

Committee Substitute for
Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1328

An act relating to the unlawful taking of personal property or equipment; amending s. 812.014, F.S.; providing that the theft of property that has been deployed by a law enforcement officer is grand theft in the first degree; providing criminal penalties; creating s. 812.0147, F.S.; providing that it is a second-degree felony to possess or use a fifth wheel to commit or attempt to commit theft; providing criminal penalties; amending s. 812.155, F.S.; deleting the requirement to prove fraudulent intent in prosecutions related to the theft of personal property or equipment; providing that failure to return rental property within a specified time is evidence of abandonment or refusal to redeliver the property; deleting a provision that certain actions constitute prima facie evidence of fraudulent intent; deleting a provision specifying that the prohibition against obtaining personal property or equipment with intent to defraud does not apply to a rental-purchase agreement unless the rental store retains title to the property or equipment throughout the period of the rental-purchase agreement; amending s. 921.0022, F.S.; classifying the offense of stealing property deployed by a law enforcement officer under the offense severity ranking chart of the Criminal Punishment Code; reenacting s. 985.227(1)(a), F.S., relating to prosecution of juveniles as adults, in order to incorporate the amendment to s. 812.014, F.S., in a reference thereto; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 812.014, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

812.014 Theft.—

(2)(a)1. If the property stolen is valued at \$100,000 or more or is a semi-trailer that was deployed by a law enforcement officer; or

2. If the property stolen is cargo valued at \$50,000 or more that has entered the stream of interstate or intrastate commerce from the shipper's loading platform to the consignee's receiving dock; or

3. If the offender commits any grand theft and:

a. In the course of committing the offense the offender uses a motor vehicle as an instrumentality, other than merely as a getaway vehicle, to assist in committing the offense and thereby damages the real property of another; or

b. In the course of committing the offense the offender causes damage to the real or personal property of another in excess of \$1,000,

the offender commits grand theft in the first degree, punishable as a felony of the first degree, as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 2. Section 812.0147, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

812.0147 Unlawful possession or use of a fifth wheel.—

(1) A person may not modify, alter, attempt to alter, and if altered, sell, possess, offer for sale, move, or cause to be moved onto the highways of this state a device known as a fifth wheel with the intent to use the fifth wheel to commit or attempt to commit theft. As used in this section, the term “fifth wheel” applies only to a fifth wheel on a commercial motor vehicle.

(2) Any person who violates subsection (1) commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 3. Section 812.155, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

812.155 Hiring, leasing, or obtaining personal property or equipment with the intent to defraud; failing to return hired or leased personal property or equipment; rules of evidence.—

(1) OBTAINING BY TRICK, FALSE REPRESENTATION, ETC.—Whoever, with the intent to defraud the owner or any person lawfully possessing any personal property or equipment, obtains the custody of such personal property or equipment by trick, deceit, or fraudulent or willful false representation shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, unless the value of the personal property or equipment is of a value of \$300 or more; in that event the violation constitutes a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(2) HIRING OR LEASING WITH THE INTENT TO DEFRAUD.—Whoever, with intent to defraud the owner or any person lawfully possessing any personal property or equipment of the rental thereof, hires or leases the said personal property or equipment from the such owner or the such owner's agents or any person in lawful possession thereof shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, unless the value of the personal property or equipment is of a value of \$300 or more; in that event the violation constitutes a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(3) FAILURE TO REDELIVER HIRED OR LEASED PERSONAL PROPERTY.—Whoever, after hiring or leasing any personal property or equipment under an agreement to redeliver the same to the person letting such personal property or equipment or his or her agent at the termination of the period for which it was let, shall, without the consent of such person or persons knowingly and with the intent to defraud, abandon or willfully refuse to redeliver the such personal property or equipment as agreed, shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, unless the value of the personal property or equipment is of a value of \$300 or more; in that event the

violation constitutes a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(4) ~~EVIDENCE OF FRAUDULENT INTENT.—~~

(a) In prosecutions under this section, obtaining the property or equipment under false pretenses; absconding without payment; or removing or attempting to remove the property or equipment from the county without the express written consent of the lessor, is prima facie evidence of fraudulent intent.

(b) In a prosecution under subsection (3), failure to redeliver the property or equipment within 5 days after receipt of, or within 5 days after return receipt from, the certified mailing of the demand for return is prima facie evidence of abandonment or refusal to redeliver the property ~~fraudulent intent~~. Notice mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address given by the renter at the time of rental shall be deemed sufficient and equivalent to notice having been received by the renter, should the notice be returned undelivered.

