

# FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## BILL ANALYSIS

*This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.*

**BILL #:** [CS/HB 1017](#)

**TITLE:** Bail Bonds

**SPONSOR(S):** Baker

**COMPANION BILL:** [SB 600](#) (Truenow)

**LINKED BILLS:** None

**RELATED BILLS:** None

### Committee References

[Criminal Justice](#)

17 Y, 0 N, As CS



[Judiciary](#)

## SUMMARY

### Effect of the Bill:

The bill revises several statutes related to bail bonds and bail bond agents, including:

- Adding felony driving under the influence, felony battery, battery by strangulation, and first degree burglary to the list of “dangerous crimes.”
- Requiring a court to set a specified minimum bond amount if a defendant who fails to appear for a court proceeding is subsequently arrested and he or she previously failed to appear in *any* other court proceeding, rather than a proceeding in his or her case at issue.
- Requiring all bonds be paid in United States currency, a United States postal money order, or cashier’s check.
- Requiring any bail posted by a defendant or a third party who is not a bail bond agent to be receipted in the defendant’s name.
- Increasing from two years to three years, the amount of time for which a forfeited bond may be remitted to a bail bond agent.
- Requiring a court to discharge a bond if the court revokes the defendant’s bond for a reason other than a failure to appear, and prohibits a court from reinstating a revoked bond without the written authorization of the issuer of such bond.
- For purposes of discharge of a bond forfeiture, reducing the time by which the state must determine whether it will extradite a defendant from 30 days to 10 days.
- Authorizing a bail bond agent to charge a credit card merchant processing fee.

### Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill may have an indeterminate jail bed impact and an indeterminate economic impact to bail bond agents.

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## ANALYSIS

### **EFFECT OF THE BILL:**

#### **Bail Determination and Pretrial Release**

The bill makes the following changes relating to a court’s [determination of bail and pretrial release](#):

- Prohibits a court from issuing a recognizance bond for a defendant who failed to appear for a court proceeding and who is later arrested if such defendant has failed to appear for *any* required court proceeding, rather than just a required court proceeding in the case at issue. In such cases, the bill requires the court to set a bond of \$2,000 or twice the value of the original bond, whichever is greater.
- Adds the following offenses to the list of “[dangerous crimes](#),” which are offenses for which the court is required to set a monetary bond:
  - A third conviction for [driving under the influence](#) that occurs within 10 years after a prior conviction, or a fourth or subsequent conviction for driving under the influence in violation of [s. 316.193\(2\)\(b\)1. or \(2\)\(b\)3.. F.S.](#)
  - [Felony battery](#).

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- [Battery by strangulation](#).
- [Burglary](#) in violation of [s. 810.02\(2\), F.S.](#)
- Specifies that a person may not be released on nonmonetary conditions under the supervision of a pretrial release service unless such service certifies to the court, *in writing prior to the defendant being released from custody*, that it has complied with specified conditions related to determining the defendant's suitability for such release. (Sections [5](#) and [20](#))

### **Posting a Bond**

The bill requires any monetary or cash component of any form of pretrial release to be met by a surety bond, or by United States currency, a United States postal money order, or a cashier's check in the amount of the bond. As such, the bill appears to prohibit a person from using a credit card to post a bond, and also prohibits a person from using real property or monetary bonds in lieu of cash to secure pretrial release. Since the bill no longer authorizes a bond to be met by property, real property, or other types of payment, the bill makes conforming changes to remove references to such property bonds. (Sections [4](#), [11](#), and [12](#))

The bill requires any bail posted by a defendant or on the defendant's behalf to be received in the name of the defendant, rather than in the name of person who actually posted the bond. As such, if a third party posts a bond on the defendant's behalf, at the conclusion of a defendant's criminal case, the bail amount will be returned to the defendant, rather than the third party who posted the bail. (Section [11](#))

The bill authorizes a bail bond agent or bail bond agency to charge a credit card merchant processing fee, a mobile payment services fee, or similar charge when executing a bond. (Section [3](#))

### **Reinstating a Bond**

The bill prohibits a court from reinstating a surety bond that has been revoked without the written authorization of the bail bond agent, bail bond agency, or surety that issued the bond. (Section [5](#))

### **Forfeiture and Judgment**

The bill makes the following changes related to the [forfeiture](#) of a bond:

