

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL ANALYSIS

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BILL #: [HB 171](#)

TITLE: Responsible Firearm Safety Awareness Month

SPONSOR(S): Edmonds

COMPANION BILL: [SB 1660](#) (Martin)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Criminal Justice](#)

13 Y, 0 N



[Government Operations](#)



[Judiciary](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

HB 171 designates June as “Responsible Firearm Safety Awareness Month.” The bill encourages the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, local governments, and other entities to sponsor events that promote public awareness on the dangers of firearms and educate the public through voluntary training and safety demonstrations.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill may have an indeterminate negative fiscal impact on state and local governments that choose to provide voluntary training and safety demonstrations.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

HB 171 designates the month of June as “Responsible Firearm Safety Awareness Month,” to recognize the importance of safe and responsible firearm use and ownership, while honoring the [Second Amendment](#) to the United States Constitution and [article I, section 8](#) of the Florida Constitution. (Section [1](#))

The bill encourages, but does not require, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, local governments, and other entities to sponsor events in June that promote public awareness on the dangers of firearms and educate the public through voluntary training and safety demonstrations. (Section [1](#))

This bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2026. (Section [2](#))

FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:

STATE GOVERNMENT:

To the extent that state government agencies choose to provide firearm training and safety demonstrations, as encouraged under the bill, the bill may have an indeterminate negative fiscal impact on state government.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

To the extent that local government agencies choose to provide firearm training and safety demonstrations, as encouraged under the bill, the bill may have an indeterminate negative fiscal impact on local government.

STORAGE NAME: h0171a.CRM

DATE: 2/12/2026

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

Both the United States Constitution and the Florida Constitution protect the right to keep and bear arms. The [Second Amendment](#) to the U.S. Constitution sets forth “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”¹ [Article I, section 8](#) of the Florida Constitution sets forth “the right of the people to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves and of the lawful authority of the state shall not be infringed, except that the manner of bearing arms may be regulated by law.”²

Local Firearms Safety Training Program

In 2023, the legislature appropriated \$1.5 million in recurring funds to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to implement the Local Firearms Safety Training Program (LFSTP), a grant program for local law enforcement agencies to provide firearm safety training.³ The LFSTP requires fund recipients to use the award for the development, expansion or instruction of firearms safety training hosted by law enforcement for the general public.⁴ Award recipients must provide a minimum of four firearms safety training sessions to the general public within a twelve-month period.

Local governments, such a Citrus County⁵ and Hendry County⁶ Sheriff’s Offices, have used this funding to offer free basic firearms courses to citizens. For example, the two counties provided free quarterly firearm safety courses for a limited number of people who have limited or no prior firearm experience. Upon completion of the course, participants received basic firearm safety certifications.⁷

OTHER RESOURCES:

[FDLE – Local Firearm Safety Training Program](#)

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Criminal Justice Subcommittee	13 Y, 0 N	2/12/2026	Hall	Fronczak
Government Operations Subcommittee				
Judiciary Committee				

¹ [U.S. Const. amend II.](#)

² [Art. I, s. 8\(a\), Fla. Const.](#)

³ 2023-18, Laws of Fla.

⁴ Florida Department of Law Enforcement, *Criminal Justice Grants, Local Firearm Safety Training Program (LFSTP)*, <https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/fdle-grants/office-of-criminal-justice-grants/sfa/lfst>. (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).

⁵ Citrus County Sheriff’s Office, *Firearm Safety Course*, www.sheriffcitrus.org/programs_services/firearm_safety_course.php (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).

⁶ Hendry County Sheriff’s Office, *Public Firearms Courses*, <https://www.hendrysheriff.org/publicFirearmsCourses> (last visited Feb, 2. 2026).

⁷ Citrus County Sheriff’s Office, *Firearm Safety Course*, www.sheriffcitrus.org/programs_services/firearm_safety_course.php (last visited Feb, 2. 2026); Hendry County Sheriff’s Office, *Public Firearms Courses*, <https://www.hendrysheriff.org/publicFirearmsCourses> (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).