(c) In a prosecution under subsection (3), failure to pay any amount due which is incurred as the result of the failure to redeliver property after the rental period expires, and after the demand for return is made, is prima facie evidence of abandonment or refusal to redeliver the property ~~fraudulent intent~~. Amounts due include unpaid rental for the time period during which the property or equipment was not returned and include the lesser of the cost of repairing or replacing the property or equipment if it has been damaged.

(5) DEMAND FOR RETURN.—Demand for return of overdue property or equipment and for payment of amounts due may be made in person, by hand delivery, or by certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the lessee's address shown in the rental contract.

(6) NOTICE REQUIRED.—As a prerequisite to prosecution under this section, the following statement must be contained in the agreement under which the owner or person lawfully possessing the property or equipment has relinquished its custody, or in an addendum to that agreement, and the statement must be initialed by the person hiring or leasing the rental property or equipment:

Failure to return rental property or equipment upon expiration of the rental period and failure to pay all amounts due (including costs for damage to the property or equipment) are prima facie evidence of abandonment or refusal to redeliver the property ~~intent to defraud~~, punishable in accordance with section 812.155, Florida Statutes.

~~(7) EXCLUSION OF RENTAL PURCHASE AGREEMENTS.—This section does not apply to personal property or equipment that is the subject of a rental purchase agreement that permits the lessee to acquire ownership of the personal property or equipment unless the rental store retains title to the personal property or equipment throughout the rental purchase agreement period.~~

Section 4. Paragraph (g) of subsection (3) of section 921.0022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

921.0022 Criminal Punishment Code; offense severity ranking chart.—

(3) OFFENSE SEVERITY RANKING CHART

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
		(g) LEVEL 7
316.027(1)(b)	2nd	Accident involving death, failure to stop; leaving scene.
316.193(3)(c)2.	3rd	DUI resulting in serious bodily injury.
316.1935(3)(b)	1st	Causing serious bodily injury or death to another person; driving at high speed or with wanton disregard for safety while fleeing or attempting to elude law enforcement officer who is in a patrol vehicle with siren and lights activated.
327.35(3)(c)2.	3rd	Vessel BUI resulting in serious bodily injury.
402.319(2)	2nd	Misrepresentation and negligence or intentional act resulting in great bodily harm, permanent disfigurement, permanent disability, or death.
409.920(2)	3rd	Medicaid provider fraud.
456.065(2)	3rd	Practicing a health care profession without a license.
456.065(2)	2nd	Practicing a health care profession without a license which results in serious bodily injury.
458.327(1)	3rd	Practicing medicine without a license.
459.013(1)	3rd	Practicing osteopathic medicine without a license.
460.411(1)	3rd	Practicing chiropractic medicine without a license.
461.012(1)	3rd	Practicing podiatric medicine without a license.
462.17	3rd	Practicing naturopathy without a license.
463.015(1)	3rd	Practicing optometry without a license.
464.016(1)	3rd	Practicing nursing without a license.
465.015(2)	3rd	Practicing pharmacy without a license.
466.026(1)	3rd	Practicing dentistry or dental hygiene without a license.
467.201	3rd	Practicing midwifery without a license.

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
468.366	3rd	Delivering respiratory care services without a license.
483.828(1)	3rd	Practicing as clinical laboratory personnel without a license.
483.901(9)	3rd	Practicing medical physics without a license.
484.013(1)(c)	3rd	Preparing or dispensing optical devices without a prescription.
484.053	3rd	Dispensing hearing aids without a license.
494.0018(2)	1st	Conviction of any violation of ss. 494.001-494.0077 in which the total money and property unlawfully obtained exceeded \$50,000 and there were five or more victims.
560.123(8)(b)1.	3rd	Failure to report currency or payment instruments exceeding \$300 but less than \$20,000 by money transmitter.
560.125(5)(a)	3rd	Money transmitter business by unauthorized person, currency or payment instruments exceeding \$300 but less than \$20,000.
655.50(10)(b)1.	3rd	Failure to report financial transactions exceeding \$300 but less than \$20,000 by financial institution.
775.21(10)(a)	3rd	Sexual predator; failure to register; failure to renew driver's license or identification card; other registration violations.
775.21(10)(b)	3rd	Sexual predator working where children regularly congregate.
775.21(10)(g)	3rd	Failure to report or providing false information about a sexual predator; harbor or conceal a sexual predator.
782.051(3)	2nd	Attempted felony murder of a person by a person other than the perpetrator or the perpetrator of an attempted felony.
782.07(1)	2nd	Killing of a human being by the act, procurement, or culpable negligence of another (manslaughter).
782.071	2nd	Killing of human being or viable fetus by the operation of a motor vehicle in a reckless manner (vehicular homicide).