- Specifies that a surety is exonerated from liability on a bond if it's determined before the *forfeiture* of the bond, rather than the breach of the bond, that a defendant is in jail or prison and the surety agrees in writing to return the defendant to the court's jurisdiction. The bill also deletes a requirement for the surety to pay vehicle expenses that are required to return the defendant to such jurisdiction.
- Specifies that, for purposes of providing required notice to a surety about a defendant's required court appearance, which is condition of bond forfeiture, that a certificate signed by the clerk of the court or the clerk's designee which certifies that such notice was mailed or electronically transmitted on a specified date and time and which is accompanied by a copy of the required notice constitutes sufficient proof that such mailing or electronic transmission was properly accomplished.
- Deletes a provision related to municipal officials having custody of forfeited bond money, which is obsolete.
- Revises provisions requiring a court to discharge a forfeiture within 60 days if:
  - A defendant failed to appear in court because of circumstances beyond his or her control, or if the defendant was hospitalized, deported, or in a jail or prison within 60 days after the date of such required appearance, and instead requires that such conditions must have existed at the time of the court appearance.
  - The court determines that the state is unwilling to seek extradition of a fugitive, by decreasing the amount of time that the state has to make such a decision from 30 days after a request by the surety agent to 10 days after such request.
- Requires the state to enter a felony warrant for a defendant's failure to appear in the National Crime Information Center database with no restrictions until the defendant is returned to the jurisdiction of the court.

- Requires the clerk of the court to discharge a forfeiture and issue a notice to the surety if, after forfeiture of a bond, the criminal charges against the defendant for which the bond guaranteed his or her appearance were resolved, adjudicated, or disposed of, and requires that remission be granted upon proper motion.
- Specifies that the clerk of the court does not have standing to object to a motion to set aside a forfeiture, a motion to discharge a forfeiture, or a motion to reinstate a bond unless the time for payment or discharge of a forfeiture has passed or payment of the forfeiture has already been made.
- Reduces the number of days by which the clerk of the court must provide notice of a judgment of forfeiture to the surety, DFS, and the Office of Insurance Regulation from 10 days after such judgment was entered to *within five days*.
- Requires a bail bond agency, in addition to a bail bond agent, to pay the amount of any judgment entered against it within 35 days, and prohibits such an agency from executing surety bail bonds until the judgment has been paid. (Sections [13](#), [14](#), and [15](#))

### **Remission of Forfeiture**

The bill makes the following changes related to the [remission of a bail bond forfeiture](#):

- Increases the time period by which a court must order remission of a forfeiture if it determines that there was not a breach of the bond from two years to 36 months.
- Expands the grounds for which a remission must be granted to include circumstances when the defendant is deceased or if the state attorney is unwilling to seek extradition after a request by the surety agent, bail bond agency, or surety company and such surety, agency, or company consents to pay all costs in returning the defendant to the court's jurisdiction.
- Revises the amount of the forfeiture that may be remitted to the surety, provided that the defendant surrenders or is apprehended and the delay did not thwart proper prosecution of the defendant, or if the defendant is deceased, or if the defendant is in jail or prison and the state attorney is unwilling to extradite such defendant after a request by the bail agent, as follows:

Percentage of Forfeiture	Time After Forfeiture the Defendant was Arrested
100	90 days
95	180 days
90	270 days
85	360 days
80	450 days
75	540 days
70	630 days
65	720 days
60	810 days
55	900 days
50	990 days
45	36 months

- Decreases from 20 days to 10 days, the time by which the state attorney and clerk of the court must be provided notice before a remission hearing.
- Requires the clerk of the court to issue a remission within 10 days after the date that a court directs remission, and specifies that a remission that is not timely paid accrues interest at the rate of 1.5 percent per month.
- Increases the amount of time in which a surety is authorized to arrest a defendant after the date of the forfeiture of the bond from two years to three years.
- Requires the court to deduct the actual expenses of returning the defendant to the jurisdiction from the amount of a remission if such defendant surrenders or is apprehended and the surety has not paid such costs. (Sections [16](#) and [17](#))

## **Discharging or Canceling a Bond**

The bill makes the following changes related to [discharging or canceling a bond](#):

