

## Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1002

An act relating to cruelty to animals; amending s. 828.12, F.S.; providing that any person convicted of specified acts which constitute cruelty to an animal, where the finder of fact determines that the violation includes the knowing and intentional torture or torment of an animal, shall be ordered to undergo psychological counseling or anger management treatment; providing a minimum mandatory fine; providing penalties for second or subsequent violations; reenacting ss. 550.2415(6)(d), 828.122(5) and (6)(a), 828.17, 828.24(3), 828.26(3), 828.29(14), 943.051(3)(b)11., 985.212(1)(b)11., and 921.0022(3)(c), F.S., to incorporate the amendment to s. 828.12, F.S., in references thereto; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 828.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

828.12 Cruelty to animals.—

(1) A person who unnecessarily overloads, overdrives, torments, deprives of necessary sustenance or shelter, or unnecessarily mutilates, or kills any animal, or causes the same to be done, or carries in or upon any vehicle, or otherwise, any animal in a cruel or inhumane manner, is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both.

(2) A person who intentionally commits an act to any animal which results in the cruel death, or excessive or repeated infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering, or causes the same to be done, is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

(a) A person convicted of a violation of this subsection, where the finder of fact determines that the violation includes the knowing and intentional torture or torment of an animal that injures, mutilates, or kills the animal, shall be ordered to pay a minimum mandatory fine of \$2,500 and undergo psychological counseling or complete an anger management treatment program.

(b) Any person convicted of a second or subsequent violation of this subsection shall be required to pay a minimum mandatory fine of \$5,000 and serve a minimum mandatory period of incarceration of 6 months. In addition, the person shall be released only upon expiration of sentence, shall not be eligible for parole, control release, or any form of early release, and must serve 100 percent of the court-imposed sentence. Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for purposes of this subsection.

(3) A veterinarian licensed to practice in the state shall be held harmless from either criminal or civil liability for any decisions made or services

rendered under the provisions of this section. Such a veterinarian is, therefore, under this subsection, immune from a lawsuit for his or her part in an investigation of cruelty to animals.

(4) A person who intentionally trips, fells, ropes, or lassos the legs of a horse by any means for the purpose of entertainment or sport shall be guilty of a third degree felony, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. As used in this subsection, "trip" means any act that consists of the use of any wire, pole, stick, rope, or other apparatus to cause a horse to fall or lose its balance, and "horse" means any animal of any registered breed of the genus *Equus*, or any recognized hybrid thereof. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply when tripping is used:

(a) To control a horse that is posing an immediate threat to other livestock or human beings;

(b) For the purpose of identifying ownership of the horse when its ownership is unknown; or

(c) For the purpose of administering veterinary care to the horse.

Section 2. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment to section 828.12, Florida Statutes, in references thereto, the sections or subdivisions of Florida Statutes set forth below are reenacted to read:

550.2415 Racing of animals under certain conditions prohibited; penalties; exceptions.—

(6)

(d) A conviction of cruelty to animals pursuant to s. 828.12 involving a racing animal constitutes a violation of this chapter.

828.122 Fighting or baiting animals; offenses; penalties.—

(5) Whenever an indictment is returned or an information is filed charging a violation of s. 828.12 or of this section and, in the case of an information, a magistrate finds probable cause that a violation has occurred, the court shall order the animals seized and shall provide for appropriate and humane care or disposition of the animals. This provision shall not be construed as a limitation on the power to seize animals as evidence at the time of arrest.

(6) The provisions of subsection (3) and paragraph (4)(b) shall not apply to:

(a) Any person simulating a fight for the purpose of using the simulated fight as part of a motion picture which will be used on television or in a motion picture, provided s. 828.12 is not violated.

828.17 Officer to arrest without warrant.—Any sheriff or any other peace officer of the state, or any police officer of any city or town of the state, shall arrest without warrant any person found violating any of the provisions of ss. 828.04, 828.08, 828.12, and 828.13-828.16, and the officer making the

arrest shall hold the offender until a warrant can be procured, and he or she shall use proper diligence to procure such warrant.

828.24 Prohibited acts; exemption.—

(3) Nothing in this section precludes the enforcement of s. 828.12 relating to cruelty to animals.

828.26 Penalties.—

(3) Nothing in this section precludes the enforcement of s. 828.12, relating to cruelty to animals.

828.29 Dogs and cats transported or offered for sale; health requirements; consumer guarantee.—

(14) The state attorney may bring an action to enjoin any violator of this section or s. 828.12 or s. 828.13 from being a pet dealer.

