

CHAPTER 2020-163

Senate Bill No. 294

An act relating to crimes against veterans; providing a short title; amending s. 775.0844, F.S.; providing an enhanced sentence for any person who commits aggravated white collar crimes against a certain number of veterans by obtaining or attempting to obtain a specified amount of money; providing criminal penalties; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. This act may be cited as the “Florida Veterans Protection Act.”

Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 775.0844, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsections (4) and (6) of that section are republished, to read:

775.0844 White Collar Crime Victim Protection Act.—

(4) As used in this section, “aggravated white collar crime” means engaging in at least two white collar crimes that have the same or similar intents, results, accomplices, victims, or methods of commission, or that are otherwise interrelated by distinguishing characteristics and are not isolated incidents, provided that at least one of such crimes occurred after the effective date of this act.

(5) Any person who commits an aggravated white collar crime as defined in this section and in so doing either:

(a) Victimizes 10 or more elderly persons, as defined in s. 825.101;

(b) Victimizes 10 or more veterans, as defined in s. 1.01;

(c)(b) Victimizes 20 or more persons, as defined in s. 1.01; or

(d)(e) Victimizes the State of Florida, any state agency, any of the state’s political subdivisions, or any agency of the state’s political subdivisions,

and thereby obtains or attempts to obtain \$50,000 or more, commits a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(6) Notwithstanding any other provision of chapter 921 or any other law, an aggravated white collar crime shall be ranked within the offense severity ranking chart at offense severity level 9.

Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2020.

Approved by the Governor September 4, 2020.

Filed in Office Secretary of State September 4, 2020.