

CHAPTER 2012-53

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 37

An act relating to knowingly and willfully giving false information to a law enforcement officer; amending s. 837.055, F.S.; providing that it is a third-degree felony for a person to knowingly and willfully give false information to a law enforcement officer conducting a missing person investigation involving a child 16 years of age or younger with the intent to mislead the officer or impede the investigation if the child suffers great bodily harm, permanent disability, permanent disfigurement, or death; providing criminal penalties; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 837.055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

837.055 False information to law enforcement during investigation.—

(1) Whoever knowingly and willfully gives false information to a law enforcement officer who is conducting a missing person investigation or a felony criminal investigation with the intent to mislead the officer or impede the investigation commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(2) Whoever knowingly and willfully gives false information to a law enforcement officer who is conducting a missing person investigation involving a child 16 years of age or younger with the intent to mislead the officer or impede the investigation, and the child who is the subject of the investigation suffers great bodily harm, permanent disability, permanent disfigurement, or death, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2012.

Approved by the Governor April 6, 2012.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 6, 2012.