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
782.072	2nd	Killing of a human being by the operation of a vessel in a reckless manner (vessel homicide).
784.045(1)(a)1.	2nd	Aggravated battery; intentionally causing great bodily harm or disfigurement.
784.045(1)(a)2.	2nd	Aggravated battery; using deadly weapon.
784.045(1)(b)	2nd	Aggravated battery; perpetrator aware victim pregnant.
784.048(4)	3rd	Aggravated stalking; violation of injunction or court order.
784.048(7)	3rd	Aggravated stalking; violation of court order.
784.07(2)(d)	1st	Aggravated battery on law enforcement officer.
784.074(1)(a)	1st	Aggravated battery on sexually violent predators facility staff.
784.08(2)(a)	1st	Aggravated battery on a person 65 years of age or older.
784.081(1)	1st	Aggravated battery on specified official or employee.
784.082(1)	1st	Aggravated battery by detained person on visitor or other detainee.
784.083(1)	1st	Aggravated battery on code inspector.
790.07(4)	1st	Specified weapons violation subsequent to previous conviction of s. 790.07(1) or (2).
790.16(1)	1st	Discharge of a machine gun under specified circumstances.
790.165(2)	2nd	Manufacture, sell, possess, or deliver hoax bomb.
790.165(3)	2nd	Possessing, displaying, or threatening to use any hoax bomb while committing or attempting to commit a felony.
790.166(3)	2nd	Possessing, selling, using, or attempting to use a hoax weapon of mass destruction.
790.166(4)	2nd	Possessing, displaying, or threatening to use a hoax weapon of mass destruction while committing or attempting to commit a felony.
796.03	2nd	Procuring any person under 16 years for prostitution.
800.04(5)(c)1.	2nd	Lewd or lascivious molestation; victim less than 12 years of age; offender less than 18 years.

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
800.04(5)(c)2.	2nd	Lewd or lascivious molestation; victim 12 years of age or older but less than 16 years; offender 18 years or older.
806.01(2)	2nd	Maliciously damage structure by fire or explosive.
810.02(3)(a)	2nd	Burglary of occupied dwelling; unarmed; no assault or battery.
810.02(3)(b)	2nd	Burglary of unoccupied dwelling; unarmed; no assault or battery.
810.02(3)(d)	2nd	Burglary of occupied conveyance; unarmed; no assault or battery.
812.014(2)(a)1.	1st	Property stolen, valued at \$100,000 or more or <u>a semitrailer deployed by a law enforcement officer</u> ; property stolen while causing other property damage; 1st degree grand theft.
812.014(2)(b)2.	2nd	Property stolen, cargo valued at less than \$50,000, grand theft in 2nd degree.
812.014(2)(b)3.	2nd	Property stolen, emergency medical equipment; 2nd degree grand theft.
812.0145(2)(a)	1st	Theft from person 65 years of age or older; \$50,000 or more.
812.019(2)	1st	Stolen property; initiates, organizes, plans, etc., the theft of property and traffics in stolen property.
812.131(2)(a)	2nd	Robbery by sudden snatching.
812.133(2)(b)	1st	Carjacking; no firearm, deadly weapon, or other weapon.
817.234(8)(a)	2nd	Solicitation of motor vehicle accident victims with intent to defraud.
817.234(9)	2nd	Organizing, planning, or participating in an intentional motor vehicle collision.
817.234(11)(c)	1st	Insurance fraud; property value \$100,000 or more.
817.2341(2)(b) & (3)(b)	1st	Making false entries of material fact or false statements regarding property values relating to the solvency of an insuring entity which are a significant cause of the insolvency of that entity.
825.102(3)(b)	2nd	Neglecting an elderly person or disabled adult causing great bodily harm, disability, or disfigurement.

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
825.103(2)(b)	2nd	Exploiting an elderly person or disabled adult and property is valued at \$20,000 or more, but less than \$100,000.
827.03(3)(b)	2nd	Neglect of a child causing great bodily harm, disability, or disfigurement.
827.04(3)	3rd	Impregnation of a child under 16 years of age by person 21 years of age or older.
837.05(2)	3rd	Giving false information about alleged capital felony to a law enforcement officer.
838.015	2nd	Bribery.
838.016	2nd	Unlawful compensation or reward for official behavior.
838.021(3)(a)	2nd	Unlawful harm to a public servant.
838.22	2nd	Bid tampering.
847.0135(3)	3rd	Solicitation of a child, via a computer service, to commit an unlawful sex act.
872.06	2nd	Abuse of a dead human body.
893.13(1)(c)1.	1st	Sell, manufacture, or deliver cocaine (or other drug prohibited under s. 893.03(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(d), (2)(a), (2)(b), or (2)(c)4.) within 1,000 feet of a child care facility, school, or state, county, or municipal park or publicly owned recreational facility or community center.
893.13(1)(e)1.	1st	Sell, manufacture, or deliver cocaine or other drug prohibited under s. 893.03(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(d), (2)(a), (2)(b), or (2)(c)4., within 1,000 feet of property used for religious services or a specified business site.
893.13(4)(a)	1st	Deliver to minor cocaine (or other s. 893.03(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(d), (2)(a), (2)(b), or (2)(c)4. drugs).
893.135(1)(a)1.	1st	Trafficking in cannabis, more than 25 lbs., less than 2,000 lbs.
893.135 (1)(b)1.a.	1st	Trafficking in cocaine, more than 28 grams, less than 200 grams.
893.135 (1)(c)1.a.	1st	Trafficking in illegal drugs, more than 4 grams, less than 14 grams.

