

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to fraudulent entry of residential
3 dwellings; creating s. 817.537, F.S.; providing
4 definitions; creating the crime of fraudulent entry of
5 a residential dwelling unit; prohibiting a person from
6 entering into and taking possession of a residential
7 dwelling unit under specified circumstances; providing
8 a criminal penalty; amending s. 83.56, F.S.; providing
9 that fraudulent entry of a residential dwelling unit
10 is an act of noncompliance for which a landlord may
11 terminate a rental agreement; providing an effective
12 date.

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

15
16 **Section 1. Section 817.537, Florida Statutes, is created**
17 **to read:**

18 817.537 Fraudulent entry of a residential dwelling unit.—

19 (1) As used in this section, the terms "dwelling unit,"
20 "landlord," and "rental agreement" have the same meanings as
21 provided in s. 83.43.

22 (2) A person may not enter into and take possession of a
23 residential dwelling unit by knowingly and willfully:

24 (a) Making or causing to be made any materially false
25 statement, in writing, relating to the person's identity in any

26 rental application for a residential tenancy.

27 (b) Presenting forged, fictitious, or counterfeit
28 documents to the landlord of a residential dwelling unit,
29 including, but not limited to, a driver license, an
30 identification card, a bank statement, or a paystub.

31 (c) Impersonating another person in whose name a rental
32 application is submitted to a landlord for the purpose of
33 executing a rental agreement or taking possession of a
34 residential dwelling unit.

35 (3) A person who violates this section commits the offense
36 of fraudulent entry of a residential dwelling unit, which is a
37 felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s.
38 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

39 **Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section**
40 **83.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

41 83.56 Termination of rental agreement.—

42 (2) If the tenant materially fails to comply with s. 83.52
43 or material provisions of the rental agreement, other than a
44 failure to pay rent, or reasonable rules or regulations, the
45 landlord may:

46 (a) If such noncompliance is of a nature that the tenant
47 should not be given an opportunity to cure it or if the
48 noncompliance constitutes a subsequent or continuing
49 noncompliance within 12 months of a written warning by the
50 landlord of a similar violation, deliver a written notice to the

51 | tenant specifying the noncompliance and the landlord's intent to
52 | terminate the rental agreement by reason thereof. Examples of
53 | noncompliance which are of a nature that the tenant should not
54 | be given an opportunity to cure include, but are not limited to,
55 | destruction, damage, or misuse of the landlord's or other
56 | tenants' property by intentional act; an act of fraudulent entry
57 | of a residential dwelling unit which violates s. 817.537(2),
58 | regardless of whether criminal proceedings have commenced; or a
59 | subsequent or continued unreasonable disturbance. In such event,
60 | the landlord may terminate the rental agreement, and the tenant
61 | shall have 7 days from the date that the notice is delivered to
62 | vacate the premises. The notice shall be in substantially the
63 | following form:

64 | You are advised that your lease is terminated effective
65 | immediately. You shall have 7 days from the delivery of this
66 | letter to vacate the premises. This action is taken because
67 | ...(cite the noncompliance)....

68 | **Section 3.** This act shall take effect October 1, 2026.