

By Senator Truenow

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Capitol Center and Complex; amending ss. 272.09 and 943.60, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "Capitol Complex"; amending s. 272.12, F.S.; providing that the Department of Management Services is responsible for the aesthetics of the Capitol Center for visitors; authorizing the department to close certain streets if certain conditions are met; amending s. 272.121, F.S.; requiring the department to consider certain factors when developing a specified plan; amending s. 272.16, F.S.; requiring the department, in consultation with the Capitol Police, to establish enhanced security measures in certain parking areas; making a technical change; amending s. 943.61, F.S.; requiring the Capitol Police to ensure that the Capitol Complex is safe for specified persons; providing a requirement for certain operational plans; requiring the Capitol Police to provide a certain report to the Legislature; amending s. 943.64, F.S.; authorizing certain ex officio agents to patrol the Capital Complex and surrounding areas; authorizing specified positions for a certain purpose; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 272.09, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

272.09 Management, maintenance, and upkeep of Capitol

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Center.—

(1) For purposes of this section, the term "Capitol Complex" means the portion of the Capitol Center commonly referred to as the Capitol, the Historic Capitol, the Senate Office Building, the House Office Building, the Knott Building, the Pepper Building, the Holland Building, the Elliot Building, the R.A. Gray Building, and the associated parking garages and curtilage of each, including the state-owned lands and public streets adjacent thereto within an area bounded by and including Calhoun Street, East Pensacola Street, Monroe Street, East Park Avenue, West Park Avenue ~~Jefferson Street, West Pensacola Street~~, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and Gaines Street. The term does not include the Supreme Court Building or the public streets adjacent thereto. The portion of the Capitol Complex existing between and including the Elliot Building and the Holland Building within an area bounded by and including Monroe Street, Gaines Street, Calhoun Street, and East Pensacola Street shall be known as "Memorial Park."

Section 2. Subsections (3) and (4) are added to section 272.12, Florida Statutes, to read:

272.12 Florida Capitol Center Planning District.—

(3) The Department of Management Services is responsible for the aesthetics of the Capitol Center for visitors.

(4) The Department of Management Services may close any street within or adjoining the Capitol Complex with the consent of the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Section 3. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (1) of section 272.121, Florida Statutes, to read:

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272.121 Capitol Center long-range planning.—

(1) The Department of Management Services shall develop a comprehensive and long-range plan for the development of state-owned property within the Capitol Center. In developing this plan, the department shall consider:

(e) The security of the Capitol Center and surrounding areas and the need to keep the Capitol Center and surrounding areas safe for visitors.

Section 4. Present subsection (4) of section 272.16, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (5) and amended, and a new subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

272.16 Parking areas within Capitol Center area.—

(4) The Department of Management Services, in consultation with the Capitol Police, shall establish enhanced security measures to protect members of the Legislature, state officers, employees, and visitors in such parking areas.

(5)~~(4)~~ The Department of Management Services shall adopt ~~such~~ rules as ~~are~~ necessary to implement this section ~~carry out the purposes of subsections (1) and (3).~~

Section 5. Section 943.60, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

943.60 Definitions.—For the purposes of ss. 943.60-943.68, the term "Capitol Complex" means that portion of Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida, commonly referred to as the Capitol, the Historic Capitol, the Senate Office Building, the House Office Building, the Knott Building, the Pepper Building, the Holland Building, the Elliot Building, the R.A. Gray Building, and the associated parking garages and curtilage of each, including the state-owned lands and public streets adjacent thereto within an

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area bounded by and including Calhoun Street, East Pensacola Street, Monroe Street, East Park Avenue, West Park Avenue ~~Jefferson Street, West Pensacola Street~~, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and Gaines Street. The term includes the State Capital Circle Office Complex located in Leon County, Florida. The term does not include the Supreme Court Building or the public streets adjacent thereto. The portion of the Capitol Complex existing between and including the Elliot Building and the Holland Building within an area bounded by and including Monroe Street, Gaines Street, Calhoun Street, and East Pensacola Street shall be known as "Memorial Park."

Section 6. Section 943.61, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

943.61 Powers and duties of the Capitol Police.—

(1) There is created the Capitol Police within the Department of Law Enforcement, to serve the safety and security needs of both the legislative and executive branches of state government. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Capitol Police serve as a specially trained and highly effective security and law enforcement agency serving the Capitol Complex and the state. It shall be the primary responsibility of the Capitol Police to protect the security of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the members of the Cabinet, and the members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, and those employees assigned to assist such state officials in the performance of their official duties, and to ensure their access to buildings and premises within the Capitol Complex, thereby providing for the continuous operation of the government of the State of Florida. It shall also be the responsibility of the

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117 Capitol Police to ensure that the Capitol Complex and  
118 surrounding areas are safe for members of the Senate and of the  
119 House of Representatives and those employees assigned to assist  
120 such state officials in the performance of their official  
121 duties.

122 (2) The Capitol Police shall also provide security and  
123 protection for other state officials, employees, and visitors to  
124 the Capitol Complex and shall maintain a reasonable degree of  
125 safety and security within the Capitol Complex and surrounding  
126 areas while ensuring reasonable access to buildings and premises  
127 within the Capitol Complex by state officials, employees, and  
128 visitors. The Capitol Police shall also ensure that adequate  
129 signs and personnel are in place to inform and assist the  
130 occupants of and visitors to buildings within the Capitol  
131 Complex.

132 (3) Nothing herein limits the ability of the Capitol Police  
133 to provide mutual aid to other law enforcement agencies as  
134 authorized by law unless such a limitation is expressly included  
135 in the operational security plans provided for herein.