- Specifies that if the court finds probable cause that a defendant committed a new crime or committed a material violation of his or her pretrial release, *other than for a failure to appear*, the clerk of the court is required to discharge any bond that a defendant previously posted without further order of the court.
- Specifies that the clerk of the court must cancel the bond upon a finding of guilt by a jury or a no action by the state.
- Requires the clerk of the court to discharge or cancel the bond if the court revoked a defendant's bond for a reason other than a failure to appear, and defines the term "revoked" to mean that an act, a statement, a document, or a promise has been annulled or canceled.
- Specifies that the clerk of the court must discharge the bond 36 months after such bond has been posted for the defendant's release.
- Specifies that a defendant's original appearance bond does not guarantee a defendant's appearance after entering a plea agreement, and does not guarantee a sentencing deferral or delayed sentencing. (Sections [6](#) [18](#))

## **Bail Bond Agents and Sureties**

### *Prelicensing Schools*

The bill reduces the minimum number of instructional hours that an approved limited surety agent and professional bail bond agent [prelicensing school](#) must offer from 120 hours to 80 hours, and also requires for such instruction to be "in-person classroom instruction." The bill defines the term "in-person classroom instruction," to mean a course designed to be presented to a group of students by a live instructor using lecture, with the instructor and students in the same physical classroom at the same time. (Section [2](#))

### *Solicitation*

The bill *prohibits* a bail bond agent or bail bond agency from:

- [Soliciting](#) bail from a detainee, the detainee's attorney, an adult member of the detainee's immediate family, or any other person unless the detainee specifically authorizes such solicitation in writing. The bill specifies that such a designation must be signed before the solicitation unless prohibited by the rules, regulations, or ordinances governing the place of imprisonment. If such a prohibition exists, the designation may be signed after the detainee's release to ratify a previous oral designation made by such person. A solicitation to a detainee may occur only:
  - After a legitimate request for bail services has been received from the detainee or person designated by the detainee.
  - Between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m., unless the bail bond agent or bail bond agency has received direct and specific written authorization from the detainee or the detainee's attorney to solicit at another time.
- Having a virtual office, which is defined by the bill to mean an office that does not provide a continuous physical office space and provides professional address and mail handling services and which may, upon request, provide communications and telephone services or a dedicated office space. (Sections [1](#) and [3](#))

### *Sureties<sup>1</sup>*

The bill makes the following changes related to sureties:

- Removes a provision authorizing a person to act as a surety if he or she owns real property in Florida, and instead requires such person to be a Florida resident.
- Repeals [s. 903.08, F.S.](#), to remove a provision requiring the combined net worth of a surety to be equal to the amount of the bonds that he or she issues.

<sup>1</sup> Generally, a "surety" is a person who guarantees the performance of another person, referred to as the principal, to a third party, known as the obligor. The term "surety" is often used in statute to refer to professional bail bond agents. Florida Department of Financial Services, *Bail Bonds Overview*, <https://myfloridacfo.com/division/consumers/understanding-insurance/bail-bonds-overview> (last visited Jan. 28, 2026).

- Requires a surety who is *not* a bail bond agent to post a bond using only United States currency, a United States postal money order, or a cashier's check in the amount of the bond, and specifies that such currency, money order, or cashier's check may only be used to secure one bond.
- Limits the requirement for a surety to have access to jails for the purpose of making bonds to include only those sureties who post a bond with currency, a money order, or a cashier's check. (Sections [7](#), [8](#), [9](#), and [10](#))

### **Guaranteed Arrest Bond Certificates**

The bill repeals [s. 903.36, F.S.](#), which requires the court to accept a guaranteed arrest bond certificate as bail in an amount not to exceed \$1,000, for a violation of ch. 316, F.S., or similar traffic offenses, excluding driving under the influence, and authorizes a licensed general lines agent of a surety insurer for the automobile club to execute a bail bond of up \$5,000 for such violations. (Section [19](#))

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2026. (Section [25](#))

### **FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:**

#### PRIVATE SECTOR:

The bill revises several statutes related to bail bonds, including increasing the amount of time that a forfeited bond may be remitted. To the extent that bail bond agents are able to reclaim such forfeited funds, the bill may have a positive economic impact on such agents.

