

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice

BILL: SB 1332

INTRODUCER: Senator Martin

SUBJECT: Career Offender Registration

DATE: February 17, 2026 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Vaughan</u>	<u>Stokes</u>	<u>CJ</u>	Favorable
2.	<u>Kolich</u>	<u>Harkness</u>	<u>ACJ</u>	Favorable
3.	_____	_____	<u>FP</u>	_____

I. Summary:

SB 1332 amends ss. 775.261, 944.608, and 944.609, F.S., to make changes to registration requirements for career offenders. Many of the changes to these sections increase registration requirements, and create similar requirements contained in the sexual predator and sexual offender registry. The bill, in part:

- Requires initial registration in person at the sheriff’s office within 48 hours of establishing a residence or release.
- Expands the list of required information to include addresses, phone numbers, employment, vehicles, professional licenses, and immigration status.
- Requires annual reregistration during the offender’s birth month at the sheriff’s office.
- Redefines “permanent residence,” “temporary residence and transient residence.”
- Requires reporting of in-state travel residences within 48 hours of establishment.
- Requires reporting of changes to phone numbers and employment within 48 hours.
- Requires local jail custodians to notify the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) within three business days after intake or release of a career offender.
- Requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to report noncompliance and provide updated information and digitized photographs to the FDLE.
- Requires federal agencies supervising career offenders to share information with the FDLE and indicate whether it may be used for public notification.
- Requires law enforcement agencies to verify offender addresses at least annually and report noncompliance to the FDLE.
- Provides that each failure to register or report required information constitutes a separate offense, punishable as a third degree felony.¹

¹ A third degree felony is punishable by a term of imprisonment not to exceed five years and a \$5,000 fine, as provided in ss. 775.082, 775.083, or 775.084, F.S.

The bill amends s. 322.141, F.S., to require a career offender to obtain the marking of “775.261,” on their driver license or identification card.

The bill may have a positive indeterminate prison bed impact on the Department of Corrections. See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.

The bill takes effect on October 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Florida Career Offender Registration

The Florida Career Offender Registration Act,² was signed into law in 2002, and as of January 1, 2003, a select group of convicted felons who present a threat to the public and to communities, are required to register their residences with law enforcement and a state registry maintained by the FDLE, the Career Offender Application for Statewide Tracking (COAST). These offenders, by virtue of their histories of offenses, present a threat to the public and to communities. Registration is not a punishment, but merely a status. Currently, there are over 20,000 Florida career offenders, with approximately 6,800 residing in Florida communities and 1,200 offenders that have absconded or have an unknown location.³

Section 775.261, F.S., defines “career offender” as any person who is designated as a habitual violent felony offender, a violent career criminal, or a three-time violent felony offender⁴ or as a prison releasee reoffender.⁵ Career offenders are subject to registration requirements intended to assist law enforcement in monitoring and tracking offenders who pose a heightened risk to public safety.

Residency

“Permanent Residence” means a place where the career offender abides, lodges, or resides for 14 or more consecutive days.⁶

“Temporary residence”⁷ means:

- A place where the career offender abides, lodges, or resides for a period of 14 or more days in the aggregate during any calendar year and which is not the career offender’s permanent address;
- For a career offender whose permanent residence is not in this state, a place where the career offender is employed, practices a vocation, or is enrolled as a student for any period of time in this state; or

² Section 775.261, F.S.

³ Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), *Legislative Bill Analysis SB 1332*, October 1, 2026 (on file with the Senate Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice).

⁴ Section 775.084, F.S.

⁵ Section 775.082(9), F.S.

⁶ Section 775.261(1)(f), F.S.

⁷ Section 775.261(1)(g), F.S.

- A place where the career offender routinely abides, lodges, or resides for a period of four or more consecutive or nonconsecutive days in any month and which is not the career offender's permanent residence, including any out-of-state address.

