

CHAPTER 2023-190

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 384

An act relating to violent offenses committed against criminal defense attorneys; amending s. 775.0823, F.S.; providing for the reclassification of specified offenses committed against criminal defense attorneys; amending ss. 921.0024 and 947.146, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 775.0823, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

775.0823 Violent offenses committed against specified justice system personnel ~~law enforcement officers, correctional officers, state attorneys, assistant state attorneys, justices, or judges.~~—The Legislature does hereby provide for an increase and certainty of penalty for any person convicted of a violent offense against any law enforcement or correctional officer, as defined in s. 943.10(1), (2), (3), (6), (7), (8), or (9); against any state attorney elected pursuant to s. 27.01 or assistant state attorney appointed under s. 27.181; against any public defender elected pursuant to s. 27.50 or regional counsel appointed pursuant to s. 27.511(3); against any court-appointed counsel appointed under s. 27.40 or defense attorney in a criminal proceeding; or against any justice or judge of a court described in Art. V of the State Constitution, which offense arises out of or in the scope of the officer's duty as a law enforcement or correctional officer, the state attorney's or assistant state attorney's duty as a prosecutor or investigator, the public defender or regional counsel acting in his or her capacity as defense counsel, the court-appointed counsel or defense attorney in a criminal proceeding acting in his or her capacity as defense counsel, or the justice's or judge's duty as a judicial officer, as follows:

(1) For murder in the first degree as described in s. 782.04(1), if the death sentence is not imposed, a sentence of imprisonment for life without eligibility for release.

(2) For attempted murder in the first degree as described in s. 782.04(1), a sentence pursuant to s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(3) For attempted felony murder as described in s. 782.051, a sentence pursuant to s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(4) For murder in the second degree as described in s. 782.04(2) and (3), a sentence pursuant to s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(5) For attempted murder in the second degree as described in s. 782.04(2) and (3), a sentence pursuant to s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(6) For murder in the third degree as described in s. 782.04(4), a sentence pursuant to s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(7) For attempted murder in the third degree as described in s. 782.04(4), a sentence pursuant to s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(8) For manslaughter as described in s. 782.07 during the commission of a crime, a sentence pursuant to s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(9) For kidnapping as described in s. 787.01, a sentence pursuant to s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(10) For aggravated battery as described in s. 784.045, a sentence pursuant to s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(11) For aggravated assault as described in s. 784.021, a sentence pursuant to s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 948.01, with respect to any person who is found to have violated this section, adjudication of guilt or imposition of sentence shall not be suspended, deferred, or withheld.

Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 921.0024, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

921.0024 Criminal Punishment Code; worksheet computations; score-sheets.—

(1)

(b) WORKSHEET KEY:

Legal status points are assessed when any form of legal status existed at the time the offender committed an offense before the court for sentencing. Four (4) sentence points are assessed for an offender’s legal status.

Community sanction violation points are assessed when a community sanction violation is before the court for sentencing. Six (6) sentence points are assessed for each community sanction violation and each successive community sanction violation, unless any of the following apply:

1. If the community sanction violation includes a new felony conviction before the sentencing court, twelve (12) community sanction violation points are assessed for the violation, and for each successive community sanction violation involving a new felony conviction.

2. If the community sanction violation is committed by a violent felony offender of special concern as defined in s. 948.06:

a. Twelve (12) community sanction violation points are assessed for the violation and for each successive violation of felony probation or community control where:

I. The violation does not include a new felony conviction; and

II. The community sanction violation is not based solely on the probationer or offender’s failure to pay costs or fines or make restitution payments.

b. Twenty-four (24) community sanction violation points are assessed for the violation and for each successive violation of felony probation or community control where the violation includes a new felony conviction.

Multiple counts of community sanction violations before the sentencing court shall not be a basis for multiplying the assessment of community sanction violation points.

Prior serious felony points: If the offender has a primary offense or any additional offense ranked in level 8, level 9, or level 10, and one or more prior serious felonies, a single assessment of thirty (30) points shall be added. For purposes of this section, a prior serious felony is an offense in the offender’s prior record that is ranked in level 8, level 9, or level 10 under s. 921.0022 or s. 921.0023 and for which the offender is serving a sentence of confinement, supervision, or other sanction or for which the offender’s date of release from confinement, supervision, or other sanction, whichever is later, is within 3 years before the date the primary offense or any additional offense was committed.