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
893.135 (1)(d)1.	1st	Trafficking in phencyclidine, more than 28 grams, less than 200 grams.
893.135(1)(e)1.	1st	Trafficking in methaqualone, more than 200 grams, less than 5 kilograms.
893.135(1)(f)1.	1st	Trafficking in amphetamine, more than 14 grams, less than 28 grams.
893.135 (1)(g)1.a.	1st	Trafficking in flunitrazepam, 4 grams or more, less than 14 grams.
893.135 (1)(h)1.a.	1st	Trafficking in gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), 1 kilogram or more, less than 5 kilograms.
893.135 (1)(j)1.a.	1st	Trafficking in 1,4-Butanediol, 1 kilogram or more, less than 5 kilograms.
893.135 (1)(k)2.a.	1st	Trafficking in Phenethylamines, 10 grams or more, less than 200 grams.
896.101(5)(a)	3rd	Money laundering, financial transactions exceeding \$300 but less than \$20,000.
896.104(4)(a)1.	3rd	Structuring transactions to evade reporting or registration requirements, financial transactions exceeding \$300 but less than \$20,000.
943.0435(4)(c)	2nd	Sexual offender vacating permanent residence; failure to comply with reporting requirements.
943.0435(8)	2nd	Sexual offender; remains in state after indicating intent to leave; failure to comply with reporting requirements.
943.0435(9)(a)	3rd	Sexual offender; failure to comply with reporting requirements.
943.0435(13)	3rd	Failure to report or providing false information about a sexual offender; harbor or conceal a sexual offender.
943.0435(14)	3rd	Sexual offender; failure to report and reregister; failure to respond to address verification.
944.607(9)	3rd	Sexual offender; failure to comply with reporting requirements.
944.607(10)(a)	3rd	Sexual offender; failure to submit to the taking of a digitized photograph.

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
944.607(12)	3rd	Failure to report or providing false information about a sexual offender; harbor or conceal a sexual offender.
944.607(13)	3rd	Sexual offender; failure to report and reregister; failure to respond to address verification.

Section 5. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 812.014, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 985.227, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

985.227 Prosecution of juveniles as adults by the direct filing of an information in the criminal division of the circuit court; discretionary criteria; mandatory criteria.—

(1) DISCRETIONARY DIRECT FILE; CRITERIA.—

(a) With respect to any child who was 14 or 15 years of age at the time the alleged offense was committed, the state attorney may file an information when in the state attorney's judgment and discretion the public interest requires that adult sanctions be considered or imposed and when the offense charged is for the commission of, attempt to commit, or conspiracy to commit:

1. Arson;
2. Sexual battery;
3. Robbery;
4. Kidnapping;
5. Aggravated child abuse;
6. Aggravated assault;
7. Aggravated stalking;
8. Murder;
9. Manslaughter;
10. Unlawful throwing, placing, or discharging of a destructive device or bomb;
11. Armed burglary in violation of s. 810.02(2)(b) or specified burglary of a dwelling or structure in violation of s. 810.02(2)(c), or burglary with an assault or battery in violation of s. 810.02(2)(a);
12. Aggravated battery;

13. Any lewd or lascivious offense committed upon or in the presence of a person less than 16 years of age;
14. Carrying, displaying, using, threatening, or attempting to use a weapon or firearm during the commission of a felony;
15. Grand theft in violation of s. 812.014(2)(a);
16. Possessing or discharging any weapon or firearm on school property in violation of s. 790.115;
17. Home invasion robbery;
18. Carjacking; or
19. Grand theft of a motor vehicle in violation of s. 812.014(2)(c)6. or grand theft of a motor vehicle valued at \$20,000 or more in violation of s. 812.014(2)(b) if the child has a previous adjudication for grand theft of a motor vehicle in violation of s. 812.014(2)(c)6. or s. 812.014(2)(b).

Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

Approved by the Governor May 30, 2006.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 30, 2006.