Registration

Career offenders are required to complete an initial registration with the FDLE or the sheriff's office in the county where they maintain a permanent or temporary residence within two working days after establishing a residence or within two working days after release from custody or supervision. At registration, offenders provide identifying information such as name, date of birth, physical description, fingerprints, photograph, and residential address.⁸

After initial registration, subsequent reporting requirements include reporting in person to a driver license office of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) within two working days to obtain or update a driver license or identification card that reflects the offender's status. Career offenders must also report any changes in residence, name, employment, or vehicle ownership within two working days, and provide proof of registration when updating their license or identification card.⁹

The FDLE maintains a public registry of career offenders, and law enforcement agencies may notify the community of an offender's presence.¹⁰ Failure to register a residence or comply with reporting requirements constitutes a third-degree felony.¹¹

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill makes multiple changes to the Florida Career Offender Registration Act, to make the registration requirements for career offenders similar to those for sexual offenders and sexual predators.

License Designation – Section 322.141, F.S.

The bill amends s. 322.141, F.S., to require that a person who is designated as a career offender under s. 775.261, F.S., or s. 944.608, F.S., have a marking on the front of their driver license or identification card notating "775.261, F.S." which is the Florida Career Offender Registration Act.

Unless previously secured or updated, each career offender must report in person within 48 hours to the driver license office of the DHSMV during the month of his or her birth in order to obtain an updated or renewed driver license or identification card with the notation of "775.261, F.S."

⁸ Section 775.261(4)(a), F.S.

⁹ Section 775.261(4)(d), F.S.

¹⁰ Section 775.261(5), F.S.

¹¹ A third degree felony is generally punishable by a term of imprisonment not to exceed five years and a \$5,000 fine, as provided in ss. 775.082, 775.083, or 775.084, F.S.

The Florida Career Offender Registration Act – Section 775.261, F.S.***Definitions***

The bill amends s. 775.261(2), F.S., by revising and clarifying definitions of “permanent residence” and “temporary residence.” Under the bill, the definitions specify how days are calculated for each type of residence.

The bill changes the definition of career offender residences by reducing the length of time to establish a residence (permanent or temporary) from 14 days to three days.

“Permanent residence” means a place where the person abides, lodges, or resides for three or more consecutive days. For the purpose of calculating a permanent residence, the first day that a person abides, lodges, or resides at a place is excluded and each subsequent day is counted. A day includes any part of a calendar day.

“Temporary residence” means a place where the person abides, lodges, or resides, including, but not limited to, vacation, business, or personal travel destinations in or out of this state, for a period of three or more days in the aggregate during a calendar year that is not the career offender’s permanent or transient residence. An in-state travel residence is a temporary residence. For a career offender whose permanent residence is not in this state, a place where the career offender is employed, practices a vocation, or is enrolled as a student for any period of time in this state is also a temporary residence. For the purpose of calculating a temporary residence, the first day that a person abides, lodges, or resides at a place is excluded and each subsequent day is counted. A day includes any part of a calendar day.

The bill defines “in-state travel residence” to mean a temporary residence in this state established by a person who already has an existing permanent, temporary, or transient residence in this state.

“Transient residence” means a county where the career offender lives, remains, or is located for the purpose of abiding, lodging, or residing for a period of three or more days in the aggregate during a calendar year that is not the person’s permanent or temporary residence. The term includes, but is not limited to, a place where the career offender sleeps or seeks shelter and a location that has no specific street address. For the purpose of calculating a day under this paragraph, the first day that a career offender lives, remains, or is located in a county for the purpose of abiding, lodging, or residing is excluded and each subsequent day is counted. A day includes any part of a calendar day.

The bill provides a definition for “professional license” to mean the document of authorization or certification issued by an agency of this state for a regulatory purpose, or by any similar agency in another jurisdiction for a regulatory purpose, to a person to engage in an occupation or to carry out a trade or business.