## **RELEVANT INFORMATION**

### **SUBJECT OVERVIEW:**

#### **Bail Bonds**

If a court decides or is required to set a monetary bail amount for a defendant, the defendant, or a third party such as a family member or friend may post a cash bond equal to the bail amount. At the conclusion of the defendant's case, the proceeds from the cash bond are returned to the person who posted the bond, less any fees and court costs resulting from the defendant's criminal case.<sup>2</sup> If a defendant chooses, he or she may also use the services of a bail bond agent to post his or her bond. Bail bond agents post a defendant's bond in the amount set by the court, and charge the defendant a 10 percent premium<sup>3</sup> on that amount which, unlike a cash bond, is *not* returned to the defendant upon the conclusion of his or her court case.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Forfeiture**

When a bail bond agent (agent) posts bond for a defendant, the agent is responsible for ensuring the defendant's appearance at required court proceedings. If a defendant fails to appear at a court proceeding and the agent was provided proper notice of such an appearance, there is a breach of the bond and bond forfeiture proceedings begin.<sup>5</sup> In such a case, the clerk of the court must notify the agent of the forfeiture by mail or electronic notice.<sup>6</sup> The agent must pay the forfeiture amount (i.e. the amount of the defendant's bond) within 60 days after that date that the notice was mailed or electronically transmitted.<sup>7</sup> The court must order the forfeiture to be discharged (i.e. set aside), if the:

- Court determines that it was impossible for the defendant to appear as required or within 60 days after the date of the required appearance due to circumstances beyond the defendant's control;

<sup>2</sup> [S. 903.286, F.S.](#)

<sup>3</sup> For example, if a court sets a defendant's bond in the amount of \$20,000, a defendant would be required to pay the bail bond agent \$2,000.

<sup>4</sup> Department of Financial Services, *Bail Bonds Overview*, <https://myfloridacfo.com/division/consumers/understanding-insurance/bail-bonds-overview> (last visited Jan. 28, 2026).

<sup>5</sup> [S. 903.26\(2\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

- Court determines that, at the time of the required appearance or within 60 days after the date of the required appearance, the defendant was confined in an institution or hospital; was confined in any county, state, federal, or immigration detention facility; was deported; or is deceased;
- Surrender or arrest of the defendant at the time of the required appearance or within 60 days after the date of the required appearance in any county, state, or federal jail or prison and upon a hold being placed to return the defendant to the jurisdiction of the court, provided that the costs and expenses incurred in returning the defendant to such jurisdiction are deducted from the forfeiture that is discharged; or
- Court determines that the state is unwilling to seek extradition of the fugitive defendant within 30 days after a request by the surety agent to do so, and contingent upon the surety agent's consent to pay all costs and the expenses incurred by an official in returning the defendant to the jurisdiction of the court, up to the penal amount of the bond.<sup>8</sup>

### Remission of Forfeiture

If a defendant who failed to appear for a court proceeding surrenders or is apprehended within specified a time frame and the agent apprehended and surrendered the defendant, substantially procured or caused the defendant to be apprehended and surrendered, or paid the costs to return the defendant to the court's jurisdiction, and such delay did not thwart the proper prosecution of the defendant, the court must remit to the agent a specified percentage of the forfeiture as follows:

Percentage of Forfeiture	Time After Forfeiture the Defendant was Arrested
100	90 days
95	180 days
90	270 days
85	One year
50	Two years

### Cancelling a Bond

A bail bond is "canceled" when the conditions of the bond have been satisfied or the term of the bond, which is 36 months after such bond was posted for the release of a defendant, has expired.<sup>9</sup> The conditions of the bond are considered satisfied once the defendant's court case has concluded through a plea, trial, or dismissal of the defendant's court case.<sup>10</sup>

### Bail Bond Agents

Generally, bail bond agents<sup>11</sup> are licensed and regulated by the Department of Financial Services (DFS).<sup>12</sup> Such agents must meet specified requirements for licensure, and are subject to disciplinary proceedings for committing any violation of DFS rule or regulation.<sup>13</sup>

### Prelicensing Schools

In order to be considered for approval and certification by DFS as an approved limited surety agent<sup>14</sup> and professional bail bond agent<sup>15</sup> prelicensing school, such entity must:

<sup>8</sup> [S. 903.26\(5\), F.S.](#)

<sup>9</sup> [S. 903.31\(1\), F.S.](#)

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> "Bail bond agent" means a limited surety agent or a professional bail bond agent. [S. 648.25\(3\), F.S.](#)

<sup>12</sup> [S. 648.26, F.S.](#)

<sup>13</sup> [S. 648.44, F.S.](#)

<sup>14</sup> "Limited surety agent" means any individual appointed by an insurer by power of attorney to execute or countersign bail bonds in connection with judicial proceedings who receives or is promised money or other things of value therefor. [S. 648.25\(6\), F.S.](#)

