

CHAPTER 2015-133

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 133

An act relating to sexual offenses; providing a short title; amending s. 775.15, F.S.; revising time limitations for the criminal prosecution of specified sexual battery offenses if the victim is 16 years of age or older; providing applicability; amending s. 847.0141, F.S.; removing the court's discretion to impose a specified penalty for a first violation of sexting; requiring a minor cited for a first violation to sign and accept a citation to appear before juvenile court or, in lieu of appearing in court, to complete community service work, pay a civil penalty, or participate in a cyber-safety program within a certain period of time, if such program is locally available; requiring the citation to be in a form prescribed by the issuing law enforcement agency; requiring such citation to include certain information; authorizing a court to order certain penalties under certain circumstances; authorizing a court to order specified additional penalties in certain circumstances; prohibiting the court from imposing incarceration; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; requiring that a specified percentage of civil penalties received by a juvenile court be remitted by the clerk of court to the county commission to provide cyber-safety training for minors; requiring that the remaining percentage remain with the clerk of the court to cover administrative costs; amending s. 985.0301, F.S.; creating exclusive original jurisdiction in the circuit court when a child is alleged to have committed a noncriminal violation that is assigned to juvenile court; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. This act may be cited as the "43 Days Initiative Act."

Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (13) of section 775.15, Florida Statutes, is republished, and subsection (14) of that section is amended, to read:

775.15 Time limitations; general time limitations; exceptions.—

(13)

(b) If the offense is a first degree felony violation of s. 794.011 and the victim was under 18 years of age at the time the offense was committed, a prosecution of the offense may be commenced at any time. This paragraph applies to any such offense except an offense the prosecution of which would have been barred by subsection (2) on or before October 1, 2003.

(14)(a) A prosecution for a first or second degree felony violation of s. 794.011, if the victim is 16 ~~18~~ years of age or older at the time of the offense and the offense is reported to a law enforcement agency within 72 hours after commission of the offense, may be commenced at any time. ~~If the offense is~~

~~not reported within 72 hours after the commission of the offense, the prosecution must be commenced within the time periods prescribed in subsection (2).~~

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (a) or paragraph (13)(b), a prosecution for a first or second degree felony violation of s. 794.011, if the victim is 16 years of age or older at the time of the offense, must be commenced within 8 years after the violation is committed. This paragraph applies to any such offense except an offense the prosecution of which would have been barred by subsection (2) on or before July 1, 2015.

Section 3. Subsections (3) and (5) of section 847.0141, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

847.0141 Sexting; prohibited acts; penalties.—

(3) A minor who violates subsection (1):

~~(a) Commits a noncriminal violation for a first violation, punishable by 8 hours of community service or, if ordered by the court in lieu of community service, a \$60 fine. The court may also order the minor to participate in suitable training or instruction in lieu of, or in addition to, community service or a fine. The minor must sign and accept a citation indicating a promise to appear before the juvenile court. In lieu of appearing in court, the minor may complete 8 hours of community service work, pay a \$60 civil penalty, or participate in a cyber-safety program if such a program is locally available. The minor must satisfy any penalty within 30 days after receipt of the citation.~~

1. A citation issued to a minor under this subsection must be in a form prescribed by the issuing law enforcement agency, must be signed by the minor, and must contain all of the following:

- a. The date and time of issuance.
- b. The name and address of the minor to whom the citation is issued.
- c. A thumbprint of the minor to whom the citation is issued.
- d. Identification of the noncriminal violation and the time it was committed.
- e. The facts constituting reasonable cause.
- f. The specific section of law violated.
- g. The name and authority of the citing officer.
- h. The procedures that the minor must follow to contest the citation, perform the required community service, pay the civil penalty, or participate in a cyber-safety program.

2. If the citation is contested and the court determines that the minor committed a noncriminal violation under this section, the court may order the minor to perform 8 hours of community service, pay a \$60 civil penalty, or participate in a cyber-safety program, or any combination thereof.

3. A minor who fails to comply with the citation waives his or her right to contest it, and the court may impose any of the penalties identified in subparagraph 2. or issue an order to show cause. Upon a finding of contempt, the court may impose additional age-appropriate penalties, which may include issuance of an order to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to withhold issuance of, or suspend the driver license or driving privilege of, the minor for 30 consecutive days. However, the court may not impose incarceration.

(b) Commits a misdemeanor of the first degree for a violation that occurs after the minor has been being found to have committed a noncriminal violation for sexting or has satisfied the penalty imposed in lieu of a court appearance as provided in paragraph (a), punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(c) Commits a felony of the third degree for a violation that occurs after the minor has been being found to have committed a misdemeanor of the first degree for sexting, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(5) As used in this section, the term “found to have committed” means a determination of guilt that is the result of a plea or trial, or a finding of delinquency that is the result of a plea or an adjudicatory hearing, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld.

(6) Eighty percent of all civil penalties received by a juvenile court pursuant to this section shall be remitted by the clerk of the court to the county commission to provide training on cyber-safety for minors. The remaining 20 percent shall remain with the clerk of the court to defray administrative costs.

Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 985.0301, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

985.0301 Jurisdiction.—

(1) The circuit court has exclusive original jurisdiction of proceedings in which a child is alleged to have committed:

~~(a) to have committed~~ A delinquent act or violation of law.

(b) A noncriminal violation that has been assigned to juvenile court by law.

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor June 11, 2015.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 11, 2015.