The bill defines “vehicles owned” to mean any motor vehicle as defined in s. 320.01, F.S., which is registered, co-registered, leased, titled, or rented by a career offender; a rented vehicle that a career offender is authorized to drive; or a vehicle for which a career offender is insured as a driver. The term also includes any motor vehicle as defined in s. 320.01, F.S., which is

registered, co-registered, leased, titled, or rented by a person or persons residing at a career offender's permanent residence for five or more consecutive days.

Criteria for Registration

The bill amends s. 775.261(3), F.S., to clarify that a career offender released on or after July 1, 2002, is deemed to be released upon conviction, if no sanction is imposed. The bill adds "federal prison" to and removes "a fine" from the list of sanctions.

Initial Registration

The bill amends s. 775.261(4), F.S., to specify that upon initial registration, a career offender must report in person to the sheriff's office. The bill removes the ability of a career offender to register with the FDLE, and requires that registrations occur in person:

- Within 48 hours of being released in the county he or she establishes residency from custody, control, or supervision of:
 - The Florida Department of Corrections (DOC); or
 - A local detention facility
- In the county where he or she was convicted within 48 hours after being convicted for a qualifying offense for registration if the offender is not in the custody or control of, or under the supervision of, the DOC, or is not in the custody of a contractor-operated correctional facility or local detention facility.

The bill adds the following to the list of information that a career offender must provide upon registration:

- Sex.
- Tattoos or other identifying marks.
- Fingerprints.
- Palm prints.
- Employment information.
- Address of permanent or legal residence and address of any current temporary residence within the state or out of state.
- If he or she has no permanent or temporary address, any transient residence within this state;
- The address, location or description, and dates of any current or known future temporary residence within Florida or out of state.
- The make, model, color, vehicle identification number (VIN), and license tag number of all vehicles owned.
- Home and cellular telephone numbers.

If the career offender has a passport, he or she must produce the passport, and, if he or she is an alien, must produce or provide information about documents establishing immigration status. The career offender must provide information about any professional licenses he or she has.

If the career offender's place of residence is a motor vehicle, trailer, mobile home, manufactured home, vessel, liveaboard vessel, or houseboat, the career offender must provide the specified information to the FDLE *through the sheriff's office*.

The career offender must report any change in any of the required information.

The bill adds palm prints to the list of items a sheriff must obtain upon registration and specifies that the sheriff's office must promptly provide to the FDLE the information received from the career offender.

Maintaining Registration

The bill also provides that a career offender who is unable to secure or update a driver license or an identification card with the DHSMV must report any change in the career offender's name within 48 hours after the change to the sheriff's office in the county where he or she resides or is located.

A career offender must report in person to the sheriff's office within 48 hours after any change in vehicles owned.

A career offender must register all changes to his or her home and cellular telephone numbers, including added and deleted numbers, and all changes to employment information, including the creation of a new business if self-employed, *in person at the sheriff's office*, or in person at the DOC if the career offender is in the custody or control, or under the supervision, of the DOC.

If a career offender is in the custody of the local jail, the custodian of the local jail must notify the FDLE within three business days after intake and upon release. The custodian must provide the FDLE with a digitized photograph of the career offender and notify the FDLE if the career offender dies or escapes from custody.

Establishing A Residence in This State After Registration

The bill amends s. 775.261(6), F.S., to specify that a career offender report in person to a driver license office:

- Each time a career offender's driver license or identification card is subject to renewal; and
- Without regard to the status of the offender's driver license or identification card, within 48 hours after any change in the offender's permanent or temporary residence.

The DHSMV is required to forward to the FDLE and to the DOC all photographs and information provided by career offenders.

A career offender who is unable to secure or update a driver license or an identification card with the DHSMV is also required to report any change in the career offender's permanent, temporary or transient residence within 48 hours after the change, in person, to the sheriff's office in the county where the offender resides. The career offender still must obtain a Florida driver license or an identification card as required in this section.

A career offender must report an in-state travel residence within 48 hours after establishing the residence. The report must be made *in person at the sheriff's office in the county in which the career offender is located*, or in person at the DOC if the career offender is in the custody or control, or under the supervision, of the DOC.