943.051 Criminal justice information; collection and storage; fingerprinting.—

(3)

(b) A minor who is charged with or found to have committed the following offenses shall be fingerprinted and the fingerprints shall be submitted to the department:

11. Cruelty to animals, as defined in s. 828.12(1).

985.212 Fingerprinting and photographing.—

(1)

(b) A child who is charged with or found to have committed one of the following offenses shall be fingerprinted, and the fingerprints shall be submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement as provided in s. 943.051(3)(b):

11. Cruelty to animals, as defined in s. 828.12(1).

A law enforcement agency may fingerprint and photograph a child taken into custody upon probable cause that such child has committed any other violation of law, as the agency deems appropriate. Such fingerprint records and photographs shall be retained by the law enforcement agency in a separate file, and these records and all copies thereof must be marked "Juvenile Confidential." These records are not available for public disclosure and inspection under s. 119.07(1) except as provided in ss. 943.053 and 985.04(5), but shall be available to other law enforcement agencies, criminal justice agencies, state attorneys, the courts, the child, the parents or legal custodians of the child, their attorneys, and any other person authorized by the court to have access to such records. In addition, such records may be submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement for inclusion in the state criminal history records and used by criminal justice agencies for criminal

justice purposes. These records may, in the discretion of the court, be open to inspection by anyone upon a showing of cause. The fingerprint and photograph records shall be produced in the court whenever directed by the court. Any photograph taken pursuant to this section may be shown by a law enforcement officer to any victim or witness of a crime for the purpose of identifying the person who committed such crime.

921.0022 Criminal Punishment Code; offense severity ranking chart.—

(3) OFFENSE SEVERITY RANKING CHART

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
(c) LEVEL 3		
316.1935(2)	3rd	Fleeing or attempting to elude law enforcement officer in marked patrol vehicle with siren and lights activated.
319.30(4)	3rd	Possession by junkyard of motor vehicle with identification number plate removed.
319.33(1)(a)	3rd	Alter or forge any certificate of title to a motor vehicle or mobile home.
319.33(1)(c)	3rd	Procure or pass title on stolen vehicle.
319.33(4)	3rd	With intent to defraud, possess, sell, etc., a blank, forged, or unlawfully obtained title or registration.
328.05(2)	3rd	Possess, sell, or counterfeit fictitious, stolen, or fraudulent titles or bills of sale of vessels.
328.07(4)	3rd	Manufacture, exchange, or possess vessel with counterfeit or wrong ID number.
376.302(5)	3rd	Fraud related to reimbursement for cleanup expenses under the Inland Protection Trust Fund.
501.001(2)(b)	2nd	Tampers with a consumer product or the container using materially false/ misleading information.
697.08	3rd	Equity skimming.
790.15(3)	3rd	Person directs another to discharge firearm from a vehicle.
796.05(1)	3rd	Live on earnings of a prostitute.
806.10(1)	3rd	Maliciously injure, destroy, or interfere with vehicles or equipment used in firefighting.
806.10(2)	3rd	Interferes with or assaults firefighter in performance of duty.

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
810.09(2)(c)	3rd	Trespass on property other than structure or conveyance armed with firearm or dangerous weapon.
812.014(2)(c)2.	3rd	Grand theft; \$5,000 or more but less than \$10,000.
815.04(4)(b)	2nd	Computer offense devised to defraud or obtain property.
817.034(4)(a)3.	3rd	Engages in scheme to defraud (Florida Communications Fraud Act), property valued at less than \$20,000.
817.233	3rd	Burning to defraud insurer.
817.234(8)&(9)	3rd	Unlawful solicitation of persons involved in motor vehicle accidents.
817.234(11)(a)	3rd	Insurance fraud; property value less than \$20,000.
817.505(4)	3rd	Patient brokering.
828.12(2)	3rd	Tortures any animal with intent to inflict intense pain, serious physical injury, or death.
831.28(2)(a)	3rd	Counterfeiting a payment instrument with intent to defraud or possessing a counterfeit payment instrument.
831.29	2nd	Possession of instruments for counterfeiting drivers' licenses or identification cards.
838.021(3)(b)	3rd	Threatens unlawful harm to public servant.
843.19	3rd	Injure, disable, or kill police dog or horse.
870.01(2)	3rd	Riot; inciting or encouraging.
893.13(1)(a)2.	3rd	Sell, manufacture, or deliver cannabis (or other s. 893.03(1)(c), (2)(c)1., (2)(c)2., (2)(c)3., (2)(c)5., (2)(c)6., (2)(c)7., (2)(c)8., (2)(c)9., (3), or (4) drugs).
893.13(1)(d)2.	2nd	Sell, manufacture, or deliver s. 893.03(1)(c), (2)(c)1., (2)(c)2., (2)(c)3., (2)(c)5., (2)(c)6., (2)(c)7., (2)(c)8., (2)(c)9., (3), or (4) drugs within 200 feet of university or public park.
893.13(1)(f)2.	2nd	Sell, manufacture, or deliver s. 893.03(1)(c), (2)(c)1., (2)(c)2., (2)(c)3., (2)(c)5., (2)(c)6., (2)(c)7., (2)(c)8., (2)(c)9., (3), or (4) drugs within 200 feet of public housing facility.

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
893.13(6)(a)	3rd	Possession of any controlled substance other than felony possession of cannabis.
893.13(7)(a)9.	3rd	Obtain or attempt to obtain controlled substance by fraud, forgery, misrepresentation, etc.
893.13(7)(a)11.	3rd	Furnish false or fraudulent material information on any document or record required by chapter 893.
918.13(1)(a)	3rd	Alter, destroy, or conceal investigation evidence.
944.47 (1)(a)1.-2.	3rd	Introduce contraband to correctional facility.
944.47(1)(c)	2nd	Possess contraband while upon the grounds of a correctional institution.
985.3141	3rd	Escapes from a juvenile facility (secure detention or residential commitment facility).

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor April 18, 2002.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 18, 2002.