felonies, a single
166 assessment of thirty (30) points shall be added. For purposes of
167 this section, a prior serious felony is an offense in the
168 offender's prior record that is ranked in level 8, level 9, or
169 level 10 under s. 921.0022 or s. 921.0023 and for which the
170 offender is serving a sentence of confinement, supervision, or
171 other sanction or for which the offender's date of release from
172 confinement, supervision, or other sanction, whichever is later,

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173 is within 3 years before the date the primary offense or any
174 additional offense was committed.

175

176 Prior capital felony points: If the offender has one or more
177 prior capital felonies in the offender's criminal record, points
178 shall be added to the subtotal sentence points of the offender
179 equal to twice the number of points the offender receives for
180 the primary offense and any additional offense. A prior capital
181 felony in the offender's criminal record is a previous capital
182 felony offense for which the offender has entered a plea of nolo
183 contendere or guilty or has been found guilty; or a felony in
184 another jurisdiction which is a capital felony in that
185 jurisdiction, or would be a capital felony if the offense were
186 committed in this state.

187

188 Possession of a firearm, semiautomatic firearm, or machine gun:
189 If the offender is convicted of committing or attempting to
190 commit any felony other than those enumerated in s. 775.087(2)
191 while having in his or her possession: a firearm as defined in
192 s. 790.001, an additional eighteen (18) sentence points are
193 assessed; or if the offender is convicted of committing or
194 attempting to commit any felony other than those enumerated in
195 s. 775.087(3) while having in his or her possession a
196 semiautomatic firearm as defined in s. 775.087(3) or a machine
197 gun as defined in s. 790.001, an additional twenty-five (25)
198 sentence points are assessed.

199

200 Sentencing multipliers:

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202 Aggravated Animal Cruelty: If the primary offense is aggravated
203 animal cruelty under s. 828.12(2), which included the knowing
204 and intentional torture or torment of an animal that injured,
205 mutilated, or killed the animal, the subtotal sentence points
206 are multiplied by 1.25. As used in this paragraph, the term
207 "animal" does not include an animal used for agricultural
208 purposes or permitted as captive wildlife as authorized under s.
209 379.303.

210

211 Drug trafficking: If the primary offense is drug trafficking
212 under s. 893.135, the subtotal sentence points are multiplied,
213 at the discretion of the court, for a level 7 or level 8
214 offense, by 1.5. The state attorney may move the sentencing
215 court to reduce or suspend the sentence of a person convicted of
216 a level 7 or level 8 offense, if the offender provides
217 substantial assistance as described in s. 893.135(4).

218

219 Violent offenses committed against specified justice system
220 personnel: If the primary offense is a violation of s.
221 775.0823(2), (3), or (4), the subtotal sentence points are
222 multiplied by 2.5. If the primary offense is a violation of s.
223 775.0823(5), (6), (7), (8), or (9), the subtotal sentence points
224 are multiplied by 2.0. If the primary offense is a violation of
225 s. 784.07(3) or s. 775.0875(1), or s. 775.0823(10) or (11), the
226 subtotal sentence points are multiplied by 1.5.

227

228 Grand theft of a motor vehicle: If the primary offense is grand
229 theft of the third degree involving a motor vehicle and in the
230 offender's prior record, there are three or more grand thefts of

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231 the third degree involving a motor vehicle, the subtotal
232 sentence points are multiplied by 1.5.

233

234 Offense related to a criminal gang: If the offender is convicted
235 of the primary offense and committed that offense for the
236 purpose of benefiting, promoting, or furthering the interests of
237 a criminal gang as defined in s. 874.03, the subtotal sentence
238 points are multiplied by 1.5. If applying the multiplier results
239 in the lowest permissible sentence exceeding the statutory
240 maximum sentence for the primary offense under chapter 775, the
241 court may not apply the multiplier and must sentence the
242 defendant to the statutory maximum sentence.

243

244 Domestic violence in the presence of a child: If the offender is
245 convicted of the primary offense and the primary offense is a
246 crime of domestic violence, as defined in s. 741.28, which was
247 committed in the presence of a child under 16 years of age who
248 is a family or household member as defined in s. 741.28(3) with
249 the victim or perpetrator, the subtotal sentence points are
250 multiplied by 1.5.

251

252 Adult-on-minor sex offense: If the offender was 18 years of age
253 or older and the victim was younger than 18 years of age at the
254 time the offender committed the primary offense, and if the
255 primary offense was an offense committed on or after October 1,
256 2014, and is a violation of s. 787.01(2) or s. 787.02(2), if the
257 violation involved a victim who was a minor and, in the course
258 of committing that violation, the defendant committed a sexual
259 battery under chapter 794 or a lewd act under s. 800.04 or s.

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260 847.0135(5) against the minor; s. 787.01(3)(a)2. or 3.; s.
261 787.02(3)(a)2. or 3.; s. 794.011, excluding s. 794.011(10); s.
262 800.04; or s. 847.0135(5), the subtotal sentence points are
263 multiplied by 2.0. If applying the multiplier results in the
264 lowest permissible sentence exceeding the statutory maximum
265 sentence for the primary offense under chapter 775, the court
266 may not apply the multiplier and must sentence the defendant to
267 the statutory maximum sentence.

268 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.