<sup>15</sup> "Professional bail bond agent" means any person who pledges United States currency, United States postal money orders, or cashier's checks as security for a bail bond in connection with a judicial proceeding and receives or is promised therefor money or other things of value. [S. 648.25\(8\), F.S.](#)

- Offer a minimum of two 120-hour classroom-instruction basic certification courses in the criminal justice system per calendar year unless a reduced number of course offerings per calendar year is warranted in accordance with rules promulgated by DFS or offer a DFS-approved correspondence course pursuant to DFS rules.
- Submit a prelicensing course curriculum to DFS for approval.
- If applicable, offer prelicensing classes which are taught by instructors approved by DFS.<sup>16</sup>

### Solicitation

A bail bond agent or bail bond agency is prohibited from:

- Directly or indirectly soliciting<sup>17</sup> business in or on the property or grounds of a jail, prison, or other place where prisoners are confined or in or on the property or grounds of any court.
- Initiating in-person or telephone solicitation after 9:00 p.m. or before 8:00 a.m. at the residence of the detainee or the detainee's family.<sup>18</sup>

### Payment

A bail bond agent or bail bond agency is prohibited from accepting anything of value from a principal for providing a bail bond, including a credit card processing fee, except the premium for the bond, transfer fee, or a collateral security or other indemnity from the principal or another person.<sup>19</sup>

### Bail Determination and Pretrial Release

Under article I, section 14 of the Florida Constitution, “[u]nless charged with a capital offense or an offense punishable by life imprisonment and the proof of guilt is evident or the presumption is great, every person charged with a crime or violation of municipal or county ordinance shall be entitled to pretrial release on reasonable conditions. If no conditions of release can reasonably protect the community from risk of physical harm to persons, assure the presence of the accused at trial, or assure the integrity of the judicial process, the accused may be detained.”

### Bail

After a person has been arrested, he or she must appear before a judge within 24 hours of arrest, which is known as a “first appearance.”<sup>20</sup> At a first appearance, a judge advises a defendant of the charges for which he or she was arrested, determines whether there is probable cause that the defendant committed the offense, and advises a defendant of specified rights.<sup>21</sup> If a judge determines that probable cause exists, the judge then determines whether a defendant is entitled to pretrial release. A judge may grant pretrial release either by setting a specified bail amount or releasing the defendant on his or her own recognizance.<sup>22</sup> However, a court is required to set monetary conditions for specified defendants, including in cases where the court finds that there is probable cause that a defendant committed a “dangerous crime.”<sup>23</sup> Under [s. 907.041\(5\)\(a\), F.S.](#), a “dangerous crime” means any of the following:

- Arson;
- Aggravated assault;
- Aggravated battery;
- Illegal use of explosives;
- Child abuse or aggravated child abuse;

<sup>16</sup> [S. 648.386\(2\), F.S.](#)

<sup>17</sup> The term “solicitation” includes the distribution of business cards, print advertising, or other written or oral information directed to prisoners or potential indemnitors, unless a request is initiated by the prisoner or a potential indemnitor. [S. 648.44, F.S.](#)

<sup>18</sup> [S. 648.44\(1\)\(b\) and \(c\), F.S.](#)

<sup>19</sup> [S. 648.44\(1\)\(j\), F.S.](#)

<sup>20</sup> Fla. R. Crim. P. 3.130.

<sup>21</sup> *Id.*

<sup>22</sup> Fla. R. Crim. P. 3.131.

<sup>23</sup> [S. 907.041\(5\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

- Abuse of an elderly person or disabled adult, or aggravated abuse of an elderly person or disabled adult;
- Aircraft piracy;
- Kidnapping;
- Homicide;
- Manslaughter, including DUI manslaughter and BUI manslaughter;
- Sexual battery;
- Robbery;
- Carjacking;
- Lewd, lascivious, or indecent assault or act upon or in presence of a child under the age of 16 years;
- Sexual activity with a child, who is 12 years of age or older but less than 18 years of age, by or at solicitation of person in familial or custodial authority;
- Burglary of a dwelling;
- Stalking and aggravated stalking;
- Act of domestic violence as defined in [s. 741.28, F.S.](#);
- Home invasion robbery;
- Act of terrorism as defined in [s. 775.30, F.S.](#);
- Manufacturing any substances in violation of chapter 893, F.S.;
- Attempting or conspiring to commit any such crime;
- Human trafficking;
- Trafficking in any controlled substance described in [s. 893.135\(1\)\(c\)4., F.S.](#);
- Extortion in violation of [s. 836.05, F.S.](#); and
- Written threats to kill in violation of [s. 836.10, F.S.](#).