A career offender who vacates a permanent, temporary, or transient residence and fails to establish or maintain another permanent, temporary or transient residence must, within 48 hours after vacating the permanent, temporary or transient residence, report in person to the sheriff's office of the county in which he or she is located to provide specified information.

A career offender who remains at a permanent, temporary, or transient residence after reporting his or her intent to vacate such residence must, within 48 hours after the date upon which the offender indicated he or she would or did vacate such residence, report in person to the agency to which he or she reported for the purpose of reporting his or her address at such residence. When the sheriff receives the report, the sheriff must promptly convey the information to the department. An offender who makes a report notifying the sheriff's office that they intended to or did vacate a residency, but does not vacate and fails to make a subsequent report, commits a second degree felony.¹²

Establishing a Non-Florida Residence

The bill amends s. 775.261(7), F.S., to specify that any career offender that intends to establish a *permanent, temporary, or transient* residence in another state or jurisdiction other than Florida must report in person to the sheriff of the county of current residence at least 48 hours before the date he or she intends to leave the state.

The bill amends s. 775.261(7), F.S., to specify that any travel that is not known by the career offender 48 hours before he or she intends to establish a residence in another state or jurisdiction must be reported in person to the sheriff's office as soon as possible before departure.

The bill provides that if a career offender reports his or her intent to establish residency in another state or jurisdiction other than Florida, but remains in the state without reporting to the sheriff, he or she commits a second degree felony.

Annual Reregistration Requirement

The bill creates s. 775.261(8), F.S., to specify that each year during the month of the career offender's birthday, a career offender must report in person to the sheriff's office in the county in which he or she maintains a permanent, temporary, or transient residence or is otherwise located to reregister. Reregistration must include changes to any of the following:

- Name.
- Social security number.
- Race.
- Sex.
- Date of birth.
- Height.
- Weight.
- Hair and eye color.
- Tattoos or other identifying marks.
- Fingerprints.

¹² A second degree felony is punishable by up to 15 years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine. Sections 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

- Palm prints.
- Photograph.
- Employment information.
- Address of permanent residence and address of any current temporary residence within the state or out of state.
- If he or she has no permanent or temporary address, any transient residence within this state.
- The address, location or description, and dates of any current or known future temporary residence within Florida or out of state.
- The make, model, color, VIN, and license tag number of all vehicles owned.
- Home and cellular telephone numbers.

If the career offender has a passport, he or she must produce the passport, and, if he or she is an alien, must produce or provide information about documents establishing immigration status. The career offender must provide information about any professional licenses he or she has.

The bill specifies that a post office box may not be provided in lieu of a physical address. If the career offender's place of residence is a motor vehicle, trailer, mobile home, manufactured home, vessel, liveaboard vessel, or houseboat, the career offender must provide the specified information to the FDLE *through the sheriff's office*.

The sheriff's office must electronically submit all such information provided by the career offender within two business days after the career offender provides it to the sheriff's office.

Verification

The bill creates s. 775.261(9), F.S., to specify that county and local law enforcement agencies, in conjunction with the FDLE, must, at a minimum, verify annually the addresses of career offenders who are not under the care, custody, control, or supervision of the DOC, and may verify the addresses of career offenders who are under the care, custody, control, or supervision of the DOC. Local law enforcement agencies must report to the FDLE any failure by a career offender to comply with registration requirements.

Relief from Registration

The bill amends s. 775.261, F.S., to specify that a career offender be considered for removal of the requirement to register only if he or she has been lawfully released from confinement, supervision, or sanction, whichever is later, for at least 20 years and has not been arrested for any felony or misdemeanor offense since that release. Such a career offender may petition the criminal division of the circuit court of the circuit in which the registered career offender designation initially occurred for the purpose of removing the requirement for registration as a career offender.

