

House Bill No. 221

An act relating to self-murder; creating s. 782.081, F.S.; defining the terms “deliberately assisting,” “self-murder,” and “simulated self-murder”; prohibiting conducting an event or providing a location for an event that the person knows or reasonably should know includes the act of self-murder; prohibiting deliberately assisting in a self-murder; providing an exception for events in which simulated self-murder is conducted; providing that a violation of the act is a third-degree felony; authorizing the Attorney General and state attorneys to enforce the act through civil proceedings; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 782.081, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

782.081 Commercial exploitation of self-murder.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Deliberately assisting” means carrying out a public act that is intended to:

1. Aid, abet, facilitate, permit, advocate, or encourage;
2. Publicize, promote, advertise, operate, stage, schedule or conduct;
3. Provide or secure a venue, transportation, or security; or
4. Result in the collection of an admission or fee.

(b) “Self-murder” means the voluntary and intentional taking of one’s own life. As used in this section, the term includes attempted self-murder.

(c) “Simulated self-murder” means the artistic depiction or portrayal of self-murder which is not an actual self-murder. The term includes, but is not limited to, an artistic depiction or portrayal of self-murder in a script, play, movie, or story presented to the public or during an event.

(2) A person may not for commercial or entertainment purposes:

(a) Conduct any event that the person knows or reasonably should know includes an actual self-murder as a part of the event or deliberately assist in an actual self-murder.

(b) Provide a theater, auditorium, club, or other venue or location for any event that the person knows or reasonably should know includes an actual self-murder as a part of the event.

(3) This section does not prohibit any event during which simulated self-murder will occur.

(4) It is not a defense to a prosecution under this section that an attempted self-murder did not result in a self-murder.

(5) A person who violates this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 774.084.

(6) The Attorney General or any state attorney may bring a civil proceeding for declaratory, injunctive, or other relief to enforce the provisions of this section.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 11, 2004.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 11, 2004.