

House Bill No. 945

An act relating to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; amending s. 570.15, F.S.; requiring the department to establish rules authorizing nonagricultural vehicles to pass an agricultural inspection station without stopping and submitting to an inspection; amending s. 570.16, F.S.; prohibiting a person from impersonating an inspector, agent, or other employee of the department; providing a penalty; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 570.15, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

570.15 Access to places of business and vehicles.—

(2) It is unlawful for the driver of any vehicle, other than one exempted in sub-subparagraph (1)(a)1.g. ~~or one authorized pursuant to subsection (5)~~, to pass any official agricultural inspection station without first stopping and submitting the vehicle for inspection. A violation of this subsection constitutes a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(5) The department shall establish by rule conditions and criteria by which nonagricultural laden vehicles may pass an agricultural inspection station without stopping for inspection.

Section 2. Section 570.16, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

570.16 Interference with department employees in performance of duties.—No person shall attempt, by means of any threat or violence, to deter or prevent an inspector, agent, or other employee of the department from performing any duties imposed by law upon him or her or the department and no person shall impersonate an inspector, agent, or other employee of the department. Whoever violates this section commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

Approved by the Governor June 23, 2003.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 23, 2003.