The bill requires, in addition to the state attorney in the circuit in which the petition is filed, the FDLE to be given notice of the hearing on the matter and may present evidence in opposition to the relief.

Community and Public Notification

The bill provides that the FDLE is responsible for the online maintenance of the current information regarding each registered career offender. The FDLE must maintain hotline access for state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies to obtain instantaneous locator file and criminal characteristics information on release and registration of career offenders for the purposes of monitoring, tracking, and prosecution. The photograph and fingerprints need not be stored in a computerized format.

The bill specifies that the career offender registration list is a public record and the FDLE may disseminate this public information by any means deemed appropriate, including operating a toll-free telephone number for this purpose. The department must adopt guidelines as necessary regarding the registration of a career offender and the dissemination of information regarding a career offender as required by this section.

Penalties

The bill provides additional career offender registration violations to include:

- Failure to make a required report in connection with vacating a permanent residence; and
- Failure to respond to address verification correspondence or knowingly providing false registration information.

The bill specifies that each instance of failure to register or report changes to the required information specified constitutes a separate offense. A career offender who violates s. 944.608, F.S., or s. 944.609, F.S., may be prosecuted in the county:

- Where the act or omission was committed;
- Of the last registered address of the career offender;
- In which the conviction occurred for the offense or offenses that meet the criteria for designating a person as a career offender;
- In which he or she was designated a career offender;
- Where the career offender was released from incarceration; or
- Of the intended address of the career offender as reported by the offender before his or her release from incarceration.

The bill provides circumstances that constitute actual notice of the duty to register. Failure to register immediately after actual notice of the duty to register may constitute grounds for a subsequent charge of failure to register.

Penalties for Assisting Career Offender in Noncompliance

The bill increases the offense for assisting a career offender in noncompliance from a first degree misdemeanor to a third degree felony.¹³

¹³ A third degree felony is generally punishable by up to five years imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine. Sections 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

Notification on Career Offenders – Section 944.608, F.S.

The bill amends s. 944.608, F.S., to provide that the terms “permanent residence,” “temporary residence,” “transient residence,” “professional license,” and “vehicles owned,” have the same meaning as provided in s. 775.261, F.S.

A career offender who is under the supervision of the DOC, but is not incarcerated, must register with the DOC within three business days after sentencing and provide specified information. The bill adds the following to the list of information that must be provided:

- Sex.
- Employment information required to be provided pursuant to s. 775.261, F.S.
- All home and cellular telephone numbers required to be provided pursuant to s. 775.261, F.S.
- The make, model, color, VIN, and license tag number of all vehicles owned.
- Address, location or description, and dates of any current or known future temporary residence within this state or out of state.
- If the career offender has a passport, he or she must produce the passport, and, if he or she is an alien, must produce or provide information about documents establishing immigration status.
- The career offender must provide information about any professional licenses he or she has.

Career Offenders In Custody

If a career offender is in the custody of a local jail, the custodian of the local jail shall notify the FDLE within three business days after intake of the offender for any reason and upon release of the offender. The custodian of the local jail must also take a digitized photograph of the career offender while the offender remains in custody and must provide the digitized photograph to the FDLE.

If the career offender is under federal supervision, the federal agency responsible for supervising the career offender may forward to the FDLE any information regarding the career offender which is consistent with the information provided by the department under this section, and may indicate whether use of the information is restricted to law enforcement purposes only or may be used by the FDLE for purposes of public notification.

Penalties

The bill amends s. 944.608(10)(b), F.S., to specify that a career offender who commits any act or omission in violation of this section may be prosecuted in the county:

- Where the act or omission was committed.
- Of the last registered address of the career offender.
- In which the conviction occurred for the offense or offenses that meet the criteria for designating a person as a career offender.
- In which he or she was designated a career offender.
- Where the career offender was released from incarceration.
- Of the intended address of the career offender as reported by the offender before his or her release from incarceration.

