

House Bill No. 285

An act relating to the right to a speedy trial; creating time limits within which a person charged with a crime must be brought to trial; permitting state attorneys to file a demand for a speedy trial; providing conditions that must be met in order to do so; requiring that the trial judge schedule a calendar call upon the filing of a demand for a speedy trial in order to schedule a trial; prescribing conditions under which the trial court may postpone a trial date; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Victim's right to a speedy trial; speedy trial demand by the state attorney.—

(1) The state attorney may file a demand for a speedy trial if the state has met its obligations under the rules of discovery, the charge is a felony or misdemeanor, the court has granted at least three continuances upon the request of the defendant over the objection of the state attorney, and:

(a) If a felony case, it is not resolved within 125 days after the date that formal charges are filed and the defendant is arrested or the date that notice to appear in lieu of arrest is served upon the defendant; or

(b) If a misdemeanor case, it is not resolved within 45 days after the date that formal charges are filed and the defendant is arrested or the date that notice to appear in lieu of arrest is served upon the defendant.

(2) Upon the filing of a demand for a speedy trial, the trial court shall schedule a calendar call within 5 days, at which time the court shall schedule the trial to commence no sooner than 5 days or later than 45 days following the date of the calendar call. The court may, however, grant whatever further extension may be required to prevent deprivation of the defendant's right to due process.

(3)(a) The trial court may postpone the trial date for up to 30 additional days upon a showing by the defendant that a necessary witness who was properly served failed to attend the deposition and also failed to attend a subsequently scheduled deposition following a court order to appear. The court may, however, grant whatever further extension may be required to prevent deprivation of the defendant's right to due process.

(b) The trial court may also postpone the trial date for no fewer than 30 days but no more than 70 days if the court grants a motion by counsel to withdraw and the court appoints other counsel. The court may, however, grant whatever further extension may be required to prevent deprivation of the defendant's right to due process.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.

Approved by the Governor May 24, 2005.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 24, 2005.