136 (4) The Capitol Police shall have the following  
137 responsibilities, powers, and duties:

138 (a) To develop, in consultation with the Governor, Cabinet  
139 officers, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
140 House of Representatives, written operational plans for basic  
141 and enhanced security measures and actions related to the  
142 Capitol Complex. Such plans shall address crime and vagrancy in  
143 the streets surrounding the Capitol Complex. Such plans and any  
144 changes or amendments thereto may ~~shall~~ not be implemented  
145 unless presented in writing in final form to the Governor, the

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146 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
147 Representatives and all three grant their approval in writing.  
148 The approval of any officer required herein shall expire 60 days  
149 after such officer vacates his or her office, and the written  
150 approval of the successor in office must be obtained before  
151 ~~prior to~~ the continuation of operations under such plans. Upon  
152 the request of the Governor, a Cabinet officer, the President of  
153 the Senate, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the  
154 Capitol Police shall activate previously approved enhanced  
155 security measures and actions in accordance with the approved  
156 operational plans specific to the requesting officer's  
157 responsibilities and to the facilities occupied by such officer  
158 and employees responsible to such officer. Upon an emergency  
159 threatening the immediate safety and security of occupants of  
160 the Capitol Complex, so declared by the Governor, plans not  
161 approved as required by this paragraph may be implemented for a  
162 period not to exceed 15 days, provided such plans do not  
163 substantially interfere with the ability of the Senate and the  
164 House of Representatives to assemble for any constitutional  
165 purpose.

166 (b) To provide and maintain the security of all property  
167 located in the Capitol Complex in a manner consistent with the  
168 security plans developed and approved under paragraph (a) and,  
169 in consultation with the State Fire Marshal, to provide for  
170 evacuations, information, and training required for firesafety  
171 on such property in a manner consistent with s. 633.218.

172 (c) To develop plans for reporting incidents involving  
173 buildings and property within the Capitol Complex, emergency  
174 procedures and evacuation routes in the event of fire, security

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175 threats, incidents prompting a need for evacuation, acts of  
176 terrorism, or natural or manmade disaster and to make such  
177 procedures and routes known to those persons occupying such  
178 buildings.

179 (d) To employ officers who hold certification as law  
180 enforcement officers in accordance with the minimum standards  
181 and qualifications as set forth in s. 943.13 and ~~the provisions~~  
182 ~~of~~ chapter 110, and who have the authority to bear arms, make  
183 arrests, except as may be limited in the security plans  
184 established under paragraph (a), and apply for arrest warrants.

185 (e) To hire guards and administrative, clerical, technical,  
186 and other personnel as may be required.

187 (f) To train all officers and other employees in fire  
188 prevention, firesafety, emergency medical procedures, and  
189 preventing and responding to acts of terrorism.

190 (g) To respond to all complaints relating to criminal  
191 activity or security threats within the Capitol Complex, or  
192 against the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, a member of the  
193 Cabinet, a member of the Senate or of the House of  
194 Representatives, or an employee assisting such official.

195 (h) As provided by the security plans developed and  
196 approved under paragraph (a), upon request of the presiding  
197 officer of either house of the Legislature, the director may  
198 assign one or more officers for the protection of a member of  
199 the house served by such presiding officer. Per diem and  
200 subsistence allowance for department employees traveling with a  
201 member of the Legislature away from Tallahassee shall be  
202 computed by payment of a sum up to the amounts permitted in s.  
203 112.061 for meals, plus actual expenses for lodging to be

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substantiated by paid bills therefor.

(i) To enforce rules of the Department of Management Services governing the regulation of traffic and parking within the Capitol Complex and to impound illegally or wrongfully parked vehicles.

(j) To establish policies for the organizational structure, principles of command, and internal operations of the Capitol Police, provided that such policies are not inconsistent with ~~the provisions of~~ ss. 943.61-943.68 or the security plans developed and approved under paragraph (a).

(k) To carry out the transportation and protective services functions described in s. 943.68.

(l) To provide to the Legislature a report with recommendations to enhance the safety of areas surrounding the Capitol Complex.

(5) Officers of the Capitol Police may make lawful arrests, consistent with the purposes, responsibilities, and limitations set forth in ss. 943.60-943.68. However, except with the prior approval of the appropriate presiding officer, officers of the Capitol Police shall have no power to prevent the convening or continuation of any meeting of the Legislature, legislative committees, or staff, nor shall they have the power to interfere with the legislative duties or rights of a member of the Legislature, or to interfere with the constitutional duties or rights of the Governor or a member of the Cabinet, except as may be necessary to protect the health and safety of any person from a clear and present danger, or as may be otherwise provided in the security plans developed and approved for fire prevention, firesafety, and emergency medical procedures under paragraph



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(4) (a). No employee of the Capitol Police shall be permitted in either legislative chamber without the specific permission of the presiding officer of that house of the Legislature, but may enter in the case of an emergency when the presiding officer is not able or available to consent.

Section 7. Section 943.64, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

943.64 Ex officio agents.—Law enforcement officers of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, special agents or inspectors of the Department of Law Enforcement, and law enforcement officers of other state agencies, counties, and municipalities are ex officio agents of the Capitol Police, and may, when authorized by the executive director of the department or the executive director's designee, enforce rules and laws applicable to the powers and duties of the Capitol Police to provide and maintain the security required by ss. 943.61-943.68, including patrolling the Capitol Complex and surrounding areas.

Section 8. Six full-time equivalent positions, for five officers and one sergeant, are authorized to establish an outreach policing community group within the Capitol Police.

Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.