The bill provides circumstances that constitute actual notice of the duty to register. Failure to register immediately after actual notice of the duty to register may constitute grounds for a subsequent charge of failure to register.

The bill amends s. 944.608(12), F.S., to provide that it is a third degree felony¹⁴ for any person who has reason to believe that a career offender is not complying, or has not complied, with the requirements of this section and who, with the intent to assist the career offender in eluding a law enforcement agency that is seeking to find the career offender to question the career offender about, or to arrest the career offender for, his or her noncompliance with the requirements of this section. The following are the prohibited acts that can lead to such a felony charge:

- Withholding information from, or failing to notify, the law enforcement agency about the career offender's noncompliance with the requirements of this section, and, if known, the whereabouts of the career offender.
- Harboring or attempting to harbor, or assisting another person in harboring or attempting to harbor, the career offender.
- Concealing or attempting to conceal, or assisting another person in concealing or attempting to conceal, the career offender.
- Providing information to the law enforcement agency regarding the career offender which the person knows to be false information.

The bill amends s. 944.609, F.S., to provide that career offenders have a reduced expectation of privacy because of the public's interest in public safety and in the effective operation of government.

The bill adds the following information that the DOC must provide on any career offender who is being released from incarceration:

- Tattoos or other identifying marks.
- The address of any planned permanent residence or temporary residence, any transient residence within this state.
- The address, location or description, and dates of any current or known future temporary residence within this state or out of state.
- Palm prints.
- Employment information.
- All home and cellular telephone numbers.
- Passport information, if the career offender has a passport.
- Information about the documents establishing residency, if the career offender is an alien.
- The career offender must provide information about any professional licenses he or she has.

The bill takes effect on October 1, 2026.

¹⁴ A third degree felony is generally punishable by up to five years imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine. Sections 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

IV. Constitutional Issues:**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

The bill does not appear to require cities and counties to expend funds or limit their authority to raise revenue or receive state-shared revenues as specified by Art. VII, s. 18 of the State Constitution.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) and the Criminal Justice Impact Conference, which provides the final, official estimate of the prison bed impact, if any, of legislation, has determined that the bill may have a positive indeterminate prison bed impact on the Department of Corrections (DOC). The EDR provides the following additional information regarding its estimate:

- Per DOC, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025, there were 38 new commitments to prison for failing to register or report changes to required information under s. 775.261, F.S. It is not known how many of these would include separate offenses under the new language. There were no new commitments for not reporting that they decided to remain in this state after indicating their intent to reside in a state or jurisdiction other than the State of Florida.

- Per FDLE, in FY 2024-2025, there was one arrest and no guilty convictions or adjudications withheld under the first degree misdemeanor for when someone assists a career offender in noncompliance.
- Per DOC, in FY 2024-2025, there were no new commitments under s. 944.608, F.S., when a career offender fails to take of a digitized photograph, or to otherwise comply with the requirements for the notification to the Department of Law Enforcement of information on career offenders. It is not known how the expanded requirements or the new felonies would increase the pool of offenders.
- Per DOC, in FY 2024-2025, the incarceration rate for a Level 1, third degree felony was 9.7 percent and the incarceration rate for a Level 4, second degree felony was 27.4 percent.¹⁵

The FDLE provides that they require technological updates to the Career Offender Application for Statewide Tracking (COAST) to allow for additional reporting requirements. Additionally, proposed changes will also require FDLE to update the career offender public website, the CJNet website, and training materials. FDLE will also plan to notify non-incarcerated career offenders of the legislative changes via a mailout, budget allowing.¹⁶ The department advised that this impact is minimal.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 322.141, 775.261, 944.608, and 944.609.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

¹⁵ Office of Economic and Demographic Research, *SB 1332- Career Offender Registration (Similar CS/HB 931)* available at <https://edr.state.fl.us/Content/conferences/criminaljusticeimpact/SB1332.pdf> (last visited Feb. 16, 2026),

¹⁶ FDLE, *SB 1332 – Career Offender Registration*.