

CHAPTER 2025-102

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 255

An act relating to aggravated animal cruelty; providing a short title; amending s. 828.12, F.S.; requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to post on its website the names of certain individuals who have violated specified animal cruelty provisions; amending s. 921.0024, F.S.; providing a sentencing multiplier for specified offenses of aggravated animal cruelty; providing applicability; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. This act may be cited as “Dexter’s Law.”

Section 2. Subsection (7) is added to section 828.12, Florida Statutes, to read:

828.12 Cruelty to animals.—

(7) Beginning January 1, 2026, the Department of Law Enforcement shall post on its website, in a searchable format prescribed by the department, the names of those individuals who have been convicted of, or who have entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a violation of this section.

Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 921.0024, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(1)(a) The Criminal Punishment Code worksheet is used to compute the subtotal and total sentence points as follows:

FLORIDA CRIMINAL PUNISHMENT CODE WORKSHEET

OFFENSE SCORE

Primary Offense

Level	Sentence Points		Total
10	116	=	.....
9	92	=	.....
8	74	=	.....
7	56	=	.....
6	36	=	.....
5	28	=	.....

4	22	=	.....
3	16	=	.....
2	10	=	.....
1	4	=	.....
			Total

Additional Offenses

Level	Sentence Points		Counts		Total
10	58	x	.....	=	.....
9	46	x	.....	=	.....
8	37	x	.....	=	.....
7	28	x	.....	=	.....
6	18	x	.....	=	.....
5	5.4	x	.....	=	.....
4	3.6	x	.....	=	.....
3	2.4	x	.....	=	.....
2	1.2	x	.....	=	.....
1	0.7	x	.....	=	.....
M	0.2	x	.....	=	.....
					Total

Victim Injury

Level	Sentence Points		Number		Total
2nd degree murder-death	240	x	.....	=	.....
Death	120	x	.....	=	.....
Severe	40	x	.....	=	.....
Moderate	18	x	.....	=	.....
Slight	4	x	.....	=	.....
Sexual penetration	80	x	.....	=	.....
Sexual contact	40	x	.....	=	.....
					Total

Primary Offense + Additional Offenses + Victim Injury =

TOTAL OFFENSE SCORE

PRIOR RECORD SCORE

Prior Record

Level	Sentence Points		Number		Total
10	29	x	.....	=	.....
9	23	x	.....	=	.....
8	19	x	.....	=	.....
7	14	x	.....	=	.....
6	9	x	.....	=	.....
5	3.6	x	.....	=	.....
4	2.4	x	.....	=	.....
3	1.6	x	.....	=	.....
2	0.8	x	.....	=	.....
1	0.5	x	.....	=	.....
M	0.2	x	.....	=	.....

Total

TOTAL OFFENSE SCORE.....

TOTAL PRIOR RECORD SCORE.....

LEGAL STATUS.....

COMMUNITY SANCTION VIOLATION.....

PRIOR SERIOUS FELONY.....

PRIOR CAPITAL FELONY.....

FIREARM OR SEMIAUTOMATIC WEAPON.....

SUBTOTAL.....

PRISON RELEASEE REOFFENDER (no)(yes).....

VIOLENT CAREER CRIMINAL (no)(yes).....

HABITUAL VIOLENT OFFENDER (no)(yes).....

HABITUAL OFFENDER (no)(yes).....

AGGRAVATED ANIMAL CRUELTY (no)(yes) (x multiplier).....

DRUG TRAFFICKER (no)(yes) (x multiplier).....

LAW ENF. PROTECT. (no)(yes) (x multiplier).....

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT (no)(yes) (x multiplier).....

CRIMINAL GANG OFFENSE (no)(yes) (x multiplier).....

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE PRESENCE OF RELATED CHILD
(no)(yes) (x multiplier).....

ADULT-ON-MINOR SEX OFFENSE (no)(yes) (x multiplier).....

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TOTAL SENTENCE POINTS.....

(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, 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, an additional twenty-five (25) sentence points are assessed.

Sentencing multipliers:

Aggravated Animal Cruelty: If the primary offense is aggravated animal cruelty under s. 828.12(2), which included the knowing and intentional torture or torment of an animal that injured, mutilated, or killed the animal, the subtotal sentence points are multiplied by 1.25. As used in this paragraph, the term "animal" does not include an animal used for agricultural purposes or permitted as captive wildlife as authorized under s. 379.303.

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: If the primary offense is a violation of 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 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 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor May 28, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 28, 2025.