Prior capital felony points: If the offender has one or more prior capital felonies in the offender’s criminal record, points shall be added to the subtotal sentence points of the offender equal to twice the number of points the offender receives for the primary offense and any additional offense. A prior capital felony in the offender’s criminal record is a previous capital felony offense for which the offender has entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty or has been found guilty; or a felony in another jurisdiction which is a capital felony in that jurisdiction, or would be a capital felony if the offense were committed in this state.

Possession of a firearm, semiautomatic firearm, or machine gun: If the offender is convicted of committing or attempting to commit any felony other than those enumerated in s. 775.087(2) while having in his or her possession: a firearm as defined in s. 790.001(6), an additional eighteen (18) sentence points are assessed; or if the offender is convicted of committing or attempting to commit any felony other than those enumerated in s. 775.087(3) while having in his or her possession a semiautomatic firearm

as defined in s. 775.087(3) or a machine gun as defined in s. 790.001(9), an additional twenty-five (25) sentence points are assessed.

Sentencing multipliers:

Drug trafficking: If the primary offense is drug trafficking under s. 893.135, the subtotal sentence points are multiplied, at the discretion of the court, for a level 7 or level 8 offense, by 1.5. The state attorney may move the sentencing court to reduce or suspend the sentence of a person convicted of a level 7 or level 8 offense, if the offender provides substantial assistance as described in s. 893.135(4).

Violent offenses committed against specified justice system personnel ~~Law enforcement protection:~~ If the primary offense is a violation of the ~~Law Enforcement Protection Act~~ under s. 775.0823(2), (3), or (4), the subtotal sentence points are multiplied by 2.5. If the primary offense is a violation of s. 775.0823(5), (6), (7), (8), or (9), the subtotal sentence points are multiplied by 2.0. If the primary offense is a violation of s. 784.07(3) or s. 775.0875(1), or ~~of the Law Enforcement Protection Act~~ under s. 775.0823(10) or (11), the subtotal sentence points are multiplied by 1.5.

Grand theft of a motor vehicle: If the primary offense is grand theft of the third degree involving a motor vehicle and in the offender's prior record, there are three or more grand thefts of the third degree involving a motor vehicle, the subtotal sentence points are multiplied by 1.5.

Offense related to a criminal gang: If the offender is convicted of the primary offense and committed that offense for the purpose of benefiting, promoting, or furthering the interests of a criminal gang as defined in s. 874.03, the subtotal sentence points are multiplied by 1.5. If applying the multiplier results in the lowest permissible sentence exceeding the statutory maximum sentence for the primary offense under chapter 775, the court may not apply the multiplier and must sentence the defendant to the statutory maximum sentence.

Domestic violence in the presence of a child: If the offender is convicted of the primary offense and the primary offense is a crime of domestic violence, as defined in s. 741.28, which was committed in the presence of a child under 16 years of age who is a family or household member as defined in s. 741.28(3) with the victim or perpetrator, the subtotal sentence points are multiplied by 1.5.

Adult-on-minor sex offense: If the offender was 18 years of age or older and the victim was younger than 18 years of age at the time the offender committed the primary offense, and if the primary offense was an offense

committed on or after October 1, 2014, and is a violation of s. 787.01(2) or s. 787.02(2), if the violation involved a victim who was a minor and, in the course of committing that violation, the defendant committed a sexual battery under chapter 794 or a lewd act under s. 800.04 or s. 847.0135(5) against the minor; s. 787.01(3)(a)2. or 3.; s. 787.02(3)(a)2. or 3.; s. 794.011, excluding s. 794.011(10); s. 800.04; or s. 847.0135(5), the subtotal sentence points are multiplied by 2.0. If applying the multiplier results in the lowest permissible sentence exceeding the statutory maximum sentence for the primary offense under chapter 775, the court may not apply the multiplier and must sentence the defendant to the statutory maximum sentence.