### **Driving Under the Influence**

A person commits the offense of driving under the influence (DUI) if he or she is driving or in actual physical control of a vehicle and:

- The person is under the influence of alcoholic beverages, any chemical substance in [s. 877.111, F.S.](#), or any substance controlled under ch. 893, F.S., when affected to the extent that the person's normal faculties are impaired;
- The person has a blood-alcohol level of 0.08 or more grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood; or
- The person has a breath-alcohol level of 0.08 or more grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath.

The criminal penalties for DUI vary depending on numerous factors such as the number of prior DUI and boating under the influence (BUI) convictions, the length of time between such convictions, and the defendant's blood alcohol level. A person commits a third degree felony if he or she:

- Is convicted of committing a third DUI or BUI that occurs within 10 years after a prior conviction; or
- Is convicted of committing a fourth or subsequent DUI or BUI.<sup>24</sup>

### **Felony Battery**

A person commits the offense of felony battery, a violation of which is punishable as a third degree felony,<sup>25</sup> if he or she:

- Actually and intentionally touches or strikes another person against the will of the other; and
- Causes great bodily harm, permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement.<sup>26</sup>

A person also commits the offense of felony battery if he or she has a prior conviction for committing a battery, aggravated battery, or felony battery and such person commits a second or subsequent battery, a violation of which is punishable as a third degree felony.

<sup>24</sup> [S. 316.193\(2\)\(b\)1. and \(2\)\(b\)3., F.S.](#)

<sup>25</sup> A third degree felony is punishable by up to five years imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine. [Ss. 775.082, 775.083, or 775.084, F.S.](#)

<sup>26</sup> [S. 784.041\(1\), F.S.](#)

### **Battery by Strangulation**

A person commits the offense of battery by strangulation, a violation of which is punishable as a third degree felony, if he or she knowingly and intentionally, against the will of another person, impedes the normal breathing or circulation of the blood of that person so as to create a risk of or cause great bodily harm by applying pressure on the throat or neck of the other person or by blocking the nose or mouth of the other person.<sup>27</sup>

### **Burglary**

Generally, a person commits the offense of burglary if he or she:

- Enters a dwelling, a structure, or a conveyance with the intent to commit an offense therein, unless the premises are at the time open to the public or the defendant is licensed or invited to enter; or
- Notwithstanding a licensed or invited entry, remains in a dwelling, structure, or conveyance:
  - Surreptitiously, with the intent to commit an offense therein;
  - After permission to remain therein has been withdrawn, with the intent to commit an offense therein; or
  - To commit or attempt to commit a forcible felony.<sup>28</sup>

The penalties for committing burglary vary depending on several factors. A person commits burglary of the first degree if he or she:

- Makes an assault or battery upon any person; or
- Is or becomes armed within the dwelling, structure, or conveyance, with explosives or a dangerous weapon; or
- Enters an occupied or unoccupied dwelling or structure, and:
  - Uses a motor vehicle as an instrumentality, other than merely as a getaway vehicle, to assist in committing the offense, and thereby damages the dwelling or structure; or
  - Causes damage to the dwelling or structure, or to property within the dwelling or structure in excess of \$1,000.<sup>29</sup>

## **BILL HISTORY**

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
<a href="#">Criminal Justice Subcommittee</a>	17 Y, 0 N, As CS	1/28/2026	Hall	Padgett
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised the definition of “virtual office” and retained the definition of “classroom instruction” in current law.</li> <li>• Clarified that a bail bond agent or bail bond agency may not solicit bail from a detainee or any other person unless the detainee authorizes such solicitation in writing.</li> <li>• Prohibited a court from reinstating a surety bond that has been revoked without the written authorization of the bail bond agent, bail bond agency, or surety.</li> <li>• Removed a provision requiring a court to set a minimum bond amount of \$10,000 for a defendant who committed a felony “dangerous crime.”</li> </ul>			
<a href="#">Judiciary Committee</a>				

<sup>27</sup> [S. 784.031, F.S.](#) This offense does not apply to any act of medical diagnosis, treatment, or prescription which is authorized under the laws of Florida. *Id.*

<sup>28</sup> [S. 810.02\(1\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

<sup>29</sup> [S. 810.02\(2\), F.S.](#)

**THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.**

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