Section 3. Subsection (3) of section 947.146, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

947.146 Control Release Authority.—

(3) Within 120 days prior to the date the state correctional system is projected pursuant to s. 216.136 to exceed 99 percent of total capacity, the authority shall determine eligibility for and establish a control release date for an appropriate number of parole ineligible inmates committed to the department and incarcerated within the state who have been determined by the authority to be eligible for discretionary early release pursuant to this section. In establishing control release dates, it is the intent of the Legislature that the authority prioritize consideration of eligible inmates closest to their tentative release date. The authority shall rely upon commitment data on the offender information system maintained by the department to initially identify inmates who are to be reviewed for control release consideration. The authority may use a method of objective risk assessment in determining if an eligible inmate should be released. Such assessment shall be a part of the department's management information system. However, the authority shall have sole responsibility for determining control release eligibility, establishing a control release date, and effectuating the release of a sufficient number of inmates to maintain the inmate population between 99 percent and 100 percent of total capacity. Inmates who are ineligible for control release are inmates who are parole eligible or inmates who:

(a) Are serving a sentence that includes a mandatory minimum provision for a capital offense or drug trafficking offense and have not served the number of days equal to the mandatory minimum term less any jail-time credit awarded by the court;

(b) Are serving the mandatory minimum portion of a sentence enhanced under s. 775.087(2) or (3), or s. 784.07(3);

(c) Are convicted, or have been previously convicted, of committing or attempting to commit sexual battery, incest, or any of the following lewd or indecent assaults or acts: masturbating in public; exposing the sexual organs in a perverted manner; or nonconsensual handling or fondling of the sexual organs of another person;

(d) Are convicted, or have been previously convicted, of committing or attempting to commit assault, aggravated assault, battery, or aggravated battery, and a sex act was attempted or completed during commission of such offense;

(e) Are convicted, or have been previously convicted, of committing or attempting to commit kidnapping, burglary, or murder, and the offense was committed with the intent to commit sexual battery or a sex act was attempted or completed during commission of the offense;

(f) Are convicted, or have been previously convicted, of committing or attempting to commit false imprisonment upon a child under the age of 13 and, in the course of committing the offense, the inmate committed aggravated child abuse, sexual battery against the child, or a lewd or lascivious offense committed upon or in the presence of a person less than 16 years of age;

(g) Are sentenced, have previously been sentenced, or have been sentenced at any time under s. 775.084, or have been sentenced at any time in another jurisdiction as a habitual offender;

(h) Are convicted, or have been previously convicted, of committing or attempting to commit assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, kidnapping, manslaughter, or murder against an officer as defined in s. 943.10(1), (2), (3), (6), (7), (8), or (9); against a state attorney or assistant state attorney; or against a justice or judge of a court described in Art. V of the State Constitution; or against an officer, judge, or state attorney employed in a comparable position by any other jurisdiction; or

(i) Are convicted, or have been previously convicted, of committing or attempting to commit murder in the first, second, or third degree under s. 782.04(1), (2), (3), or (4), or have ever been convicted of any degree of murder or attempted murder in another jurisdiction;

(j) Are convicted, or have been previously convicted, of DUI manslaughter under s. 316.193(3)(c)3., and are sentenced, or have been sentenced at any time, as a habitual offender for such offense, or have been sentenced at any time in another jurisdiction as a habitual offender for such offense;

(k)1. Are serving a sentence for an offense committed on or after January 1, 1994, for a violation of the ~~Law Enforcement Protection Act~~ under s. 775.0823(2), (3), (4), (5), or (6), and the subtotal of the offender's sentence points is multiplied pursuant to former s. 921.0014 or s. 921.0024;

2. Are serving a sentence for an offense committed on or after October 1, 1995, for a violation of the ~~Law Enforcement Protection Act~~ under s. 775.0823(2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), or (9), and the subtotal of the offender's sentence points is multiplied pursuant to former s. 921.0014 or s. 921.0024;

(l) Are serving a sentence for an offense committed on or after January 1, 1994, for possession of a firearm, semiautomatic firearm, or machine gun in

which additional points are added to the subtotal of the offender’s sentence points pursuant to former s. 921.0014 or s. 921.0024; or

(m) Are convicted, or have been previously convicted, of committing or attempting to commit manslaughter, kidnapping, robbery, carjacking, home-invasion robbery, or a burglary under s. 810.02(2).

In making control release eligibility determinations under this subsection, the authority may rely on any document leading to or generated during the course of the criminal proceedings, including, but not limited to, any presentence or postsentence investigation or any information contained in arrest reports relating to circumstances of the offense.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

Approved by the Governor June 5, 2023.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 5, 2023.